Meeting Minutes

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
16 Spring Street
Marion, Massachusetts

December 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson (in-person), Nichole Daniel (in-person), Mary Beauregard (remote), Nichole Nye McGaffey (remote) and Michelle Smith (in-person).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (in-person), Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning (in-person), Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (in-person), Lynn Dessert, Principal (in-person), Greg Thomas, Assistant Principal (in-person) and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary (remote).

I. Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm by Chairperson Nye. Chairperson Nye stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being recorded, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined. Chairperson Nye added that the meeting is being conducted in hybrid format and the public has the ability to participate in-person or remotely through zoom with the link provided.

II. Approval of Minutes

That the School Committee review for approval the following minute(s)

a. Regular Session Minutes: October 30, 2025

Motion to approve the regular session minutes from October 30, 2025 by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 4-0-1
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (abstain), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

b. **Executive Session Minutes: October 30, 2025**

These minutes were held for executive session.

c. Budget Subcommittee Minutes: October 30 and December 1, 2025

Motion to approve the Budget Subcommittee minutes from October 30, 2025 and December 1, 2025 by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Seconded by April Nye
Motion Carries 5-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

III. General

a. Approval of Donation(s)

That the School Committee review the following donation(s):

- A donation of $1,572.06 from Shutterfly for Sippican's fall photos.
- A donation of two outdoor recess storage containers from VASE.

Motion to approve the Shutterfly and Vase donations as presented by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 5-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

b. Approval of Grant(s)

That the School Committee review a grant from the Feinstein Foundation for $1,000 to support the school pantry and $850 from the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute to the Sippican Library to expand the collection of fiction and nonfiction books related to mathematics.

Motion to approve the $1,000 grant from the Feinstein Foundation and $850 from the Simon Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute as presented by Nichole Daniel
Seconded by Michelle Smith
Motion Carries 5-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

c. FY2027 Budget Update

That the School Committee hear an update from administration on the FY2027 Budget.
Superintendent Nelson explained that a level service draft budget for FY2027 will be shared with the Town soon. The Budget Subcommittee has been monitoring class sizes and reviewing requests from administration. At the next meeting a detailed explanation will be shared and the administration will continue to work with Town officials and the Finance Committee ahead of the public meeting to vote on the budget.

d. MCAS Presentation

That the School Committee hear a presentation from administration.
Superintendent Nelson shared Dr. Fedorowicz will explain state-wide and district-wide trends along with Sippican results, and what the future will call for regarding teaching and learning during this MCAS presentation. He explained MCAS results were affected state-wide by the vote of Question 2 last year in the state as MCAS is no longer a graduation requirement for high school students. He also reminded the School Committee that it is important to analyze these results, but it is one data point among many that the administration and faculty consider for all students. Dr. Fedorowicz presented MCAS results and Principal Dessert presented highlights and action steps at Sippican School. Please see Appendix A.

School Committee Feedback:
Ms. Daniel commended the scores being above state average but the trends showing level or a decrease are a concern. She understands new ELA and math programs take a few years to show improvement. Dr. Fedorowicz did agree that she was hopeful ELA would have improved this year but recognized it can take 3-5 years for a shift. The same may be true with the new math program, enVisions, which started this school year. She also acknowledged that last year was the first year for Ms. Dessert and Mr. Thomas, and consistent leadership will help with looking at data in real time, understanding the kids in each classroom and utilizing their Flex Block in scheduling to support improvement. Ms. Daniel appreciated the meaningful conversations with staff. Ms. Dessert explained that PLC time is being used to look at the data and triangulate MCAS results with a variety of other data points.

IV. Administrative and School Committee Reports

a. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Nye shared the following: *As we prepare to wrap up another wonderful year here at Sippican School, I want to take a moment to appreciate the special season that we're entering. The holidays are always such a magical time, full of lights, laughter, and the joy that comes from being together. And in elementary school, that magic feels even brighter, and there truly is nothing better than seeing that holiday magic through a child's eyes. You can see it in the excitement of our students as they make crafts, practice for their winter performances, or simply share their holiday family traditions with their classmates. I also want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our teachers and staff members, to our administration, and to our students and families, and of course, to all of the wonderful volunteers. Your dedication, creativity, and care are what make this school such a welcoming and joyful place for all Sippican children and everyone within our community. The holiday season reminds us how lucky we are to have a community that works so hard and supports one another so deeply. And for that, I will always be thankful and blessed to be a part of. As we look ahead to the new year, let's carry this spirit of gratitude and togetherness with us. A new year brings new opportunities, new goals for our students, new projects for their classrooms, and new chances for us to grow as a school community. I'm excited for all we will accomplish, and for the continued partnership that makes this school truly shine. Thank you again for everything you all do here at Sippican. I wish each and every one of you a peaceful, joyful Christmas season, and a bright, happy new year. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all.*

b. Central Office Reports

i. Superintendent

Superintendent Nelson shared his most recent Newsletter. He highlighted the recent drama production, the Junior High School's 32nd annual Thanksgiving dinner for Tri-Town seniors and

food assistance resources distributed to the school community. He commended the partnership with the local police departments and another successful Unified Basketball game. Even though the police called in himself and Principal Mike Devoll for back-up, the Unified team won again! Superintendent Nelson shared remarks related to the MCAS results presented this evening, explaining as the school committee is aware, the district has already taken the steps in recent years to bring in high-quality instructional materials, working with the town to secure funding for more explicit social emotional learning curriculum, IntoReading and enVisions math. He is proud of the work and initiatives that have been put in place in recent years and he hopes the teachers begin to feel settled in with the new programs and steady leadership moving forward and feels it's important to recognize all of their efforts.

ii. Teaching & Learning
Dr. Fedorowicz shared that a math night was held at the end of October for elementary families to learn about our new math program, enVisions. We had a number of faculty members present to share materials and show lessons. Learning walks continue and Center School hosted last week. November 10th was a full professional development day with the major theme being social emotional learning and Fly Five training along with Looney Consultants providing math professional development. The most recent New Teacher Induction meeting was held and a mentor panel was offered for new teachers to inquire about best practices and their expertise.

iii. Student Services
Dr. Curley shared that SEPAC held a Basic Rights Workshop on October 15th and the next meeting is January 7th. Elementary principals met on November 21st with BIRch Center to review the preliminary findings from the audit from last year and developed an action plan. The academic site visits have occurred in all of our buildings. Dr. Curley met with Ms. Thurston on December 2nd to review preliminary findings and develop an action plan. The Unified Basketball Team hosted their 4th annual game against the Tri-Town Police Departments on November 18th and won again! The District Wellness Committee met this month and conducted an assessment of where the schools currently stand and identified possible areas of focus for the remainder of the school year and moving forward.

iv. Business Office
Superintendent Nelson reviewed the current FY2026 Financial Report in which the Marion School District currently has $902,905 available of the general funds appropriated for the 2026 Fiscal Year. He also shared the Record of Warrants as signed by the sole signatory for October 30, November 13 and 25, 2025.

v. Facilities
Superintendent Nelson shared the following update from Facilities Director Eugene Jones
- Replaced inoperative front sidewalk light pole heads.
- Replaced seal on #2 circulator pump.
- Replaced igniter on boiler #1.
- Received two Buddy Benches for front and back playground area.
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems.

vi. Food Service
Superintendent Nelson shared the following update from Food Service Director Jill Henesey:
- Meals continue to be free for all students. Each student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day. Second meals, a la carte drinks, snacks and milk only are available for purchase.
- Café staff and their families volunteered their time to cook and serve another successful Tri-Town Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner banquet, hosted by the ORR Junior High School.
- ORRSD recently shared information, to our school community, on resources to support families in need of additional food assistance. Resources can be found at ORRschoolmeals.com.
- Bulldog Café is looking for cafeteria help: on-call substitute. If you are looking for a flexible and rewarding part time job – this may be the opportunity for you. Contact Jill Henesey for more details.

vii. Personnel
1. Makayla Bumpus transferred from a paraprofessional to Reading Specialist.

c. Principal and School Council Report

Principal Dessert shared the following:

As we move into this festive season, Sippican Elementary continues to shine with learning, leadership, and joyful community spirit. November was filled with gratitude, service, and meaningful learning — and December promises continued growth and celebration as we close out the calendar year. Thank you to our staff, students, families, and community partners for supporting a warm, connected school environment built on respect, responsibility, and kindness.

Thanksgiving All-School Meeting

Right before break, our school came together for a joyful celebration of music, gratitude, and student leadership. Highlights included:

- Jazz Band performance kicking off the assembly with energy and talent.
- Junior Reporters presenting a student-created "What We're Grateful For" video.
- Norman Awards recognizing students modeling Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness.
- Character Counts recognitions honoring students showing empathy, inclusion, and kindness.
- First Grade Thanksgiving Songs, performed with big voices and even bigger smiles.
- These assemblies continue to strengthen community pride, celebration, and leadership — and students look forward to them each month.

Fly Five SEL

Classrooms continue teaching Fly Five lessons with growing consistency. Students are practicing:

- Empathy
- Problem-solving
- Respectful communication
- Perspective-taking
- These lessons are now becoming part of student routines, language, and reflection across grade levels.

Mathematics

Our implementation of EnVision Math 2025 continues to deepen. Professional learning with Dr. Sue Looney supports:

- Clear pacing structures
- Consistent lesson routines
- Meaningful student discourse
- The Eight Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices
- Teachers continue to refine problem-based learning structures and math talk routines as students grow more confident in explaining their thinking

Executive Function & "Get Ready–Do–Done"

Planning tools and EF routines are visible in many classrooms and are helping students learn how to organize materials, break down tasks, and manage work time more independently.

Supporting Students – BBST/MTSS

- Our Building-Based Support Team continues reviewing academic, behavior, and attendance data to ensure:
- Early identification of students needing support
- Consistent family communication
- Targeted interventions aligned with need
- Students are receiving strategic support in literacy, math fluency, and self-regulation as we continue to build strong Tier 1 systems.

Norman & Officer Tracy

Norman remains a highlight across the building — greeting students, joining classroom lessons, and supporting emotional regulation. Norman Awards continue to reinforce our expectations, recognizing students who go above and beyond to demonstrate kindness, respect, and responsibility.

Feinstein Leadership & Service Projects

Our Feinstein student leaders and Kindness Crew continue building momentum with:

- Kindness Tree, growing with hundreds of student-named acts of kindness
- Sippican Pantry collections
- Coat Drive
- Toy Drive

- Participation has been joyful and meaningful — demonstrating the power of student leadership, empathy, and action.

Project 351 Ambassadors
Our ambassadors continue developing leadership skills and are helping support school-wide service.
Operations & Facilities
- Custodial teams have begun winter readiness preparations.
- Playground updates and buddy bench installation remain on track for early winter arrival pending delivery timelines.

Looking Ahead
December brings joyful traditions and meaningful learning, including:
- Winter concerts, spirit week, and celebrations
- Continued Fly Five SEL lessons
- Ongoing work with the EnVision Math curriculum
- The launch of winter service initiatives led by Feinstein leaders and Project 351 ambassadors
- As always, we remain Anchored with Purpose, Sailing with Heart — supporting student growth academically, socially, and emotionally.

V. School Committee Reports

a. Budget Subcommittee – no report
b. Capital Subcommittee – Superintendent Nelson shared they met the Town's requirements and provided a 10-year plan and met with the Capital Planning team to present their requests.
c. Equity Subcommittee – Mary Beauregard reported they met in October and heard a presentation about Marion Institute's Farm to School program which is now in all three elementary districts along with an update on the Equity Action Plan.
d. Policy Subcommittee - Mary Beauregard reported they met earlier today to approve revisions to policy JFAE Middle School Pathways and also approved new policies IKF Graduation Requirements and IKFE Competency Determination.
e. District Wellness Committee – Nichole Nye McGaffey reported they met yesterday as Dr. Curley reported.
f. ORR District Committee – Michelle Smith reported they met recently and recognized the golf team, approved travel to Japan, approved donations and heard the MCAS results, an update on the field project and approved the administration to discuss a tuition agreement with Acushnet Public Schools.
g. Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund – Nichole Nye McGaffey reported they have met a few times in recent months and reorganized the board, created a subcommittee for event planning and finalized the grant application for this year. The first fundraising event is tentatively scheduled for May 2026.
h. Early Childhood Council – Nichole Daniel reported their next meeting is January 14th.
i. SMEC – Michelle Smith reported they last met on October 24th.
j. READS – Superintendent Nelson reported they met on November 6th and approved minutes, the audit, surplus items and the school nurse medication delegation along with hearing an update on the DHH building.
k. MASC – no report
l. Superintendent's Goals Subcommittee – no report

VI. Information and Future Agenda Items

a. Information
i. School Calendar 2026-2027 Draft
ii. READS Annual Report FY2025

b. Timeline
i. Next Marion School Committee: February 26, 2026
ii. Next Joint School Committee: January 29, 2026

c. Future Agenda Items
i. School Choice Public Hearing (February)
ii. Health Unit Application (February)
iii. Budget Public Hearing (March)
iv. Approval of Leases (April)

v. School Committee Reorganization (June)
vi. School Improvement Plan Approval (June)
vii. Student Handbook Approval (June)

The 2025-2026 school calendar is available on our website: https://tinyurl.com/239tr9xa
District-wide events are available on our website: https://www.oldrochester.org/district-calendar

VII. Public Comment

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy.
There were no public comments.

VIII. Executive Session

That the School Committee enter into executive session for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.
Motion to enter into executive session at 7:00pm for the purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements only to return to adjourn by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 5-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

Motion to exit executive session at 7:12pm, only to return to adjourn by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 5-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 7:13pm by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 5-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Beauregard (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

Meeting Resources
Agenda
October 30, 2025 Minutes Draft
October 30, 2025 Minutes – Budget Draft
December 1, 2025 Minutes – Budget Draft
Shutterfly Donation
Vase Donation
Feinstein Grant
Mathical Collection Award
MCAS Presentation
Superintendent's Newsletter
FY26 Financial Report Memo
FY26 Financial Report
Warrant(s)
Facilities Report
Food Service Report
Principal's Report
2026-2026 School Calendar Draft
Reads Annual Report FY2025

Pursuant to Chapter 30A of the Massachusetts General Laws, you are hereby notified of the following meeting:

REVISED 12.9.25
MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
16 Spring Street
Marion, Massachusetts

December 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

ZOOM LINK:
https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/95561881344?pwd=OxKszymWvS8ZMw4qrs4PR5MgaDhcal.1
Meeting ID: 955 6188 1344
Passcode: 798324

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid format. School Committee, administration and the public will have the option of meeting in person in the Community Room at Sippican School located at 16 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738 or via zoom. Supporting documentation for agenda items can be found on the School Committee webpage: https://www.oldrochester.org/district/sc.

I. Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes (VOTE)
That the School Committee review for approval the following minute(s)
- **a. Regular Session Minutes: October 30, 2025**
- **b. Executive Session Minutes: October 30, 2025**
- **c. Budget Subcommittee Minutes: October 30 and December 1, 2025**

III. General

a. Approval of Donation(s) (VOTE)
That the School Committee review the following donation(s):
- A donation of $1,572.06 from Shutterfly for Sippican's fall photos.
- A donation of two outdoor recess storage containers from VASE.

b. Approval of Grant(s) (VOTE)
That the School Committee review a grant from the Feinstein Foundation for $1,000 to support the school pantry and $850 from the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute to the Sippican Library to expand the collection of fiction and nonfiction books related to mathematics.

c. FY2027 Budget Update
That the School Committee hear an update from administration on the FY2027 Budget.

d. MCAS Presentation
That the School Committee hear a presentation from administration.

IV. Administrative and School Committee Reports

a. Chairperson Report
That the School Committee hear a report from the Chairperson regarding current happenings in the school and local community.

b. Central Office Reports
- i. Superintendent
  1. That the School Committee review the most recent Superintendent's Newsletter.
- ii. Teaching & Learning
  1. That the School Committee hear an update on current happenings of curriculum, professional development, new teacher induction program and teaching and learning initiatives.
- iii. Student Services
  1. That the School Committee hear an update on current happenings of the student services department, including community outreach events, and updates on initiatives related to school climate and culture, and safe schools.

iv. Business Office
    1. That the School Committee review the current FY2026 Financial Report of obligations paid or encumbered to date.
    2. That the School Committee review the Record of Warrant(s) as signed by the sole signatory for October 30, November 13 and 25, 2025.
v. Facilities
    1. That the School Committee review this month's update from Facilities Director Eugene Jones.
vi. Food Service
    1. That the School Committee review this month's update from Food Service Director Jill Henesey.
vii. Personnel
    1. Makayla Bumpus transferred from a paraprofessional to Reading Specialist.

c. Principal and School Council Report
That the School Committee review the Principal's report including student recognition, classroom lessons, community events and school council information.

V. School Committee Reports

a. Budget Subcommittee
b. Capital Subcommittee
c. Equity Subcommittee
d. Policy Subcommittee
e. District Wellness Committee
f. ORR District Committee
g. Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund
h. Early Childhood Council
i. SMEC
j. READS
k. MASC
l. Superintendent's Goals Subcommittee

VI. Information and Future Agenda Items

a. Information
i. School Calendar 2026-2027 Draft
ii. READS Annual Report FY2025

b. Timeline
i. Next Marion School Committee: February 26, 2026
ii. Next Joint School Committee: January 29, 2026

c. Future Agenda Items
i. School Choice Public Hearing (February)
ii. Health Unit Application (February)
iii. Budget Public Hearing (March)
iv. Approval of Leases (April)
v. School Committee Reorganization (June)
vi. School Improvement Plan Approval (June)
vii. Student Handbook Approval (June)

The 2025-2026 school calendar is available on our website: https://tinyurl.com/239tr9xa

District-wide events are available on our website: https://www.oldrochester.org/district-calendar

VII. Public Comment

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy.

VIII. Executive Session (VOTE)

That the School Committee enter into executive session for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.

IX. Adjournment (VOTE)

The list of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair to be discussed at the meeting. If you need more information or reasonable accommodations for this meeting, please contact the Superintendent's Office at 508-758-2772 ext. 1956. Meeting resources, minutes and recordings are available on the School Committee webpage: https://www.oldrochester.org/district/sc

Meeting Minutes

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
16 Spring Street
Marion, Massachusetts

October 30, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson, Nichole Daniel, Nichole Nye McGaffey and Michelle Smith (all remote).

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mary Beauregard

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Catherine Cooper, Executive Director Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary.

I. Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:03am by Chairperson Nye. Chairperson Nye stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being recorded, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined. Chairperson Nye added that the meeting is being conducted via Zoom and the public has the ability to participate remotely through zoom with the link provided.

II. Approval of Minutes

That the School Committee review for approval the following minute(s)

a. Regular Session Minutes: September 18, 2025

Motion to approve the regular session minutes from September 18, 2025 by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

III. General

a. Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative Policy Amendment

That the School Committee review a proposed amendment to Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative's (SMEC) Capital Reserve Account policy.
Superintendent Nelson welcomed Ms. Cooper, Executive Director of SMEC. She explained that the current SMEC Capital Reserve Account Policy was established in 2015 and they are proposing an amendment to clarify language and increase the maximum potential balance of the account and include the ability to acquire new facilities with the funds.
Motion to approve the proposed amendment to SMEC's Capital Reserve Account by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

b. Plymouth County Comfort Dogs Program

That the School Committee hear from Leslie J. Sattler, Ph.D., LICSW, Associate Professor, School of Social Work at Bridgewater State University regarding conducting research examining the effectiveness of the Plymouth County Comfort Dogs Program, which Officer Tracey and Norman are a part of.
Superintendent Nelson explained the proposed research is connected to School Resource Officer Tracy and his comfort dog Norman. Professor Sattler is conducting this research through Bridgewater State University on behalf of the District Attorney's Office to support their expansion of the Comfort Dogs Program. Per School Committee policy, the approved institutional review board application, consent forms, etc must be reviewed and approved by the School Committee. Officer Tracy, Principal Dessert and Superintendent Nelson are supportive of this proposal.

Motion to approve the Plymouth County Comfort Dogs Program research proposal as presented by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Seconded by Michelle Smith
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

c. Approval of Donation(s)

That the School Committee review the following donations:

- $1,000 from the Ludes Family Foundation for the Project Grow Program.
- 8-10 'Thankful Boxes' from the First Congregational Church of Rochester filled with food items and essentials for families in need during the Thanksgiving season. Last year helped 8 families.
- 2-3 Thanksgiving dinners for Sippican families from the Girl Scout Troop 67041 of Marion. They are continuing their annual tradition (now in its eighth year) of sponsoring one or more Sippican families with a complete Thanksgiving dinner. Last year, the troop was able to assist two families.
- 18-20 holiday wish-list gifts for Sippican families from the Friends of Jack Foundation.
- The following books in memory of Leslye Ribeiro from Sue Bender and fellow retired teachers that worked with her. Both Ms. Ribeiro's and Ms. Bender's grandchildren currently attend Sippican School.
    - *Fast Pitch* by Nic Stone
    - *Be a Friend* by Salina Yoon
    - *Secret Coders: Paths and Portals* by Gene Luen Yan and Mike Holmes
    - *The Princess and the Pea* by Rachel Isadora

Motion to approve the donations listed as presented by Nichole Daniel
Seconded by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

IV. Administrative and School Committee Reports

a. Chairperson Report

Chairperson Nye shared the following: *Recognizing everyone's tight schedule today, I will hold my original chair report until our next meeting. With that said I did want to take the time to recognize and thank Lynn, Greg and all of the Sippican Staff for bringing back special holiday events and celebrations for the students at Sippican. I for one can say that some of my fondest elementary school day memories are around those types of events with my then peers. So thank you for letting kids be kids and helping to create those lifelong memories with our students. So with that said, we as your school committee are wishing everyone a happy and safe Halloween. We can't wait to see all of the pictures of the ghosts, goblins and little witches at our next school committee meeting. Thank you everyone!*

b. Central Office Reports

i. Superintendent
Superintendent Nelson shared his most recent Superintendent's Newsletter from September 2025 on behalf of Central Office. He also added that the enVisions Math program last night for families was held.

ii. Business Office
Superintendent Nelson shared that the Marion School District currently has $1,420,350 available of the general funds appropriated for the 2026 Fiscal Year of the total $7,623,549 appropriated to the Marion School District. He also shared the Record of Warrant(s) as signed by the sole signatory for September 18, 24, October 1, and 16, 2025.

iii. Facilities
The School Committee reviewed this month's update from Facilities Director Eugene Jones;

- Richard Pelletier hired to replace Cody Leonardo.
- Completed emergency repair of roof leaks.
- Cleared blockage in sewer line.
- Re-coated/sealed multi-purpose room floor
- Shifted HVAC System to winter mode.
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems.

iv. Food Service

The School Committee review this month's update from Food Service Director Jill Henesey;

- Meals continue to be free for all students. Each student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day.
- Second meals, a la carte drinks, snacks and milk only are available for purchase.
- Bulldog Café is looking for cafeteria help in several areas: part-time permanent, long-term substitute and on-call substitute. If you are looking for a flexible and rewarding part time job –this may be the opportunity for you. Contact Jill Henesey for more details.

v. Personnel

1. MJ Couet transferred to become a Grade 5 teacher.

c. Principal and School Council Report

Principal Dessert provided the following report;

Opening Message: October has been a full and rewarding month at Sippican Elementary School. As we continue our second year of Anchored with Purpose, Sailing with Heart, our students and staff have truly settled into meaningful learning, community connection, and joyful routines. We began the month with the energy of fall—new projects, classroom celebrations, and the continued strengthening of our positive school culture. Thank you to our incredible staff, families, and community partners for helping make Sippican a place where every student feels supported, challenged, and valued.

Fire Prevention Week (October 6–9): A huge thank you to the Marion Fire Department, who visited classrooms to share safety lessons, demonstrations, and hands-on learning experiences. Students loved exploring the fire truck and learning how firefighters help our community.

Parent–Teacher Conferences (October 23–24): We had excellent family participation, with teachers sharing academic progress and setting personalized goals for the months ahead. These conversations reflect our shared commitment to student growth and partnership with families.

All-School Meetings: Our October meeting celebrated our Sippican 3 to Be values and recognized classrooms demonstrating teamwork and problem-solving. Students continue to take pride in leading parts of these assemblies.

Norman and Officer Tracy – Continuing the Connection: Officer Tracy and Norman remain a beloved presence at Sippican! This month, Norman joined morning greetings, small-group check-ins, and classroom visits. He provides comfort to students navigating transitions or needing a quiet break. The partnership continues to strengthen our sense of safety, belonging, and care across the school. Students continued earning Norman Awards for modeling Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness.

Literacy: Literacy teams continue data meetings and targeted interventions, building on our HMH Into Reading for Literacy work. Teachers are focusing on small-group instruction and integrating vocabulary and comprehension strategies.

Mathematics: We are in our first full month of EnVision Math 2025 implementation. Teachers are deepening their use of the program's problem-based learning approach and building consistency across grades. Professional development with Sue Looney continues to focus on pacing, lesson structure, and the Eight Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices.

Executive Function (EF): Teachers are weaving "Get Ready–Do–Done" routines into daily instruction to help students plan and complete multi-step tasks. These strategies are supporting both academic independence and classroom organization.

Science and SEL: Teachers have begun exploring Fly Five SEL resources and preparing for the November PD launch. Science classrooms continue hands-on OpenSciEd units, emphasizing curiosity, collaboration, and observation.

Supporting Students MTSS and BBST: Our Building-Based Support Team (BBST) met regularly this month to review data on academics, behavior, and attendance. The team ensures students receive timely interventions and family communication. Classroom teachers, specialists, and counselors are working collaboratively to monitor progress and provide targeted support for students who need additional help, particularly in reading and executive function skills.

Safety Drills and Training:

● Our October fire drill was completed successfully with calm and efficient participation.

● ALICE Training took place during our September PD Day, led in collaboration with Officer Tracy, ensuring staff are well-prepared for emergency response.

● Go Bags have been assembled and placed in each classroom to support readiness during any drill or emergency.
● An upcoming Bus Evacuation Drill will occur soon to reinforce safety procedures for all students.
Facilities: Ongoing maintenance projects continue to keep the building safe, clean, and welcoming. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Rick, our new custodian, whose positivity and attention to detail have been a great addition to the Sippican team. A special thank you to Roberto and the custodial crew for their continued dedication and care of our school.
Sippican Garden: Students in Grades 3 and 4 helped harvest fall crops and discussed how plants prepare for winter. Planning continues with the Marion Institute and FoodCorps for expanded spring programming.
Feinstein Leadership Program & Kindness Crew: Inspiring Kindness and Service: Our students are preparing meaningful service ideas for this year's Feinstein Leadership projects—The Kindness Tree and The School Pantry. Through these initiatives, students are learning about leadership, empathy, and charitable giving, including our beloved Golden Ticket tradition that celebrates acts of generosity and care. In partnership with our Kindness Crew and Project 351 ambassadors, students will soon be launching two Feinstein grant opportunities in November and December to support school-wide service and outreach efforts. Together, they hope to expand the spirit of kindness across our community by connecting the Kindness Tree, School Pantry, and Kindness Chain into a unified effort that inspires giving, gratitude, and compassion throughout Sippican School.
Project 351: Growing Young Leaders of Kindness and Empathy: On October 22nd, our 4th through 6th-grade ambassadors participated in a Tri-Town Project 351 leadership event. Students from Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester came together for a shared experience focused on leadership, empathy, and kindness. Mixed into small, collaborative groups, students worked through real-life scenarios that encouraged them to reflect on how their actions and words affect others. The discussions were guided by thoughtful questions that deepened their understanding of compassion and inclusion. At the close of the event, every student signed a Project 351 banner and helped create a Kindness Chain, representing more than 100 elementary students united in the belief that small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Our Sippican ambassadors will continue their leadership training in the months ahead—more details coming in November!
Marion Scholarship Fund & Playground Enhancements: We are deeply grateful to the Marion Scholarship Fund for their generous $2,500 donation in support of student-centered initiatives. The check was received this week and provided to Howie for processing. The buddy benches and books funded through this project have been ordered, and plans are in place to streamline installation once the benches arrive. In addition, the GaGa Pit project is also in progress—another wonderful addition that will promote inclusive and active play for all students.
Looking Ahead:
November brings exciting opportunities for continued growth and connection:

- Fly Five SEL Professional Development – November PD Day launch
- Thanksgiving celebrations and gratitude projects

As we move into the heart of the school year, Sippican remains anchored in purpose and sailing with heart—a community where learning, kindness, and connection guide all we do.

V. Information and Future Agenda Items

a. Timeline

i. Next Marion School Committee: December 11, 2025
ii. Next Joint School Committee: January 29, 2026

b. Future Agenda Items

iii. MCAS Results (November/December)
iv. Initial Budget Review (January)
v. School Choice Public Hearing (January)
vi. Health Unit Application (February)
vii. Budget Public Hearing (March)
viii. Approval of Leases (April)
ix. School Committee Reorganization (June)
x. School Improvement Plan Approval (June)
xi. Student Handbook Approval (June)

The 2025-2026 school calendar is available on our website: https://tinyurl.com/239tr9xa
District-wide events are available on our website: https://www.oldrochester.org/district-calendar

VI. Public Comment

Public comment is governed by approved school committee policy.

There were no public comments.

VII. Executive Session

That the School Committee enter into executive session for purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements.
Motion to enter into executive session at 11:19am for the purposes of exception #3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and exception #7, to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements only to return to adjourn by Nichole Daniel
Seconded by Michelle Smith
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

Motion to exit executive session at 11:23am, only to return to adjourn by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:24am by Michelle Smith
Seconded by Nichole Daniel
Motion Carries 4-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Daniel (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes), Smith (yes)

Meeting Resources
Agenda
September 18, 2025 Minutes Draft
SMEC Proposed Amendment
Policy LC Education Research in the Schools
IRB Application Comfort Dogs
Ludes Donation
Library Book Donation Forms
Superintendent's Newsletter
FY26 Financial Report Memo
FY26 Financial Report
Warrant(s)
Facilities Report
Food Service Report
Principal's Report

Meeting Minutes

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Subcommittee
16 Spring Street
Marion, Massachusetts

October 30, 2025 at 3:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson and Nichole Nye McGaffey (remote).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howie Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Lynn Dessert, Principal and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary.

I. Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:22 p.m. by Chairperson Nye.

II. General

a. FY2027 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Nelson welcomed the school committee members and reviewed the Town's timeline for submitting a draft in December but the public hearing will still be held in the spring. He explained that this is a negotiating year with the Marion Teachers Association so an increase has been built into the draft budget. At this time, the district is expecting three retirees at the conclusion of this school year. Mr. Barber reviewed the initial draft for each department. Next, Principal Dessert explained her priorities for consideration in the planning process which include a dedicated technology teacher, a math interventionist, a lunch/recess monitor and a special education team chairperson (stipend). Next, Superintendent Nelson reviewed considerations from the Office of Teaching and Learning including an elementary curriculum coordinator stipend position, Empowering Writers program, math supplemental materials and more. He explained that the district will most likely be in a similar position as last year in determining the priorities to include in the draft budget presented to the Town. He added that enrollment is relatively the same at this time.

School Committee Feedback:

Chairperson Nye and Ms. Nye McGaffey are supportive of the proposed requests and discussed their priorities. The members discussed with the administration the special education stabilization fund that the Town has been supportive of in recent years and agreed that additional meetings will be scheduled before December.

III. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:36 p.m. by April Nye
Seconded by Nichole NyeMcGaffey
Motion Carries 2-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes)

Meeting Minutes

MARION SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Budget Subcommittee
16 Spring Street
Marion, Massachusetts

December 1, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: April Nye, Chairperson and Nichole Nye McGaffey (remote).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools, Howie Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Lynn Dessert, Principal and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary.

I. Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Chairperson Nye.

II. General

a. FY2027 Budget Discussion

Superintendent Nelson discussed that preliminary FY2027 budget information is to be shared with the Town of Marion this week. He provided and reviewed the FY2027 guidelines memo received from Mr. Gorman, Town Administrator and Ms. O'Brien, Finance Director. At this time, the Town is planning for budget that does not include an override and the letter requests that departmental budget with line-by-line expense be submitted with discretionary expenses level-funded and non-discretionary expenses with increases which allow level-services to be maintained. He continued to explain the memo included that additional requests for programs or services should be presented separately with a detailed explanation included. This is similar to how the District has submitted budget information in the last two years and the District will provide a preliminary FY2027 budget to the Town with the Subcommittee's approval.

Next, Superintendent Nelson briefly reminded the Subcommittee of the requests from administration for consideration in the FY2027 budget including a dedicated technology teacher, a math interventionist, a lunch/recess monitor and a special education team chairperson (stipend) along with considerations from the Office of Teaching and Learning including an elementary curriculum coordinator stipend position, Empowering Writers (or another vendor) program, math supplemental materials and Investigating History materials as the grant that has supported this is no longer available. Mr. Barber explained that with level-service which includes restoring lines in Technology and others that have been reduced in recent year, and adding all of these considerations, the budget would increase over 8%, which the administration does not advise in submitted to the Town.

Superintendent Nelson and Principal Dessert confirmed there are three anticipated retirements, one 6th grade teacher and two teachers in the music department. These positions will be maintained, but the budget salary lines have been decreased. Adjustments have been made in the Special Education department in legal expense, learning support supplies, service evaluations and contracted services expenses for speech therapy. Mr. Barber reminded the Subcommittee that custodial services are out for bid and the District is still waiting gas and electrical projections. In transportation, rates were adjusted to match the current contract and the bus monitor line has been adjusted to meet current expenses.

Superintendent Nelson shared that if the new requests were not included in the budget, an increase of about 5.8% is projected. The administration recommended the Subcommittee consider this and submit additional documentation supporting the new requests and sharing their priorities with the Town. Principal Dessert discussed current enrollment by grade level and potential movement for the 2026-2027 school year based on the amount of current students. There are some grade levels that may need to be reduced to two sections, and other grade levels adjusted to three sections. The Subcommittee agreed with

administration that having classes of less than 15 students is not advisable. They discussed options of potential movement within the District based on retirements and class sizes.

Superintendent Nelson explained that last year the Town of Marion supported a budget increase of about 6.5% which was very generous. However, the administration agrees that this is not the type of increase any Town can support year over year. He added that ORR will be a very challenging budget this year, and the Town must consider this as well. He asked Ms. Nye and Ms. Nye McGaffey for their feedback and recommendation.

School Committee Feedback:
Ms. Nye agreed that 8.5% is unrealistic and that is not the approach she supports. She recommended sharing the level-service budget with an increase of about 5.8% with the Town this week. She shared that community members have already expressed concerns about both positions in the music department being maintained so she is glad to hear that is the case. Ms. Nye McGaffey agreed with this recommendation and sharing the additional priorities.

Next, the administration discussed their priorities. They will be broken up by building-based requests and teaching and learning priorities as to not compete with each other. Principal Dessert confirmed her first priority is the stipend team chair position for special education, then the academic elementary coordinator stipend positions (2), the math interventionist and then the dedicated teacher for technology. Dr. Fedorowicz prioritized the teaching and learning request with Investigating History materials first, a writing program to supplement IntoReading second, math manipulatives third and literacy decodables last as Sippican did receive some already.

Ms. Nye asked if the teaching and learning requests are the same in Mattapoisett and Rochester, which Dr. Fedorowicz confirmed. Ms. Nye McGaffey recommended sharing in the request of these items that many were grant funded and not new for FY2027.

Motion to support the administration submitting a level funded FY2027 preliminary budget as discussed at around 5.8% along with the list of priorities for additional requests by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Seconded by April Nye
Motion Carries 2-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes)

III. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:30 p.m. by Nichole Nye McGaffey
Seconded by April Nye
Motion Carries 2-0
Roll Call: Nye (yes), Nye McGaffey (yes)

Shutterfly, LLC | **Customer #: 0000115224** | **Check Date: 11/17/25** | **Check # : 288301**

Invoice#	PO#	Invoice Date	Gross Amount	Discount Amount	Net Amount Paid
608845		11/13/25	$1,572.06	$0.00	$1,572.06
On behalf of Shutterfly Lifetouch, LLC, enclosed is a commission check for the Lifetouch Fall Individuals 2025-2026 Program. Thank you for allowing us to photograph your students. If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact us at 401-7 81-6320					
		TOTALS:	$1,572.06	$0.00	$1,572.06

Shutterfly

THE FACE OF THIS CHECK HAS A ORANGE BACKGROUND AND MICROPRINTING IN THE BORDER. SEE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY FEATURES.

Shutterfly, LLC
Shutterfly, LLC
10 Almaden Blvd, Suite 900
San Jose CA 95113

Wells Fargo
56-382/412

Date	Number
11/17/2025	288301

$1,572.06

Amount
$****1,572.06

PAY EXACTLY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY-TWO and 06/100 Dollars

PAY TO THE ORDER OF
Sippican Elementary School
16 Spring St
Marion MA 02738-1519

⑈0000288301⑈ ⑆041203824⑆ 962200121 3⑈

File Name: Sippican Elementary School
Camera Name: Blacktop - Playground
Date/Time of Capture: 12/9/2025 1:32:40 PM
Date/Time of Print: 12/9/2025 1:32:40 PM

Network Video Recorder



View this email in your browser



Dear Feinstein Leadership Schools,

During these unprecedented times, The Feinstein Foundation remains grounded in one of my father's lifelong goals: to make sure that no child goes hungry or without basic necessities of clothing and care.

With the Rhode Island Community Food Bank experiencing the highest demand in its 43-year history, The Feinstein Foundation is making an immediate **$10,000 donation** to support their vital work feeding families throughout our communities.

In addition, I am happy to announce a **$1000 grant to every Feinstein Leadership School** to be used immediately to replenish and stock up your food pantries. We want to do everything we can to support your ongoing efforts to combat hunger and need within your school community. **Grants will arrive by mail to your schools in the coming days.**

As many of you know, hundreds of Feinstein Leadership Schools have committed to maintaining in-school pantries and caring closets. I have personally witnessed how these resources have become essential sources of comfort and stability for students and families — and I am grateful for the compassion and dedication you bring to this work. Your efforts truly make an impact.

For those schools that do not currently have a pantry, I encourage you to use these funds to begin one, or to find another meaningful way with these funds to help meet the basic needs of your students and families. Whether it's stocking snacks, providing winter gear, or ensuring that no child goes home hungry, every act of kindness makes a difference.

Thank you for your continued efforts and support for your Jr. Scholars. Together, we honor my father's mission — and remind every child that through kindness and compassion, they truly can make the world a better place.

As ever,

Leila Feinstein







Copyright (C) 2025 The Feinstein Foundation. All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe





Mathical Collection Development Award Winners Press Kit

Please feel free to use the following materials to share the news about your award, or download/print to add to Mathical Book displays in your school library, website, or anywhere you are publicizing the Mathical Book List within your community.

Sippican School Library wins Mathical Collection Development Award

We are delighted to announce that our school has been selected to receive the fifth annual Mathical Collection Development Award to expand our library's collection of literary fiction and nonfiction books to encourage kids to discover a love of mathematics. Our school is one of 36 libraries in K–12 Title I schools nationwide to be presented with this $850 grant to purchase award-winning titles from the Mathical Book Prize list. The grant is awarded by the Simons Laufer Mathematical Sciences Institute (SLMath) in partnership with School Library Journal (SLJ).

Mathical titles encourage students to explore the joy, beauty, and power of mathematics in the world around us, through books spanning topics from magic, sports, art, music, and poetry, to biographies, adventure, graphic novels, and picture books. Mathical titles are chosen every year by a committee of math teachers, language arts teachers, mathematicians, librarians, early childhood experts, and others to support students' pleasure reading. We're excited to share these books with our students!

The Mathical Book Prize is presented by SLMath in partnership with the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), and in coordination with the Children's Book Council (CBC). You can learn more at mathicalbooks.org.



Superintendent's Newsletter

November 2025

Message of the Month



Dear School Community,

This past month I had the opportunity to attend our high school's pep rally that celebrated our school's recognition as a National Unified Champion School through the Special Olympics organization. Watching the excitement on ALL our students' faces and the pride that our faculty and staff members were showing was truly remarkable. I've never been more proud to be a Bulldog than when I witnessed the unveiling of our new banner on our gymnasium wall! We will continue to work towards making our schools as inclusive as possible - knowing each and every student should feel safe and welcomed in our classrooms.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of our students and their families.

Please take a few minutes to read through the updates and schools happenings below.
With all respect,

Michael S. Nelson
Superintendent of Schools

Pictures of Superintendent's School Visits



Ms. Lenahan's Class



Ms. Hunter's Class



Ms. Nielson's Class

Office of Teaching and Learning

From Dr. Fedorowicz
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Mystery, Mayhem, and Amazing Drama Students!
Our students stole the show at this year's *Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery* drama club performance. I had the pleasure of attending Thursday night's show, and it was such a fun evening. The students kept the audience laughing from the very beginning, and the humor throughout the performance made the whole experience even more enjoyable. This comic murder mystery, complete with a play within a play, took place at the fictional Murder Mystery Playhouse. The cast brought so much charm, personality, and confidence to the stage. Equally important was the incredible work of our backstage crew. We are especially grateful to ORR Theatre Director Brayden Fanti, who directed the show, and to Vanessa Medeiros, the drama program's new assistant director, for their guidance, creativity, and encouragement in bringing the entire production together seamlessly. It was a warm and entertaining night filled with laughter, surprises, and a touch of mystery!

A Heartfelt Thank You for a Wonderful Thanksgiving Banquet!
A huge thank you to everyone who helped make Sunday's Tri-Town Seniors Thanksgiving Banquet at ORRJHS such a memorable event. It was a beautiful example of what makes our community so special. Our students and staff went above and beyond, they did a fanstastic job! We are incredibly grateful to our cafeteria team for preparing such a wonderful feast. Thank you to Jill Henesey and the entire cafeteria staff and their families, for all of the time, care, and effort you put into the meal. We also appreciate our custodians for their support throughout the day, ensuring everything was set up, cared for, and running smoothly. A special thank you goes out to the Director of Guidance, Christina Cioffi, Principal Silas Coellner, and Assistant Principal Kelly Chouinard for organizing the event. We are deeply grateful for our caring and generous community members and for everyone who played a part in making the banquet such a meaningful celebration.

Full Professional Development Day – Monday, November 10, 2025
On Monday, November 10, our teachers participated in a full in-service day focused on strengthening instructional practice and supporting student learning. The day highlighted Fly Five,

our K-8 initiative emphasizing five high-impact teaching practices designed to engage students in thinking, collaborating, and applying their learning in meaningful ways at both the elementary and junior high levels.

Secondary level teachers received training with Novak Education to explore Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a framework that supports the creation of flexible lessons so all students can access content, engage with learning, and demonstrate understanding in ways that work best for them. They also worked with Understanding by Design (UbD) to structure lessons by planning with the end in mind.

Building on this training, educators spent time designing lessons and assessments using UDL and UbD principles, ensuring that instruction was inclusive, accessible, and aligned with our strategic plan goals of promoting academic excellence and student-centered learning across all classrooms.



Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery



JHS Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Banquet



JHS Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Banquet

Office of Student Services



From Dr. Curley
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)
The mission of the Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester and Old Rochester Regional Special Education Parent Advisory Council (ORR SEPAC) is to work for understanding of, respect for and support of all children with special needs in our community. To that end, the ORR SEPAC will work to promote a network of parents of children with and without special needs, and provide a forum to share information and:

- Advise the Districts on development of special education programs;
- Promote communication and programs within the community to encourage understanding, acceptance and inclusion;
- Provide informational forums to families, educators, students and professionals.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact 508-758-2772, ext. 1942 to learn more!

Unified Sports
On Tuesday, November 18th, the Unified Basketball Team played against the Tri-Town Police Departments in their 4th annual basketball game at Old Rochester Regional High School. The gym

was packed and the excitement was palpable from the players and the spectators. The Bulldogs were able to pull off another win! A huge thank you to the Police Department's of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester for participating in this amazing community event. Thank you to Emma Fenton, for planning this amazing event!

SMEC Community Talks Series – Fall 2025
SMEC is pleased to host author Gwen Morgan for an engaging discussion of her What If… Workbook, a compassionate and practical guide designed to help you organize all of life's most important information in one convenient place. During this workshop, Gwen will walk participants through key sections of the workbook, including financial information, essential personal contacts, the location of vital documents, medical history, personal legacy notes, and much more. This session offers an opportunity to give your family the gift of clarity and peace of mind by getting organized before life's "what ifs" happen.
Date: December 8
Time: 6:30–7:30 PM
Location: Zoom (**Please register here to receive the Zoom link)**

ORRJHS Thanksgiving Banquet for Seniors
The junior high school hosted a heartwarming community event this past weekend, welcoming senior citizens from across the Tri-Town area for a festive Thanksgiving dinner. Students and staff worked together to prepare and serve a traditional holiday meal, creating a warm, intergenerational atmosphere filled with conversation, gratitude, and connection. The event not only celebrated the season of giving but also strengthened community ties, offering seniors a joyful afternoon and giving students a meaningful opportunity to learn the value of service.

ORR Recognized by Special Olympics

ORR received it's National Unified Champion School banner! Denise Larrabee from the Special Olympics organization joined our Unified Sports Pep Rally on November 18th to present the banner to our team, and entire student body. Old Rochester Regional High School was one of only 17 schools in Massachusetts and 217 nationwide to achieve this status for the 2024-25 school year. The high school was recognized by Special Olympics' national certifying body, based on the school's Special Olympics Unified Champion School programming, which it officially established during the 2020-21 school year. It was a great pep rally, followed by a victory against the Tri-Town Police Departments! Read more.









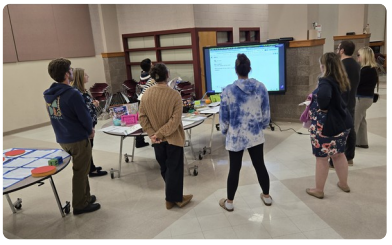




Food Assistance and Local Resources

All students in the Old Rochester Regional School District, as well as in Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester's elementary schools, have access to free breakfast and lunch each school day through the state's Universal School Meals Program. These meals help ensure that all students are well-nourished and ready to learn. Families seeking additional support can connect with both local food pantries and regional programs that provide groceries, meals and nutritional assistance. Read more here for resources.

enVisions Mathematics - Family Support



At the start of this school year, our elementary schools launched a new high-quality math program, enVisions, by Savvas Learning Company. A family night was held in late October. Additional resources were provided by enVisions to support families in the topics and lessons their students will be participating in. Please review the information below and contact your student's school with any questions.

Grade K Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3
Grade 4 Grade 5 Grade 6

Message about Changes to the U.S. Education Department

Last week, the U.S. Education Department informed state education leaders of its intent to transition the management of several major programs to other federal agencies.

The announcement states that the majority of programs currently managed by the federal Office of Elementary and Secondary Education will transition to the U.S. Department of Labor via an inter-agency agreement. These programs will include Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III-A, Title IV-A and B, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act, among others. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

(IDEA) programs will, for the moment, remain at USED, as will the Office for Civil Rights.

U.S. Education Department officials noted that signed agreements with the Department of Labor and other agencies are only a first step and could not provide immediate details on the timing or specifics of the interagency transitions. These details will vary by program. The press release includes links to several federal fact sheets, including one on elementary and secondary education.

I realize that these changes may raise concerns in your communities, and you will likely have and receive questions about how these changes will impact your school or district. DESE will share more information when we know more. Please know that we remain committed to Massachusetts public schools and the students, educators and staff who serve them. Please see the statements issued today by our state's education secretariat.

Updated Phone Number for School Texts

We have a new number! When the schools communicate via text, you'll now get texts from +15082133840. Please note, emergency notifications will continue to be sent from 97178. Please save this new number to your contacts!

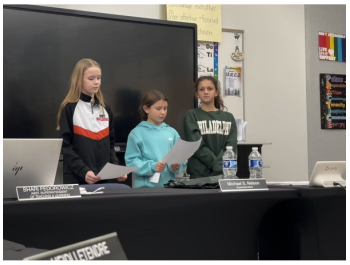
School Committee Happenings

Our School Committees have begun discussing FY2027 budgets and heard MCAS presentations from administration. At the last Rochester School Committee meeting, three Rochester Memorial School students presented to the School Committee about their experiences thus far this school year as Project 351 influencers and six second graders presented about their recent fieldtrip to the Lloyd Center for the Environment. Click here for the complete schedule, meeting resources and minutes.

Upcoming meetings (subject to change):
December 4th - Mattapoisett School Committee
December 11th - Marion School Committee
January 8th - Rochester School Committee
January 15th - ORR School Committee
January 29th - Joint School Committee







Recent News

Students at the Rochester Memorial School helped put their school among only 63 across the state to reach or exceed pre-pandemic levels for grades three through eight in the 2025 MCAS test for Math or English. Great work! Read more.



A group of six students recently completed biographies for several residents of Sippican Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center. The group included four seniors who were drawn from the high school's chapter of the National Honor Society — Linden White, Grace Rousseau, Aiden Cabral and Austin Scully. The group also included Olivia Thompson and Tessa Ripley, two juniors who are working on the nursing home biography project for the second year in a row. Read more.



The ORR Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund's mission is to enhance and enrich the educational experience of the students and teachers through grants which benefit public education in Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. This article is the first in a series of articles highlighting the impact of grants awarded to staff by the Tri-Town Education Foundation Fund during the 2024-25 school year. Interested in donating? Click here.



OHS 4th and 5th graders recently had a visit from author David A. Kelly about writing and creativity. Read more.



View the news from all our schools!

Community Information and Flyers

Flyers from throughout the Tri-Town are shared with families on our website on the Community page.

ORRconnect on Facebook

ORRconnect is also on Facebook!
Like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with school happenings.

You can follow all of our schools on Facebook too!
Center School
Old Hammondtown School
Rochester Memorial School
Sippican School
ORR Junior High School
ORR High School

ORRconnect Mobile App

This mobile app allows families to receive targeted, real-time updates right at their fingertips regarding school happenings. Families can filter content, calendars and settings unique to one building or all.
Search ORRconnect in the app store!

ORRconnect

Missed last month's newsletter? Click here.

Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent
www.oldrochester.org

Old Rochester Regional School District and Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55 proudly serves the students from Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. The mission of our school system is to inspire all students to think, to learn and to care.

Old Rochester Regional School District
Massachusetts School Superintendency Union 55

Memo

To: **School Committee Members of Marion**
From: **Howard G. Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations**
Cc: **Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools**

Date: **November 11, 2025**
Re: **Financial Report – Fiscal Year 2026**

Financial Report:

Please find the following financial report in relation to the general funds of Marion Elementary School District:

· Budget Report by Department for November 11, 2025

For the purpose of our Financial Forecasting:

The Marion School District currently has $902,905 available of the general funds appropriated for the 2026 Fiscal Year. Per the attached Year to Date Budget Report by Department, we are able to identify how our funds are encumbered and expended. This report recognizes the activity of the total $7,623,549 appropriated to the Marion School District.

- **$ 7,623,549 - General Funds Approved**
- **$ 6,720,644 - Obligations Paid or Encumbered Year to Date**
- **$ 902,905 - Remaining Available Funds**

FY25-26 APPROVED BUDGET

From Date: 7/1/2025 To Date: 6/30/2026

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 ☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask ☐ Include pre encumbrance ☐ Print accounts with zero balance ☑ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
01.302.001.1110.04.33	MEMBERSHIPS	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	100.00%
01.302.001.1110.04.35	CENSUS	$875.00	$0.00	$0.00	$875.00	$0.00	$875.00	100.00%
01.302.001.1110.04.36	DOE AUDIT	$2,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,000.00	$0.00	$2,000.00	100.00%
01.302.001.1110.05.36	SUPPLIES	$1,600.00	$200.00	$200.00	$1,400.00	$0.00	$1,400.00	87.50%
01.302.001.1110.06.36	ADVERTISING	$1,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	100.00%
01.302.001.1110.06.37	CONFERENCES	$400.00	$0.00	$0.00	$400.00	$0.00	$400.00	100.00%
01.302.001.1430.04.36	LEGAL COUNSEL	$1,100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,100.00	$0.00	$1,100.00	100.00%
	Dept: SCHOOL COMMITTEE - 001	$8,475.00	$200.00	$200.00	$8,275.00	$0.00	$8,275.00	97.64%
01.302.004.1210.01.02	SUPERINTENDENT	$37,529.86	$0.00	$0.00	$37,529.86	$0.00	$37,529.86	100.00%
01.302.004.1210.02.02	EXEC ASST SUPT	$11,544.16	$0.00	$0.00	$11,544.16	$851.97	$10,692.19	92.62%
01.302.004.1210.04.33	ASSOCIATIONS & DUES	$2,300.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,300.00	$0.00	$2,300.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1210.05.20	GENERAL SUPPLIES	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1210.05.21	POSTAGE	$600.00	$0.00	$0.00	$600.00	$0.00	$600.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1210.05.22	SUPPLIES	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1210.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$3,660.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,660.00	$0.00	$3,660.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1220.01.02	ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CU	$24,896.39	$0.00	$0.00	$24,896.39	$0.00	$24,896.39	100.00%
01.302.004.1220.02.02	ADMIN ASSISTANT OF CURRICULUM	$8,826.00	$0.00	$0.00	$8,826.00	$0.00	$8,826.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1410.01.02	ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF FI	$27,747.10	$0.00	$0.00	$27,747.10	$0.00	$27,747.10	100.00%
01.302.004.1410.03.02	FINANCE OFFICE STAFF	$32,022.52	$0.00	$0.00	$32,022.52	$734.62	$31,287.90	97.71%
01.302.004.1420.03.02	HR BENEFITS COORDINATOR	$13,557.90	$0.00	$0.00	$13,557.90	$0.00	$13,557.90	100.00%
01.302.004.1450.04.27	COMPUTER SERVICES	$6,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$6,000.00	$0.00	$6,000.00	100.00%
01.302.004.1450.05.21	ADMINISTRATIVE TECHNOLOGY	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00	100.00%
01.302.004.4130.04.15	TELEPHONE	$3,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$3,000.00	$0.00	$3,000.00	100.00%
01.302.004.4230.04.27	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	100.00%
01.302.004.5300.04.21	COPIER RENTAL	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	100.00%
	Dept: SUPERINTENDENTS OFFICE - 004	$177,183.93	$0.00	$0.00	$177,183.93	$1,586.59	$175,597.34	99.10%
01.302.007.2210.01.02	PRINCIPAL	$132,262.40	$58,947.72	$58,947.72	$73,314.68	$68,772.28	$4,542.40	3.43%
01.302.007.2210.01.05	ASST PRINCIPAL	$117,329.17	$52,292.28	$52,292.28	$65,036.89	$61,007.72	$4,029.17	3.43%
01.302.007.2210.02.02	PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY	$46,303.95	$17,953.17	$17,953.17	$28,350.78	$30,844.16	($2,493.38)	-5.38%
01.302.007.2210.02.09	CLERICAL	$0.00	$90.00	$90.00	($90.00)	$0.00	($90.00)	0.00%
01.302.007.2210.03.08	AIDES SUPERVISORY	$20,040.28	$2,672.88	$2,672.88	$17,367.40	$6,013.92	$11,353.48	56.65%
01.302.007.2210.04.33	ASSOCIATION DUES	$1,300.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,300.00	$0.00	$1,300.00	100.00%
01.302.007.2210.05.22	SUPPLIES ADMINISTRATION	$3,000.00	$713.00	$713.00	$2,287.00	$0.00	$2,287.00	76.23%
01.302.007.2210.05.23	SUPPLIES COPYING	$4,800.00	$1,599.60	$1,599.60	$3,200.40	$3,200.40	$0.00	0.00%
01.302.007.2210.05.24	SUPPLIES GENERAL SCHOOL	$6,400.00	$3,053.43	$3,053.43	$3,346.57	$671.02	$2,675.55	41.81%
01.302.007.2210.05.25	POSTAGE	$1,900.00	$744.49	$744.49	$1,155.51	$65.17	$1,090.34	57.39%
01.302.007.2210.06.36	ADVERTISING	$250.00	$0.00	$0.00	$250.00	$0.00	$250.00	100.00%
01.302.007.2210.06.37	TRAVEL/CONFERENCES	$250.00	$2,544.00	$2,544.00	($2,294.00)	$0.00	($2,294.00)	-917.60%
01.302.007.2440.05.22	COMPUTER SOFTWARE/ TECHNOLOG	$1,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	100.00%
01.302.007.4230.04.28	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	$2,000.00	$1,047.06	$1,047.06	$952.94	$1,952.94	($1,000.00)	-50.00%
01.302.007.5260.06.38	POSITION BONDS	$200.00	$0.00	$0.00	$200.00	$0.00	$200.00	100.00%
01.302.007.5300.04.28	COPIER RENTAL	$14,000.00	$7,219.96	$7,219.96	$6,780.04	$8,780.04	($2,000.00)	-14.29%
	Dept: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION - 007	$351,035.80	$148,877.59	$148,877.59	$202,158.21	$181,307.65	$20,850.56	5.94%
01.302.010.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$1,746,094.00	$529,658.06	$529,658.06	$1,216,435.94	$1,173,539.48	$42,896.46	2.46%
01.302.010.2324.01.34	LONG TERM SUBS - PROFESSIONAL	$0.00	$2,135.33	$2,135.33	($2,135.33)	$0.00	($2,135.33)	0.00%
01.302.010.2325.03.34	SUBSTITUTES	$50,000.00	$26,375.40	$26,375.40	$23,624.60	$0.00	$23,624.60	47.25%
01.302.010.2325.03.35	SUBSTITUTES PROFESSIONAL DEVEL	$10,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$10,000.00	$0.00	$10,000.00	100.00%
01.302.010.2351.04.03	TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	$8,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$8,000.00	$0.00	$8,000.00	100.00%

FY25-26 APPROVED BUDGET

From Date: 7/1/2025 To Date: 6/30/2026

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 ☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask ☐ Include pre encumbrance ☐ Print accounts with zero balance ☑ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
01.302.010.2351.06.37	TRAVEL & CONF TEACHERS	$2,500.00	$330.00	$330.00	$2,170.00	$0.00	$2,170.00	86.80%
01.302.010.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES CLASSROOM TEACHERS	$0.00	$8,599.55	$8,599.55	($8,599.55)	$712.15	($9,311.70)	0.00%
	Dept: CLASSROOM TEACHERS - 010	$1,816,594.00	$567,098.34	$567,098.34	$1,249,495.66	$1,174,251.63	$75,244.03	4.14%
01.302.013.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$202,354.00	$64,039.36	$64,039.36	$138,314.64	$144,488.64	($6,174.00)	-3.05%
01.302.013.2330.03.08	PARAPROFESSIONALS	$37,594.84	$12,093.44	$12,093.44	$25,501.40	$25,410.24	$91.16	0.24%
01.302.013.2415.05.23	SUPPLIES KINDERGARTEN	$0.00	$294.51	$294.51	($294.51)	$222.33	($516.84)	0.00%
01.302.013.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$440.86	$440.86	$4,509.14	$0.00	$4,509.14	91.09%
	Dept: KINDERGARTEN - 013	$244,898.84	$76,868.17	$76,868.17	$168,030.67	$170,121.21	($2,090.54)	-0.85%
01.302.016.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$65,823.00	$17,145.20	$17,145.20	$48,677.80	$38,716.80	$9,961.00	15.13%
01.302.016.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES & MATERIALS ART	$4,950.00	$2,873.80	$2,873.80	$2,076.20	$170.39	$1,905.81	38.50%
	Dept: ART PROGRAM - 016	$70,773.00	$20,019.00	$20,019.00	$50,754.00	$38,887.19	$11,866.81	16.77%
01.302.024.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$22,342.83	$782.86	$782.86	$21,559.97	$9,662.77	$11,897.20	53.25%
01.302.024.2356.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES ELL	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$75.00	($75.00)	0.00%
	Dept: ELL PROGRAM - 024	$22,342.83	$782.86	$782.86	$21,559.97	$9,737.77	$11,822.20	52.91%
01.302.025.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$189,565.00	$64,936.80	$64,936.80	$124,628.20	$146,508.20	($21,880.00)	-11.54%
01.302.025.2330.03.08	PARAPROFESSIONALS	$66,568.93	$9,355.68	$9,355.68	$57,213.25	$19,475.28	$37,737.97	56.69%
01.302.025.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$305.99	$305.99	$4,644.01	$0.00	$4,644.01	93.82%
	Dept: ENGLISH - 025	$261,083.93	$74,598.47	$74,598.47	$186,485.46	$165,983.48	$20,501.98	7.85%
01.302.037.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$263.73	$263.73	$4,686.27	$0.00	$4,686.27	94.67%
	Dept: MATHEMATICS - 037	$4,950.00	$263.73	$263.73	$4,686.27	$0.00	$4,686.27	94.67%
01.302.040.2340.01.03	LIBRARIAN	$105,666.00	$32,512.56	$32,512.56	$73,153.44	$73,353.44	($200.00)	-0.19%
01.302.040.2415.04.25	AV MATERIALS	$0.00	$554.71	$554.71	($554.71)	$0.00	($554.71)	0.00%
01.302.040.2415.05.23	SUPPLIES	$0.00	$353.02	$353.02	($353.02)	$0.00	($353.02)	0.00%
01.302.040.2415.05.24	BOOKS & MAGAZINES	$0.00	$840.92	$840.92	($840.92)	$1,239.50	($2,080.42)	0.00%
01.302.040.2415.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$92.00	($92.00)	0.00%
01.302.040.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$1,701.05	$1,701.05	$3,248.95	$227.78	$3,021.17	61.03%
01.302.040.4230.04.29	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$352.97	($352.97)	0.00%
	Dept: MEDIA SERVICES - 040	$110,616.00	$35,962.26	$35,962.26	$74,653.74	$75,265.69	($611.95)	-0.55%
01.302.043.2305.01.03	TEACHER	$208,458.00	$64,479.36	$64,479.36	$143,978.64	$145,278.64	($1,300.00)	-0.62%
01.302.043.2330.04.09	ACCOMPANIST	$850.00	$0.00	$0.00	$850.00	$0.00	$850.00	100.00%
01.302.043.2415.06.37	TRAVEL/CONFERENCES	$0.00	$379.00	$379.00	($379.00)	$0.00	($379.00)	0.00%
01.302.043.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$1,393.67	$1,393.67	$3,556.33	$0.00	$3,556.33	71.85%
01.302.043.4230.04.29	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$560.00	$560.00	($560.00)	$0.00	($560.00)	0.00%
	Dept: MUSIC - 043	$214,258.00	$66,812.03	$66,812.03	$147,445.97	$145,278.64	$2,167.33	1.01%
01.302.049.2305.01.03	TEACHER	$166,087.00	$29,223.04	$29,223.04	$136,863.96	$115,383.32	$21,480.64	12.93%
01.302.049.2415.06.37	TRAVEL/CONFERENCES	$0.00	$500.00	$500.00	($500.00)	$0.00	($500.00)	0.00%
01.302.049.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$3,128.56	$3,128.56	$1,821.44	$0.00	$1,821.44	36.80%
	Dept: PHYSICAL EDUCATION - 049	$171,037.00	$32,851.60	$32,851.60	$138,185.40	$115,383.32	$22,802.08	13.33%
01.302.052.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$3,884.24	$3,884.24	$1,065.76	$0.00	$1,065.76	21.53%
	Dept: SCIENCE - 052	$4,950.00	$3,884.24	$3,884.24	$1,065.76	$0.00	$1,065.76	21.53%
01.302.055.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$0.00	$0.00	$4,950.00	$0.00	$4,950.00	100.00%

FY25-26 APPROVED BUDGET

From Date: 7/1/2025 To Date: 6/30/2026

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 ☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask ☐ Include pre encumbrance ☐ Print accounts with zero balance ☑ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
	Dept: SOCIAL STUDIES - 055	$4,950.00	$0.00	$0.00	$4,950.00	$0.00	$4,950.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2351.01.03	Curriculum Leaders	$8,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$8,000.00	$0.00	$8,000.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2351.01.35	CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT	$2,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2351.04.03	CONTRACTED PROFESSIONAL DEVEL	($4,000.00)	$0.00	$0.00	($4,000.00)	$0.00	($4,000.00)	100.00%
01.302.061.2351.05.23	SUPPLIES	$5,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$5,500.00	$0.00	$5,500.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2358.04.03	Curriculum Program - Continuou	$20,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$20,000.00	$0.00	$20,000.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2358.04.35	Professional Development - Con	$8,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$8,500.00	$0.00	$8,500.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2415.05.23	Academic SciEd Program Materia	$5,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$5,000.00	$0.00	$5,000.00	100.00%
01.302.061.2430.05.23	Curriculum Program Materials -	$70,000.00	$36,059.63	$36,059.63	$33,940.37	$0.00	$33,940.37	48.49%
	Dept: CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT - 061	$115,500.00	$36,059.63	$36,059.63	$79,440.37	$0.00	$79,440.37	68.78%
01.302.067.2305.01.03	TEACHER	$104,466.00	$32,677.56	$32,677.56	$71,788.44	$73,353.44	($1,565.00)	-1.50%
01.302.067.2430.05.23	SUPPLIES	$4,950.00	$2,602.27	$2,602.27	$2,347.73	$26.20	$2,321.53	46.90%
	Dept: ENRICHMENT PROGRAM - 067	$109,416.00	$35,279.83	$35,279.83	$74,136.17	$73,379.64	$756.53	0.69%
01.302.076.3200.01.11	NURSE	$90,871.00	$27,960.32	$27,960.32	$62,910.68	$62,910.68	$0.00	0.00%
01.302.076.3200.04.11	CONTRACTED PHYSICIAN	$4,200.00	$0.00	$0.00	$4,200.00	$4,200.00	$0.00	0.00%
01.302.076.3200.05.23	SUPPLIES	$1,900.00	$1,838.92	$1,838.92	$61.08	$0.00	$61.08	3.21%
01.302.076.3200.06.36	ASSOCIATION DUES	$200.00	$0.00	$0.00	$200.00	$0.00	$200.00	100.00%
01.302.076.3200.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$350.00	$0.00	$0.00	$350.00	$0.00	$350.00	100.00%
01.302.076.4230.04.29	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	$100.00	$0.00	$0.00	$100.00	$0.00	$100.00	100.00%
	Dept: HEALTH SERVICES - 076	$97,621.00	$29,799.24	$29,799.24	$67,821.76	$67,110.68	$711.08	0.73%
01.302.079.3300.06.40	REGULAR EDUCATION - PUPIL K-6	$353,450.00	$90,325.14	$90,325.14	$263,124.86	$263,124.86	$0.00	0.00%
01.302.079.3300.06.41	REGULAR EDUCATION - FUEL ADJUS	$10,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$10,000.00	$0.00	$10,000.00	100.00%
	Dept: TRANSPORTATION - 079	$363,450.00	$90,325.14	$90,325.14	$273,124.86	$263,124.86	$10,000.00	2.75%
01.302.085.3600.04.35	ATTENDANCE OFFICER	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	100.00%
	Dept: SCHOOL SECURITY - 085	$1,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	$0.00	$1,500.00	100.00%
01.302.088.4100.06.37	CUSTODIAL TRAVEL	$0.00	$289.10	$289.10	($289.10)	$210.90	($500.00)	0.00%
01.302.088.4110.01.02	DISTRICT FACILITIES MANAGER	$18,254.87	$0.00	$0.00	$18,254.87	$0.00	$18,254.87	100.00%
01.302.088.4110.03.10	CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR	$54,024.21	$26,505.49	$26,505.49	$27,518.72	$29,287.07	($1,768.35)	-3.27%
01.302.088.4110.03.11	CUSTODIAL OVERTIME	$10,000.00	$690.40	$690.40	$9,309.60	$0.00	$9,309.60	93.10%
01.302.088.4110.04.35	CONTRACTED CUSTODIAL	$166,810.00	$61,743.96	$61,743.96	$105,066.04	$105,066.04	$0.00	0.00%
01.302.088.4120.04.18	GAS	$53,000.00	$5,501.08	$5,501.08	$47,498.92	$76,498.92	($29,000.00)	-54.72%
01.302.088.4130.04.15	TELEPHONE	$8,200.00	$2,181.11	$2,181.11	$6,018.89	$5,698.89	$320.00	3.90%
01.302.088.4130.04.16	ELECTRICITY	$132,000.00	$42,845.48	$42,845.48	$89,154.52	$74,154.52	$15,000.00	11.36%
01.302.088.4210.04.32	MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS	$4,500.00	$4,336.00	$4,336.00	$164.00	$0.00	$164.00	3.64%
01.302.088.4220.04.32	MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING	$40,000.00	$47,705.83	$47,705.83	($7,705.83)	$29,388.79	($37,094.62)	-92.74%
01.302.088.4220.05.26	CHEMICALS	$6,800.00	$200.00	$200.00	$6,600.00	$2,000.00	$4,600.00	67.65%
01.302.088.4220.05.27	PAPER	$19,500.00	$10,283.70	$10,283.70	$9,216.30	$1,716.30	$7,500.00	38.46%
01.302.088.4220.05.28	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	$22,000.00	$12,347.49	$12,347.49	$9,652.51	$3,652.51	$6,000.00	27.27%
01.302.088.4220.05.29	LIGHTING	$500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$500.00	$0.00	$500.00	100.00%
	Dept: OPERATION & MAINTENANCE - 088	$535,589.08	$214,629.64	$214,629.64	$320,959.44	$327,673.94	($6,714.50)	-1.25%
01.302.093.2130.03.04	NETWORK TECHNICIAN	$64,184.97	$0.00	$0.00	$64,184.97	$0.00	$64,184.97	100.00%
01.302.093.2130.04.33	IN SERVICE TRAINING	$500.00	$507.20	$507.20	($7.20)	$0.00	($7.20)	-1.44%
01.302.093.2250.05.23	SUPPLIES SOFTWARE	$23,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$23,500.00	$425.00	$23,075.00	98.19%
01.302.093.2430.05.23	SOFTWARE	$0.00	$349.50	$349.50	($349.50)	$0.00	($349.50)	0.00%

FY25-26 APPROVED BUDGET

From Date: 7/1/2025 To Date: 6/30/2026

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 ☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask ☐ Include pre encumbrance ☐ Print accounts with zero balance ☑ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
01.302.093.2451.05.23	EDUCATIONAL EQUIPT	$5,000.00	$43,950.00	$43,950.00	($38,950.00)	$0.00	($38,950.00)	-779.00%
01.302.093.4130.04.15	TELEPHONE	$12,250.00	$6,084.42	$6,084.42	$6,165.58	$0.00	$6,165.58	50.33%
01.302.093.4230.04.28	ACQUISITION OF EQUIPT	$2,500.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	$0.00	$2,500.00	100.00%
01.302.093.4230.04.29	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	$2,500.00	$1,398.37	$1,398.37	$1,101.63	$0.00	$1,101.63	44.07%
	Dept: COMPUTER PROGRAM - 093	$110,434.97	$52,289.49	$52,289.49	$58,145.48	$425.00	$57,720.48	52.27%
01.302.100.2110.01.02	DIRECTOR STUDENT SERVICES	$24,265.29	$0.00	$0.00	$24,265.29	$1,866.68	$22,398.61	92.31%
01.302.100.2110.02.09	ADMIN ASST STUDENT SVCS	$11,745.45	$0.00	$0.00	$11,745.45	$0.00	$11,745.45	100.00%
01.302.100.2110.04.36	LEGAL SERVICES	$10,000.00	$666.50	$666.50	$9,333.50	$9,333.50	$0.00	0.00%
01.302.100.2110.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$6,000.00	$160.00	$160.00	$5,840.00	$0.00	$5,840.00	97.33%
01.302.100.2415.04.33	ASSOCIATION DUES	$110.00	$0.00	$0.00	$110.00	$0.00	$110.00	100.00%
01.302.100.4130.04.15	TELEPHONE	$120.00	$0.00	$0.00	$120.00	$0.00	$120.00	100.00%
01.302.100.4230.04.31	SOFTWARE LICENSES	$2,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$2,000.00	$0.00	$2,000.00	100.00%
	Dept: SPECIAL NEEDS ADMINISTRATION - 100	$54,240.74	$826.50	$826.50	$53,414.24	$11,200.18	$42,214.06	77.83%
01.302.102.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$74,229.00	$22,839.60	$22,839.60	$51,389.40	$51,389.29	$0.11	0.00%
01.302.102.2330.03.08	PARAPROFESSIONALS	$53,848.59	$18,813.44	$18,813.44	$35,035.15	$40,980.24	($5,945.09)	-11.04%
01.302.102.2356.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$500.00	$44.24	$44.24	$455.76	$210.76	$245.00	49.00%
01.302.102.2430.05.24	SUPPLIES/MATERIALS	$3,500.00	$176.70	$176.70	$3,323.30	$81.69	$3,241.61	92.62%
	Dept: PROJECT GROW - 102	$132,077.59	$41,873.98	$41,873.98	$90,203.61	$92,661.98	($2,458.37)	-1.86%
01.302.103.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$661,959.00	$221,158.00	$221,158.00	$440,801.00	$498,926.00	($58,125.00)	-8.78%
01.302.103.2330.03.08	PARAPROFESSIONALS	$274,563.29	$103,155.54	$103,155.54	$171,407.75	$221,081.45	($49,673.70)	-18.09%
01.302.103.2356.01.03	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	$660.00	$0.00	$0.00	$660.00	$0.00	$660.00	100.00%
01.302.103.3300.02.12	BUS MONITORS	$24,000.00	$23,550.78	$23,550.78	$449.22	$0.00	$449.22	1.87%
	Dept: LEARNING SUPPORT CENTER - 103	$961,182.29	$347,864.32	$347,864.32	$613,317.97	$720,007.45	($106,689.48)	-11.10%
01.302.118.2305.01.03	TEACHERS	$103,029.00	$31,701.20	$31,701.20	$71,327.80	$71,527.80	($200.00)	-0.19%
01.302.118.2430.05.24	SUPPLIES	$6,500.00	$919.20	$919.20	$5,580.80	$0.00	$5,580.80	85.86%
01.302.118.2440.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$1,320.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,320.00	$0.00	$1,320.00	100.00%
01.302.118.2451.05.24	EDUCATIONAL EQUIPT	$1,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	$0.00	$1,000.00	100.00%
01.302.118.2800.04.35	THERAPY SPEECH	$107,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$107,000.00	$122,559.79	($15,559.79)	-14.54%
	Dept: SPEECH - 118	$218,849.00	$32,620.40	$32,620.40	$186,228.60	$194,087.59	($7,858.99)	-3.59%
01.302.121.2210.02.02	SPECIAL NEEDS SECRETARY	$43,824.00	$15,020.28	$15,020.28	$28,803.72	$28,371.60	$432.12	0.99%
01.302.121.2305.01.03	TEACHER VISUALLY IMPAIRED	$6,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$6,000.00	$0.00	$6,000.00	100.00%
01.302.121.2415.05.24	SUPPLIES	$3,000.00	$341.70	$341.70	$2,658.30	$0.00	$2,658.30	88.61%
01.302.121.2415.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$660.00	$0.00	$0.00	$660.00	$0.00	$660.00	100.00%
01.302.121.2440.04.35	EXTENDED YEAR SERVICES	$63,000.00	$43,951.45	$43,951.45	$19,048.55	$1,062.50	$17,986.05	28.55%
01.302.121.2710.04.03	SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTION	$15,000.00	$1,800.00	$1,800.00	$13,200.00	$0.00	$13,200.00	88.00%
01.302.121.2710.04.35	Clinical consult - case mgmt	$125,000.00	$36,132.76	$36,132.76	$88,867.24	$63,005.24	$25,862.00	20.69%
	Dept: SUPPORT SERVICES - 121	$256,484.00	$97,246.19	$97,246.19	$159,237.81	$92,439.34	$66,798.47	26.04%
01.302.127.2710.01.03	COUNSELOR	$78,072.00	$24,022.48	$24,022.48	$54,049.52	$54,050.52	($1.00)	0.00%
01.302.127.2800.01.03	PSYCHOLOGIST	$66,858.00	$0.00	$0.00	$66,858.00	$200.00	$66,658.00	99.70%
01.302.127.2800.04.03	PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES	$0.00	$12,000.00	$12,000.00	($12,000.00)	$6,000.00	($18,000.00)	0.00%
01.302.127.2800.04.13	EVALUATIONS	$19,000.00	$4,302.00	$4,302.00	$14,698.00	$5,615.00	$9,083.00	47.81%
01.302.127.2800.05.24	SUPPLIES	$3,600.00	$1,039.29	$1,039.29	$2,560.71	$0.00	$2,560.71	71.13%
01.302.127.2800.06.37	TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	$660.00	$0.00	$0.00	$660.00	$145.00	$515.00	78.03%
01.302.127.2810.01.03	SOCIAL WORKER	$64,797.00	$17,278.40	$17,278.40	$47,518.60	$52,354.60	($4,836.00)	-7.46%
	Dept: PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES - 127	$232,987.00	$58,642.17	$58,642.17	$174,344.83	$118,365.12	$55,979.71	24.03%

FY25-26 APPROVED BUDGET

From Date: 7/1/2025 To Date: 6/30/2026

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026 ☐ Subtotal by Collapse Mask ☐ Include pre encumbrance ☐ Print accounts with zero balance ☑ Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

☐ Exclude Inactive Accounts with zero balance

Account Number	Description	GL Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	Budget Balance	% Bud
01.302.130.3300.06.43	SPED TRANSPORTATION- COLLABOR.	$202,817.00	$36,700.04	$36,700.04	$166,116.96	$130,600.00	$35,516.96	17.51%
01.302.130.3300.06.44	SPED TRANSPORTATION - DAY SCHO	$48,195.00	$15,075.00	$15,075.00	$33,120.00	$29,925.00	$3,195.00	6.63%
01.302.130.3300.06.45	SPED TRANSPORTATION - PRESCHO(	$29,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$29,000.00	$0.00	$29,000.00	100.00%
01.302.130.3300.06.46	SPED TRANSPORATION - MCKINNEY	$10,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$10,000.00	$0.00	$10,000.00	100.00%
01.302.130.3300.06.47	SPED TRANSPORTATION - INTEGRAT	$43,120.00	$10,580.00	$10,580.00	$32,540.00	$30,820.00	$1,720.00	3.99%
	Dept: SPED TRANSPORTATION - 130	$333,132.00	$62,355.04	$62,355.04	$270,776.96	$191,345.00	$79,431.96	23.84%
01.302.133.9300.04.13	TUITION RESIDENTIAL (502.6)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$113,818.50	($113,818.50)	0.00%
01.302.133.9300.06.13	TUITION PRIVATE SCHOOLS	$189,463.00	$34,214.67	$34,214.67	$155,248.33	$96,261.93	$58,986.40	31.13%
01.302.133.9306.06.13	TUITION RESIDENTIAL	$150,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$150,000.00	$0.00	$150,000.00	100.00%
01.302.133.9400.06.13	TUITION COLLABORATIVES	$298,474.00	$22,781.70	$22,781.70	$275,692.30	$95,913.30	$179,779.00	60.23%
	Dept: SPED PROGRAMS W/OTHERS - 133	$637,937.00	$56,996.37	$56,996.37	$580,940.63	$305,993.73	$274,946.90	43.10%
	Grand Total:	$7,623,549.00	$2,185,026.23	$2,185,026.23	$5,438,522.77	$4,535,617.68	$902,905.09	11.84%

End of Report

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 2425 **Voucher Date:** 10/30/2025 Prepared By: michelle charette

Printed: 10/30/2025 11:31:52 AM

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of $66,043.65 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Ms. April Nye — Chairperson

Ms. Nichole Daniel — Vice Chairperson

Ms. Michelle Smith — School Committee Member

Ms. Mary Beauregard — School Committee Member

Ms. Nichole Nye McGaffey — School Committee Member

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND	$65,048.35
25	FY25 FEDERAL GRANTS	$995.30
		$66,043.65

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 2426 **Voucher Date:** 11/13/2025 Prepared By: Michelle Charette

Printed: 11/13/2025 11:22:15 AM

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of $51,472.73 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Ms. April Nye — Chairperson

Ms. Nichole Daniel — Vice Chairperson

Ms. Michelle Smith — School Committee Member

Ms. Mary Beauregard — School Committee Member

Ms. Nichole Nye McGaffey — School Committee Member

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND	$31,607.53
11	CIRCUIT BREAKER	$15,227.52
20	MARION SPEC REVENUE REVOLVING	$1,739.98
25	FY25 FEDERAL GRANTS	$2,897.70
		$51,472.73

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS VOUCHER

Voucher No: 2427 **Voucher Date:** 11/25/2025 Prepared By: Michelle Charette

Printed: 11/25/2025 02:38:29 PM

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS is hereby authorized to draw warrants against MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS funds for the sum of $226,341.50 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.

Howard Barber

Ms. April Nye — Chairperson

Ms. Nichole Daniel — Vice Chairperson

Ms. Michelle Smith — School Committee Member

Ms. Mary Beauregard — School Committee Member

Ms. Nichole Nye McGaffey — School Committee Member

MARION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fund		Amount
01	GENERAL FUND	$225,508.16
25	FY25 FEDERAL GRANTS	$833.34
		$226,341.50



Facilities Director's Report: December 2025

Sippican Elementary School

- Replaced inoperative front sidewalk light pole heads.
- Replaced seal on #2 circulator pump.
- Replaced igniter on boiler #1.
- Received two Buddy Benches for front and back playground area.
- Conducted routine maintenance on all facility systems.

Sincerely,

Gene Jones
Director of Facilities
Office: 508-758-2772 x1954
Cell: 508-509-6763
E-Mail: eugenejones@oldrochester.org

Old Rochester Regional School District
Massachusetts Superintendency Union #55

"Serving the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, & Rochester"

Food Service Director's Report: November 2025
Sippican Elementary

Directors Update:

- Meals continue to be free for all students. Each student will receive one free breakfast and one free lunch, per day. Second meals, a la carte drinks, snacks and milk only are available for purchase.
- Café staff and their families volunteered their time to cook and serve another successful Tri-Town Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner banquet, hosted by the ORR Junior High School.
- ORRSD recently shared information, to our school community, on resources to support families in need of additional food assistance. Resources can be found at ORRschoolmeals.com.
- Bulldog Café is looking for cafeteria help: on-call substitute. If you are looking for a flexible and rewarding part time job – this may be the opportunity for you. Contact Jill Henesey for more details.

Students Receiving Free and Reduced Meals:								
Free:					102		30 %	
Reduced:					15		4 %	
Student Meal Participation								
	SY 24/25				SY 25/26			
	Breakfast Counts	%	Lunch Counts	%	Breakfast Counts	%	Lunch Counts	%
August	189	18 %	429	42 %	175	19 %	413	45 %
September	1,635	2 3%	4,029	57 %	2,009	29 %	3,862	56 %
October	1,874	24 %	4,502	59 %	2,169	31 %	4,141	59 %
November	1,525	26 %	3,482	60 %	1,420	28 %	3,011	59 %
December	1,209	24 %	2,991	59 %				
January	1,673	24 %	4,104	58 %				
February	1,077	22 %	2,827	58 %				
March	1,670	23 %	4,254	59 %				
April	1,406	24 %	3,437	59 %				
May	1,602	22 %	4,160	57 %				
June	639	23 %	1,360	49 %				

Jill Henesey
Director of Food and Nutrition Services
Office: 508-758-2772 x1543
Mobile: 774-320-0801
Email: jillhenesey@oldrochester.org
https://www.facebook.com/ORRnutrition4kids

Sippican Elementary School

16 Spring Street, Marion, Massachusetts 02738
Telephone: (508) 748-0100 FAX: (508) 748-1953

Lynn Dessert, Principal
lynndessert@oldrochester.org

Gregory Thomas, Assistant Principal
gregorythomas@oldrochester.org

To: Superintendent Michael S. Nelson, Members of the Marion School Committee, Administrative Team Members

From: Lynn Dessert, Principal
Re: **Principal's Report**
Date: December 11. 2025

Principal's Report to the Marion School Committee

Sippican Elementary School — December 2025

Anchored with Purpose, Sailing with Heart – Year Two at Sippican School

---

📍 Principal's Report — December 2025



As we move into this festive season, Sippican Elementary continues to shine with learning, leadership, and joyful community spirit. November was filled with gratitude, service, and meaningful learning — and December promises continued growth and celebration as we close out the calendar year.

Thank you to our staff, students, families, and community partners for supporting a warm, connected school environment built on respect, responsibility, and kindness.

🦃 School Community Highlights

Thanksgiving All-School Meeting

Right before break, our school came together for a joyful celebration of music, gratitude, and student leadership. Highlights included:

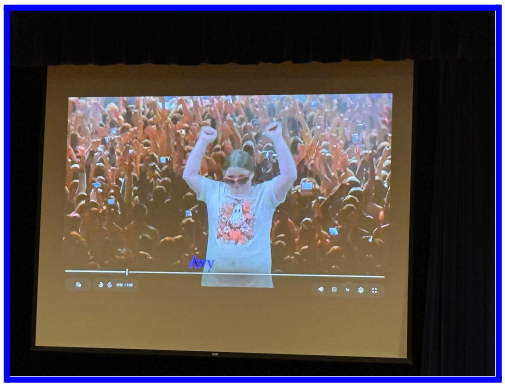


- 🎵 **Jazz Band performance kicking off the assembly with energy and talent.**





- 🎤 **Junior Reporters presenting a student-created "What We're Grateful For" video.**





- 🐾 Norman Awards recognizing students modeling Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness.




- 🌟 Character Counts recognitions honoring students showing empathy, inclusion, and kindness.




- 🍂 First Grade Thanksgiving Songs, performed with big voices and even bigger smiles.




These assemblies continue to strengthen community pride, celebration, and leadership — and students look forward to them each month.

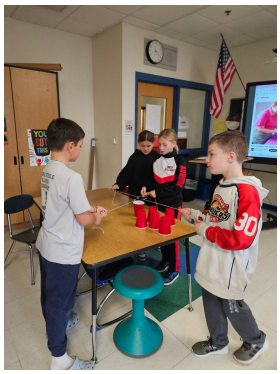
⚓ Teaching & Learning Updates

Fly Five SEL



Classrooms continue teaching Fly Five lessons with growing consistency. Students are practicing:

- Empathy
- Problem-solving
- Respectful communication
- Perspective-taking



These lessons are now becoming part of student routines, language, and reflection across grade levels.

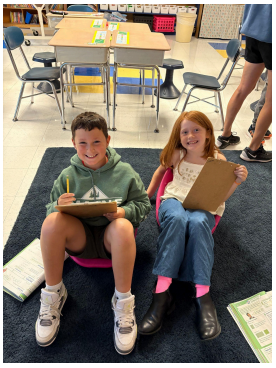
Mathematics

Our implementation of EnVision Math 2025 continues to deepen. Professional learning with Dr. Sue Looney supports:

- Clear pacing structures
- Consistent lesson routines
- Meaningful student discourse
- The Eight Effective Mathematics Teaching Practices

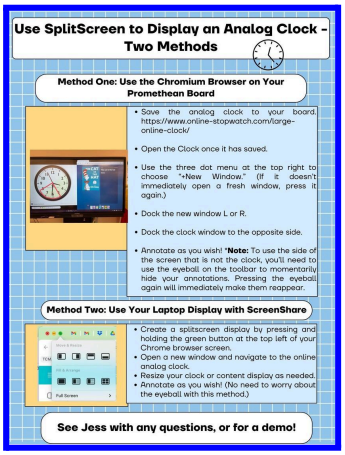
Teachers continue to refine problem-based learning structures and math talk routines as students grow more confident in explaining their thinking.





Executive Function & "Get Ready–Do–Done"

Planning tools and EF routines are visible in many classrooms and are helping students learn how to organize materials, break down tasks, and manage work time more independently.



💙 Supporting Students – BBST/MTSS

Our Building-Based Support Team continues reviewing academic, behavior, and attendance data to ensure:

- Early identification of students needing support
- Consistent family communication
- Targeted interventions aligned with need

Students are receiving strategic support in literacy, math fluency, and self-regulation as we continue to build strong Tier 1 systems.



🐾 Norman & Officer Tracy

Norman remains a highlight across the building — greeting students, joining classroom lessons, and supporting emotional regulation. Norman Awards continue to reinforce our expectations, recognizing students who go above and beyond to demonstrate kindness, respect, and responsibility.



🌱 Community Partnerships & Service



Feinstein Leadership & Service Projects

Our Feinstein student leaders and Kindness Crew continue building momentum with:

- 🎄 Kindness Tree, growing with hundreds of student-named acts of kindness
- 🥫 Sippican Pantry collections



- 🧥 Winter Coat Drive

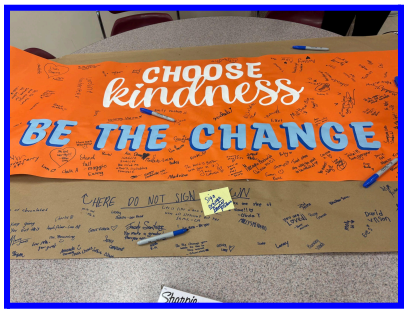


- 🎁 Holiday Toy Drive

Participation has been joyful and meaningful — demonstrating the power of student leadership, empathy, and action.

Project 351 Ambassadors

Our ambassadors continue developing leadership skills and are helping support school-wide service initiatives this month with gratitude messaging and student-led announcements.



🚸 Operations & Facilities

- Custodial teams have begun winter readiness preparations.
- Playground updates and buddy bench installation remain on track for early winter arrival pending delivery timelines.

🎉 Looking Ahead

December brings joyful traditions and meaningful learning, including:

- Winter concerts, spirit week, and celebrations
- Continued Fly Five SEL lessons
- Ongoing work with the EnVision Math curriculum
- The launch of winter service initiatives led by Feinstein leaders and Project 351 ambassadors

As always, we remain Anchored with Purpose, Sailing with Heart — supporting student growth academically, socially, and emotionally.



Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dessert, M.Ed.
Principal, Sippican Elementary School
16 Spring Street, Marion, MA 02738
📞 508-748-0100 📠 508-748-1953

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55
School Calendar 2026-2027 DRAFT

July 2026

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	*3*
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

7/3 - Independence Day Observed

August 2026

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

8/31 All Staff Report

September 2026

M	T	W	T	F
	[1]	2*	3	4E**
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23X	24	25
28	29	30		

[ ] Prof. Devl. Day

***Opening Day - Gr. 1-12**

E** - K First Day and Early Dismissal

9/7 - Labor Day

X - Prof. Dev. All Schools Early Release

20 days | 20 days accrued

October 2026

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22P	23P
26	27	28	29	30

10/12- Columbus Day

P- Elementary - Early Dismissal Parent Conf.

21 days | 41 days accrued

November 2026

M	T	W	T	F
2	[3]	4	5	6
9	10	*11*	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25E	*26*	*27*
30				

[ ]-Prof. Devl. Day

11/11 - Veterans' Day

E- Early Dismissal for Students & Teachers

11/26-27 Thanksgiving Vacation

17 days | 58 days accrued

December 2026

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23E	*24*	*25*
28	*29*	*30*	*31*	

E- Early Dismissal for Students & Teachers

12/24-12/31 Holiday Vacation

17 days | 75 days accrued

January 2027

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27X	28	29

1/1 Holiday Vacation

1/18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

X - Prof. Dev. All Schools Early Release

19 days | 94 days accrued

February 2027

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	*16*	*17*	*18*	*19*
22	23	24	25	26

2/16-2/20 School Vacation

15 days | 109 days accrued

March 2027

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3X	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

X - Prof. Dev. All Schools Early Release

23 days | 132 days accrued

April 2027

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*
26	27	28	29	30

4/19-4/23 School Vacation

17 days | 149 days accrued

May 2027

M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26X	27	28
31				

5/31 - Memorial Day

X - Prof. Dev. All Schools Early Release

20 days | 169 days accrued

June 2027

M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15*	16	17	*18*
21	22	23**	24	25
28	29	30		

* 180th Day, Early Release

**185th Day, Early Release

6/18 - Juneteenth (observed)

11 days | 180 days accrued

Holidays - No School for Students and Teachers

7/4 - Independence Day
9/7- Labor Day
10/12- Columbus Day
11/11 - Veterans' Day
11/26 - Thanksgiving Day
12/25- Christmas day
1/1- New Year's Day
1/18 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
2/15 - Presidents' Day
4/19- Patriots' Day
5/31 - Memorial Day
6/19 - Juneteenth (observed 6/18)

Start & End Times:

ORR Jr. High School
7:20 a.m. to 2:04 p.m.
ORR High School
7:30 to 2:03 p.m.
Center School & OHS
8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Sippican School
8:40 a.m. to 2:57 p.m.
Rochester Memorial School
8:40 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Early Dismissal Times (Codes X E)

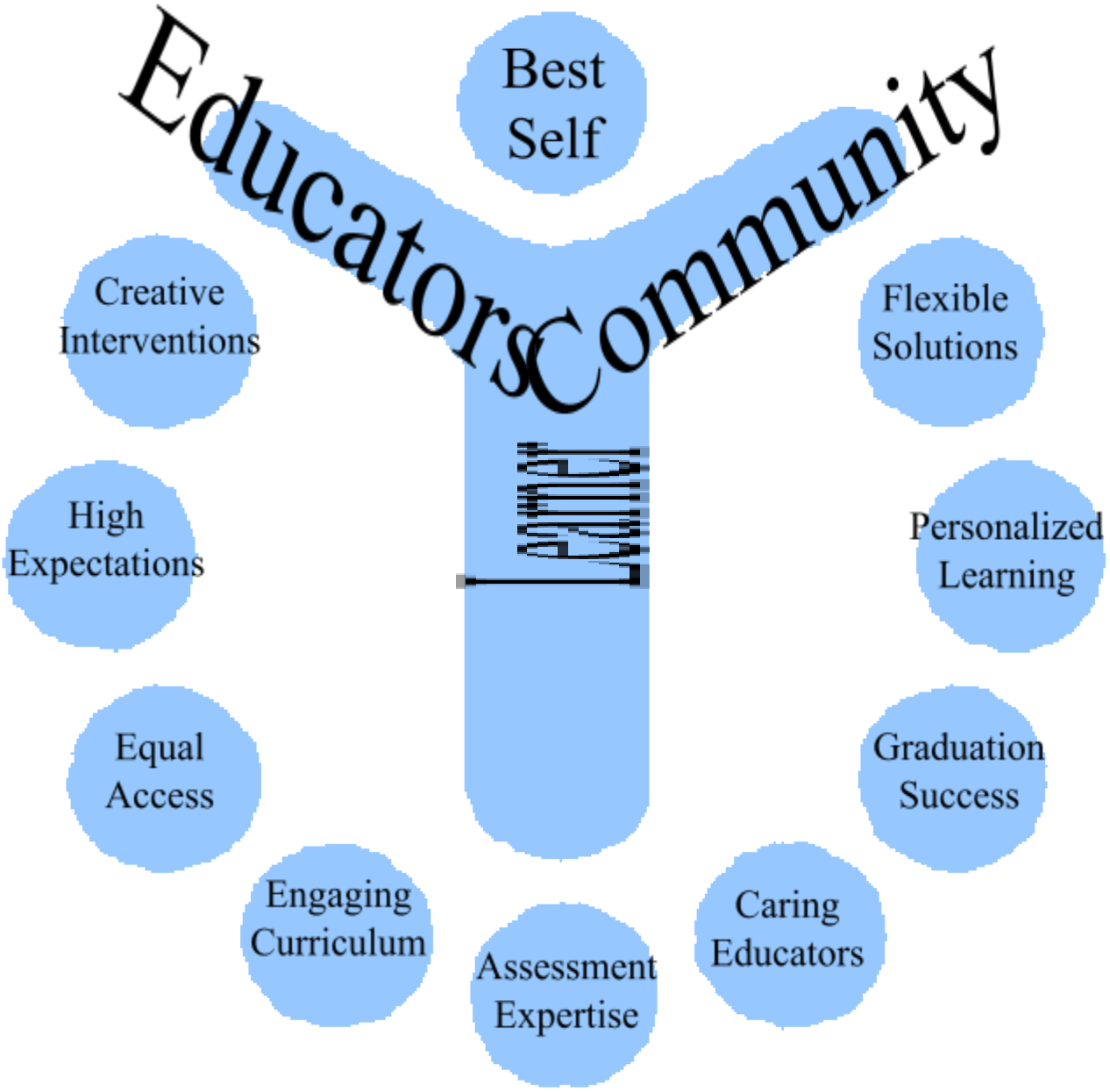
		Code P
ORR Jr. & Sr. High Schools	11:30 a.m.	N/A
Center & Old Hammondtown	12:20 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
Sippican School	12:20 p.m.	11:30 a.m.
Rochester Memorial School	12:30 p.m.	12:30 p.m.

Approved by the Joint School Committee
xx.xx.xxxx
www.oldrochester.org

READS Collaborative Annual Report for 25-26

READS Collaborative

Promoting the success and well-being of every learner since 1974



Regional Educational Assessment and Diagnostic Services (READS) Collaborative

105 East Grove St., Middleborough, MA 02346

READS Collaborative's mission is to provide creative, flexible solutions that promote the success and well-being of each child, adolescent and adult learner.

www.readscollab.org

Approved by the Board on Thursday, TBD

READS Collaborative is a multi-purpose, public organization established under Chapter 40 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that specializes in the development of regional programs and services for school-age children with disabilities. READS is governed by a Board of Directors that is composed of the school superintendents from each of the 20 Member Districts.

Leadership at READS Collaborative

READS Collaborative is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of the superintendent from each Member District.

Executive Committee as of December 2024

President – Jeffrey Schoonover, Superintendent, Somerset and Somerset-Berkley Regional
Vice-President – Carolyn Lyons, J.D., Superintendent, Middleborough
Secretary/Clerk – Melissa Ryan, Superintendent, Berkley

- Felicia Moschella, Ph.D., Superintendent, Abington
- Paula Bailey, Ed.D., Superintendent, Acushnet
- Ryan Powers, Superintendent, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional
- Alexandre Magalhaes, Ed.D., Superintendent, Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical
- Priya Tahiliani, Ed.D., Superintendent, Brockton
- Scott Knief, Superintendent, Carver
- William Runey, III, Superintendent, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional
- Gina Williams, Ed.D., Superintendent, East Bridgewater
- Barbara Starkie, Ed.D., Superintendent, Freetown-Lakeville Regional
- Michael Nelson, Superintendent, Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester
- Jennifer O'Neill, Ed.D., Superintendent, Norton
- John Cabral, Superintendent, Taunton
- Mark Bodwell, Superintendent, West Bridgewater
- Jeffrey Szymaniak, Superintendent, Whitman-Hanson Regional

Special Education Administrators Advisory Committee

- James Robbins., Abington
- Kimberli Bettencourt, Acushnet
- Melissa Abrego, Berkley
- James Leonard, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional
- Amy Cohen, Bristol-Plymouth Regional
- Jami Langley, Brockton
- Melissa Leary, Carver
- Marie-Juanita Digioia, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional
- John Phelan, East Bridgewater
- Kelly Steele, Freetown-Lakeville Regional
- Jamie Curley, Ed.D., Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester
- Jennifer Healy, Middleborough

- Cassandra Russo, Norton
- Megan Ashton, Somerset and Somerset-Berkley Regional
- Amy Moynihan, Taunton
- Kathleen Marble, West Bridgewater
- Christine Godino, Whitman Hanson Regional

READS Collaborative Administration as of December 2024

- Dina Medeiros, M.Ed. C.A.G.S., Executive Director
- Lindsey Albernaz, CPA, Business Manager
- Michelle Holden, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director
- Bethany Estrella, OTD, Program Director, District Services
- Erinn Fauteux, Program Director, READS Academy PreK-12+
- Rebekah Marchilena, Program Director, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program
- John Dorn, Psy.D., Neuropsychologist
- Christine Shea, Technology Director
- Linda Woodcock, Clinic Manager

READS Collaborative Treasurer – Patrick Meagher

READS Collaborative Mission Statement

The mission of READS Collaborative is to provide creative, flexible solutions that promote the success and well-being of each child, adolescent and adult learner.

Guiding Beliefs and Core Values

- **R**ESPECT for each other through strong connections to students and families fosters active engagement in the student's education.
- **E**NCOURAGEMENT of a sense of belonging and responsibility for the community is essential to student social and emotional well-being.
- **A**CHIEVEMENT promotes a sense of comfort, confidence and growth when an individual's needs are met. Continuous assessment of programs and services assures student learning, achievement and growth.
- **D**ETERMINATION is an essential trait to cultivate in order for students to contribute to an increasingly diverse, complex, technological, and rapidly changing global society.
- **S**UCCESS of the students, and the organization, is accomplished through a respectful approach to shared decision-making, meaningful encouragement, recognition of achievement and determination to continuously improve.

Vision Statement

- Students acquire skills to foster academic and linguistic growth and strengthen social, emotional, and physical well-being in a safe, healthy, supportive and inviting learning environment. The staff of READS

Collaborative takes pride in the fact that students recognize that the entire staff respects them, encourages them to reach their potential and supports them in the achievement of their goals.

- READS Collaborative emphasizes determination as the key to achieving academic growth and to preparing for a successful transition to a general education setting, higher education or vocation, and a productive adult life.
- READS Collaborative continues to utilize the highly specialized educators, administrators, clinicians, therapists and assistants who work diligently to improve the educational outcomes and promote successes for children, adolescents and adults. READS Collaborative continues to provide these individualized, caring, educational settings and services to students through the collaboration of member districts.

READS Collaborative is a non-profit, public educational organization that specializes in the development of regional educational programs for children with low incidence disabilities. READS Collaborative provides diagnostic services, therapeutic services, assistive technology consultation, summer programming and professional development throughout the region. READS Collaborative provides comprehensive educational programming for students with emotional and/or social challenges and students who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing.

READS Collaborative is focused on the mission to *provide creative, flexible solutions that promote the success and well-being of each child, adolescent and adult learner.* READS Collaborative provides individualized, caring educational settings and services for students with disabilities through the collaboration of 20 Member Districts. This collaboration results in cost savings to Member Districts and provides individualized support and interventions that districts may not be able to provide on their own.

READS Collaborative builds connections between students, families, school districts and community services. READS Collaborative improves the educational outcomes for children and families of area communities by providing services through a highly specialized, trained staff of educators, administrators, therapists and assistants. Students participate in educational experiences at READS Collaborative that improve their opportunities for passing state tests, receiving a high school diploma and exploring options for higher education or employment.

Information on Programs and Services Provided by the Collaborative

General Statistics

- READS Collaborative was established in 1974
- Years in Service – 51
- Employees – 187
- 20 Member Districts:

  Abington, Acushnet, Berkley, Bridgewater-Raynham Regional, Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School, Brockton, Carver, Dighton-Rehoboth Regional, East Bridgewater, Freetown-Lakeville Regional, Marion, Mattapoisett, Norton, Middleborough, Rochester, Somerset, Somerset-Berkley Regional, Taunton, West Bridgewater, Whitman-Hanson
- Total Member and Non-Member Districts Served – 20 Members, 35+ Non-Members

Programs Sites

Norton, West Bridgewater, Middleborough, Taunton (Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School)

Enrollment

- READS Academy – 101 students
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program – 52 students
- Family Success Partnership – 45 families
- District Services - approximately 500

Programs and Services Provided to Member and Non-Member Districts

• Administrative Mentoring
• Alternative Education/Therapeutic Intervention Program PreK -12+ Public Day Program - **READS Academy Program**
• Assistive Technology Assessments and Consultation
• Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Assessments and Consultation
• Clinical Evaluations (Neuropsychological, Risk Assessments, Personality, Psycho-educational)
• **Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program** (PreK-12+)
• **District Services** (Related Services, Therapeutic Intervention, and Multi-Disciplinary Support)
• Early Intervention – Specialized Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services including speech and language services (birth to 3)
• Educational Audiology Services (Central Auditory Processing Assessment, Educational Audiology Consultation, Environmental Assessment, and Audiological Assessment)
• Family Success Partnership (Wraparound Services)
• Grant Applications, as a collaboration of districts
• In-District Program Consultation
• Program Evaluations and Consultation to School Districts
• Program Evaluation
• Professional Development
• Social Emotional Learning and Behavioral Health Consultation
• Summer Programs
• Teacher of the Deaf Services (Consultation, Direct Service, Observational and Standardized Assessment, and Functional Listening Evaluation)

Staff Demographics *Indicates part-time or per diem staff

Administrators/Directors Executive Director (1) Business Manager (1) Program Directors (3) Assistant Program Director (Academy)(1) Technology Director (1) Clinical Directors (Academy)(2) DHH Team Chair (1) Clinic Manager (1)	11	**Administrative Support Personnel** Administrative Assistant to Executive Director (1) Human Resources Coordinator (1) Accounts Payable and Receivable Coordinator (1) Administrative Secretary (1) Administrative Secretary to District Services Director (1) Admissions Coordinator - Academy (1) Technology Support Specialist (1) *Interpreter Coordinator - DHH (.5) *Payroll Clerk (.5) *Transcriptionist (.2)	8.2
Educators – includes Special Education classroom teachers, Teachers of the Deaf, Reading Specialists, *Art, and PE teachers, etc.	*35	Special Education Secretaries Program Secretaries	4
Teacher Assistants – includes Assistant Teachers and 1 to 1 support	42	Counselors	11
*Occupational Therapists & Assistants	7	Nurses	2
*Physical Therapists & Assistants	5	Family Success Partnership Social Workers	3
*Speech/Language Pathologists & Assistants	9	*American Sign Language Interpreters	17.5
*Clinical Psychologists	3	School Psychologists	1
*Audiologist	1	Bus Driver	0
*Assistive Technology and AAC Specialist	2	Substitutes	7
Facilities Manager	1	Treasurer	**.5**

Progress toward Achieving the Objectives and Purposes Set forth in the Collaborative Agreement and Strategic Plan

The **READS Collaborative Agreement** sets forth the purpose of the collaborative as:

"The Collaborative shall conduct and/or provide programs and/or services for, but not limited to, special needs children, needs assessment and recommendations, and in-service education. In addition, the Collaborative shall provide

diagnostic testing, evaluation, and recommendation in a variety of areas, including, but not limited to, medical, psychological, educational, audiological, ophthalmological, speech and language, and physical and occupational therapy. Such programs and/or services shall maximize cost efficiency and program effectiveness through a collaborative effort.

The focus of READS Collaborative is the provision and creation of special education programs and services in the least restrictive environment, the provision of diagnostic assessments for children within the local communities, and the delivery of professional development for educators.

The overall objectives of READS Collaborative are:

1. *to complement the educational programs and services of districts in a cost-effective manner;*
2. *to improve the academic growth of students;*
3. *to provide a range of diagnostic educational assessments for local districts;*
4. *to offer quality professional development opportunities to general and special education teachers and related service providers; and*
5. *to expand programs and services in a manner consistent with the needs of the Member Districts."*

The **READS Collaborative Strategic Plan** for 2024 -2029 sets forth the following priorities.

- **Priority #1:** Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff
- **Priority #2:** Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the Development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds
- **Priority #3:** Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports
- **Priority #4:** Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based to Ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.

Program Specific Progress Toward Achieving the Objectives and Purposes Set forth in the Collaborative Agreement and Strategic Plan

The approval for the updated READS Collaborative Agreement by the Board, Members' School Committees and the DESE has resulted in the official addition of both Brockton Public Schools and Whitman-Hanson Regional School District effective July 1, 2024.

A brief overview of the actions taken in the past year to meet the 5 objectives of READS Collaborative as set forth in the Collaborative Agreement are:

1. **To complement the educational programs and services of districts in a cost-effective manner;**
   - **a.** Grants received: Safe and Supportive Schools extension Grant
   - **b.**
2. **To improve the academic growth of students;**
   - **a.** Enrollment by May 2025 included 110 (includes 9 students scheduled to graduate) up from 100 students the previous year at the Academy for grades PreK-12+ including the West Bridgewater campus. .
   - b. Enrollment for the DHH Program by May 2024 included 52 Students from 25+ neighboring member and non-member school districts.
   - **c.** The READS Academy has increased the number of staff certified in CPS (collaborative Problem Solving) to 4 staff members with 5 staff members completing their training to be a CPS Trainer

through Mass General Think:Kids. The number of current trainers ensures sustainability for the CPS philosophy and interventions at the READS Academy.

d. **The Academy proudly graduated 9 students as part of the Class of 2025 from both campuses** (Middleboro and West Bridgewater)**.**
e. **The DHH Program had 3 students graduate from Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School and the Norton High School as part of the Class of 2025.**

3. **To provide a range of diagnostic educational assessments for local districts;**
   a. READS Clinic continues to offer valuable psychoeducational, neuropsychological, risk, and personality assessments. The Clinic has added the administration of the ADOS (Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule), a standardized assessment used to diagnose autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Survey feedback regarding READS Clinic evaluations from districts, families, and other stakeholders continues to be very positive. In total, the READS Clinic completed 252 evaluations during the 24-25 school year.
   b. READS District Services continues to offer Assistive Technology, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Adapted Physical Education, Central Auditory Processing, Functional Listening Evaluation, Educational Audiology, and Audiological Assessments, and other assessments as requested. Collectively, District Services staff completed over 227 evaluations for the 24-25 school year.
4. **To offer quality professional development opportunities to general and special education teachers and related service providers;**
   a. This year READS has offered or coordinated several professional development sessions:
      i. Educator Evaluation for Administrators was provided in September 2024
      ii. Collaborative Problem Solving through MGH Think:Kids made CPS Essentials Training accessible through the Mental Health Grant was provided to READS staff with opportunities for member and non member districts.
      iii. READS Collaborative staff created and provided a professional development series for paraprofessionals totaling 12 hours of professional development.
5. **To expand programs and services in a manner consistent with the needs of the Member Districts.**
   a. The wraparound services known as Family Success Partnership has continued to broaden the scope of support and services to families and school teams through increased offerings. FSP clinicians provided support to 45 families in 4 districts.
   b. READS Academy continues its important work with Collaborative Problem Solving. READS Academy now has 5 of its own CPS certified Trainers as of June 2025. This ensures the implementation of CPS sustainability.
   c. District Services added new contracts for the 2024-2025 school year for the following services and districts:
      i. OT : BICO Homecare, Clarke School for the Deaf (Taunton, Waltham), Norton Homecare
      ii. PT : BICO Homecare, Clarke School for the Deaf (Taunton, Medway, Waltham, Watertown), Franklin Homecare, Norton Homecare
      iii. APE : Silver Lake Regional
      iv. Speech : BICO Homecare, Norton Homecare
      v. Teacher of the Deaf Itinerant Services: Argosy Charter, Arlington, Diman Regional, Fairhaven, Foxborough Regional Charter, Hull, New Heights Regional Charter, Seekonk, TEC, Whitman-Hanson, Wrentham
   d. District Services also filled the short term coverage needs for the following services and districts in 2024-2025:

i. OT : Carver Homecare (April 2025 - June 2025), East Bridgewater Public Schools (April 2025 - June 2025)
ii. PT : Carver Homecare (April 2025 - June 2025), Falmouth (November 2024 - December 2024), Braintree ESY, Bridgewater-Raynham Homecare ESY, Plymouth ESY
iii. Speech : BICO ESY, Carver Homecare (April 2025 - June 2025), East Bridgewater Public Schools (April 2025 - June 2025)

e. In an effort to meet the growing needs of member and non-member districts, District Services hired an additional one full-time and one part-time Teacher of the Deaf, one part-time Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant, two part-time Occupational Therapy assistants.
f. DHH now has 17.5 ASL interpreters to address the growing need of individualized educational programming for its students, which includes maximum inclusive opportunities.

Progress Toward Achieving the Objectives in READS Strategic Plan

The READS Collaborative Strategic Plan for 2024 -2029 sets forth the following priorities.

- Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff
  - READS Collaborative has contracted with CrisisGo for implementation of an emergency system to alert Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) staff and students within the DHH Program starting in August 2025.
  - CrisisGo management system for screening visitors will also be implemented for both of the READS Collaborative school buildings (44 Bedford Street, Middleborough and 399 Old Colony Road, Norton). There will be a CrisisGo visitor check-in screener system set up at both Suite A and B entrances located at 44 Bedford Street, Middleborough and the main entrance at the 399 Old Colony Road, Norton location.
  - READS Academy has notified families and students of the new "No Cell Phone Use Policy" for the beginning of the 25-26 school year. Yondr pouches will be used to allow students to safely secure their cell phones while in their possession. Parents/Guardians were offered an informational question and answer session scheduled for June 11th, 2025.
- Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds
  - Dr. Beth Estrella, Director of District Services, and Mrs. Rebekah Marchilena, DHH Program Director, updated the READS Collaborative Mentoring Program and onboarding process.
- Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports
  - The Executive Director has collected a master list of the current curriculum used and current needs for both the READS Academy and DHH Programs.
- Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective, as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based, to ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.
  - READS Collaborative has purchased the building located at 399 Old Colony Road, Norton effective June 3rd, 2025 to address DHH Program space needs.
  - Planning for necessary renovations to the building located at 399 Old Colony Road, Norton have already been initiated with implementation beginning immediately after purchase is official.
  - Securing the additional space needs has solidified planning to ensure READS DHH students will continue to be part of Norton Public Schools. READS Collaborative and the host district of Norton Public Schools has signed a 3-year contract ensuring inclusion opportunities for DHH students in grades K-12+

Progress toward the objectives in the Strategic Plan are included within the description of each corresponding program heading below.

READS Academy Program Overview

READS Academy's location at 44 Bedford St. in Middleborough consists of one public day school building that houses two schools: Academy PreK-6 and Academy 7-12+.

READS Academy is a therapeutic public day school that establishes strong connections within the school community. The Academy serves children and adolescents between the ages of 3 to 22 who have been diagnosed with emotional, behavioral, neuro-developmental and learning disabilities, and require specialized instruction and services to meet their IEP goals. The mission of READS Academy is to facilitate a student's personal growth on an emotional and psychological level and to provide a structure for improving interpersonal and social skills through academics and counseling. The Academy is a highly structured program offering individualized and small-group academic instruction, individual and group counseling, and individualized emotional support and intervention. Therapeutic services such as individual and group counseling, speech/language therapy, occupational/physical therapy, specialized reading support, and adaptive physical education are also available. READS Academy promotes student learning success within the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and the MCAS. The school operates on a 10-month calendar with an Extended School Year 5-week summer program.

The community at READS Academy cares for the students individually and collectively throughout the school year. This is especially evident during the holidays, which can be particularly difficult for students in the Academy. The Kindness Closet accepts donations and provides gift baskets, food items and gift cards to families in need. The Emporium is filled with donated items, including clothing, that students can select for themselves or wrap and gift to their family members. The Emporium has expanded in this past year and is available year round.

Students' successes are measured and documented using READS Analytics. The READS Analytics tool gathers data for review by staff, students, and IEP teams in the following areas: Social Emotional Learning Skills, Employability Skills and Academic Skills. The analytics tool continues to provide data that is integral to instruction, assessment, intervention and team discussions around students' readiness to return to their home school district.

READS Academy Assessment Services

READS Academy offers short-term placement for Assessment Services at all grade levels, including the preschool classroom. The Assessment Services are designed to assist Special Education Teams in identifying the needs of students. The Assessment Services include comprehensive clinical and educational evaluations in a classroom environment that is supported by individualized counseling and therapeutic interventions. Evaluation Data is gathered through a variety of tools to assist the educational team in educational planning and placement at the conclusion of the assessment period. READS leadership model at READS Academy includes a full time Admissions Coordinator PreK-12+ whose sole responsibility is to process intakes / referrals from surrounding districts. This includes coordinating communication between READS, districts and families, providing program tours, and classroom visits.

READS Alternative Learning Program Supports (ALPS)

All READS students attend school in person with exceptions for those requiring short-term alternative programming due to safety and other circumstances requiring alternative learning program support (ALPS) interventions. ALPS works with a student's team to develop a highly specialized continuum of temporary or interim individual intervention for a child whose circumstances and level of need require such support.

In addition, students may require and be provided with short-term tutoring support per the recommendation of the student's educational team.

Therapeutic Support and Services in All READS Academy Locations include:

- Individual and group counseling
- Student Success Plans, behavior support and intervention daily
- Social skills training daily
- Therapy dogs (2), an additional 2 therapy dogs will make scheduled visits for students
- Family engagement through daily/weekly contact with parents and guardians
- Academic Support provided across all locations to promote college and career readiness that includes:
    - Individualized and small group academic instruction
    - Technology Instruction PreK-12
    - MCAS preparation and support
    - Reading Intervention
    - Pre-vocational training
    - Fine Arts education opportunities
    - Employability Skills (9-12+)
    - Dual Enrollment opportunities at Massasoit Community College
- READS Analytics data collection and analysis that supports academic and therapeutic intervention planning and discussions at Team meetings
- Consultation to referring school districts

READS Academy - PreK-6 School at Bedford St., Middleborough

READS Academy Program Director Erinn Fautuex supervised programming that serves the students, families and districts in preschool to grade 6. She was supported by the Assistant ProgramDirector, Missy Sorrenti. In addition, the PreK-6 School was also supported by Clinical Director, Carrie Smith. The special educators, assistants and therapists have experience and specialized training in promoting self-regulation and social development for this age group.

Therapeutic supports include individual counseling, group counseling, and classroom community building activities. In addition, counselors are available for daily check-ins as needed.

READS incorporates hands-on, project-based learning to engage students at all levels. The Academy is a Project Lead the Way school and has a dedicated makerspace that provides additional opportunities for students to engage in STEAM activities.

READS Academy has a one-to-one for Chromebooks for student use and utilizes Google Apps for Education, Class Dojo and other applications to provide families with access to student learning.

The elementary students continue to learn science skills related to the health fields through implementation of augmented reality devices received through the MA Capital Skills Grant. High Impact Wonders ELA curriculum was purchased for grades K-6 in 2024 and has been fully implemented. Students in grades PreK - 6 also participate in art and physical education classes.

READS Academy - 7-12+ School at Bedford St., Middleborough

READS Academy programming for grades 7-12+ was also led by Program Director Erinn Fautuex along with Assistant Program Director, Missy Sorrenti. Students in grades 7-12+ had their own Clinical Director, Doreen Souza, supporting staff and students. The READS Academy's specialized staff included 3 full time counselors as well as special educators and assistants with experience and specialized training in promoting self-regulation and social development. During FY25, an additional full time Work-Based Learning Coordinator was hired to oversee the enhancement and expansion of work-based learning education, internship, and employability opportunities. READS also had access to 4 therapy dogs at the grades 7-12 school to assist students with emotional regulation and motivation to engage in school work or socialization.

Students at READS Academy acquire empathy and a sense of social justice through organized student council activities to raise funds for worthy causes. The students and staff have raised hundreds of dollars for organizations such as the Hoyt Foundation, Jimmy Fund, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund and Hurricane Relief.

Community members donate new and gently used items to the school Emporium where students can use "READS bucks" earned for acts of kindness and behavior levels to purchase household items, clothes and gifts for themselves and family members. There has been a significant increase in the need to provide food and clothing directly to students and their families. In response, the Academy expanded the "Kindness Closet" to provide food staples that students can take home to share with their families.

READS Academy for grades 7-12+ has a one-to-one for Chromebooks for student use and utilizes Google Apps for Education and other applications to provide families with access to student learning.

READS Academy 9-12+ offers pre-vocational tracks within the public day high school, such as:

- Industrial Technology:
  - 3-D and Laser Printing Lab
  - Assembling, repairing and maintaining materials constructed with hand tools
- Culinary/Food Service: Leading to Serve Safe Certification through the Middleborough Health Department
- Print Shop: Using state-of-the-art software and devices including a 3D printer to fulfill orders from READS and community entities.
- Health Services: Incorporating patient care through the use of simulation equipment including mannequins and adaptive equipment and new augmented reality learning stations.
- Digital Media: Digital illustration, concept art
- Capital Skills Grant - Welding: Virtual welding units, related welding equipment and materials and augmented reality learning stations were introduced in the fall of 2022 and continued in the 23-24 school year. Currently exploring other virtual vocational skills education.

Dual Enrollment

READS Academy offers opportunities for Dual Enrollment in partnership with Bristol Community College and Bay State College according to student interest.

Work-Based Learning Program

READS Academy offers a Work-Based Learning (WBL) Program for high school students who seek prevocational and vocational training in the form of on-site internships and off-site work study placements. This component of the program offers career readiness, transitional services, and opportunities for students to experience real-life working expectations to build employability skills and helps them to strengthen community connections.

WBL Programming includes Employability Skills Classes, vocational counseling, job shadowing and coaching, on-site internships, and off-site work-study placements as well as focused tutoring for successful performance on MCAS and acquisition of a high school diploma.

Students participated in onsite work-based learning opportunities during the 24-25 school year.

Off-site Work Based Learning

Students are expected to interview for a placement, create a contract addressing specific goals and review how they correlate to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. These opportunities have been slow to return after the pandemic. Its growth is anticipated with the addition of a full time Work-Based Learning Coordinator. READS Academy staff continue to work toward building students' employability skills to be able to meet the criteria for off-site work-based learning opportunities in the near future.

READS Academy - 9-12 at West Bridgewater Middle Senior High School

READS Academy also offers a substantially separate therapeutic classroom for students in grades 9-12 which is located in the West Bridgewater Middle/Senior High School. Students in this classroom have the opportunity for integration into a mainstream school setting, while continuing to receive specialized academic, behavioral, and emotional support. This placement option is available for students who may be ready to transition from more restrictive educational placements, yet continue to require additional levels of therapeutic and academic support before returning to a full inclusion setting. The team of two teachers and one school psychologist provide specialized support for students as they learn in the general education setting. Special Services (OT, PT, Speech/Language and Specialized Reading Instruction) are also provided in this setting. The students are fully embedded in the life of the West Bridgewater Public Schools including general education classes, school clubs and athletics. The READS Academy Program Director, Erinn Fauteux, supervises programming that serves the students, families and districts of students in the 9-12 classroom.

READS Academy Program Advancement

READS Academy is continuously advancing services that support students in the Academy and students in their home districts. The following are some of the services that have been put in place and have continued over the past year to respond to the needs of students, families and districts.

- Placement of MSW Social Work Interns
- Introduction to Mental Health Programs/Resources/Training Opportunities
    - Collaborative Problem Solving - Think:kids Program from MGH with Dr. Stuart Ablon
    - Social Resilience Model - Professional Development Offering
    - Mental Health First Aid - Trainers available
- Development and Implementation of the READS Analytics Data Tools to:
    - inform IEP Teams in the development of goals and objectives
    - monitor student progress and guide implementation of interventions that support Academic, Behavioral, Social Emotional And Employability Skills
    - enhance Data Driven decision-making around readiness of students to transition to less restrictive educational settings
- Consultation to School Districts: In District Program Reviews, Coaching of Special Educators and implementation of trauma informed SEL and behavioral interventions/supports

- Exploration and review of curriculum to expand pre-vocational and vocational instruction
- Expansion of Early College Access/Dual Enrollment
- Expansion of on and off site Work Based Learning internship placements
- A partnership with Bristol Community College nursing program for students to complete observation hours with READS Academy school nurses was established in 23-24.

READS Academy's Progress toward Achieving the Objectives and Purposes Set forth in the Collaborative Agreement and Strategic Plan

- **Priority #1:** Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff

  * The READS Academy Leadership Team set the groundwork for implementation of Yondr pouches to start in August 2025 for the purpose of securing students' cell phones and other technology in order to make the READS Academy cell free and increase student engagement.

  *READS Collaborative contracted with CrisisGo to implement a secure management system for screening visitors to the READS Academy. Implementation to begin in the fall of 2025.

- **Priority #2:** Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the Development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds

  * READS Academy had secured all licensed teachers for the upcoming school year by June 2025. Previous years had required waiver requests for licensure for 1-2 teaching positions at the READS Academy.

  * One of the previous school year's counseling interns was hired in April 2025 as a full time READS Academy counselor

- **Priority #3:** Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports

  * The ELA Wonders curriculum was fully implemented for grades K-6

  * Character Strong curriculum for Social-Emotional Learning has been fully implemented

- **Priority #4:** Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based to ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.

  * Referrals to READS Academy have been steady, with some necessitating a waitlist, throughout the 24-25 school year supporting the READS Academy as a preferred provider for our 20 member districts as well as neighboring nonmember districts.

  * The READS Academy graduated a total of 9 students in June 2025 from both Middleboro and West Bridgewater campuses. Graduates had plans to enter 4 year and 2 year colleges, the armed forces, and employment.

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program, PreK -12+, EI and Consultation

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing (hereinafter DHH) program is recognized throughout the state for its highly specialized instructional program that provides a broad spectrum of services. The READS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program recognizes and facilitates all modes of communication as appropriate for each child. The Program Director, Evelyn Rankin, sits on boards for the region and state including an advisory board for the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. READS DHH educators, therapists and interpreters contribute to the improvement of programming for children with hearing loss on the state, regional and national levels. Established by the Board of Directors as an essential service in 1979, over the past 44 years the program has educated hundreds of children with hearing loss. The program currently (FY25) serves 50 students in grades PreK-12+ and 16 children (birth to 3) in specialized Early Intervention as of June 2025

The DHH program offers flexible and wide-ranging programming options within public school settings. There are eight classrooms for children in Preschool through grade 12 located within the Norton Public Schools. There is a second high school classroom option at Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School. The READS DHH program has the only program for Deaf students that is fully matriculated into a vocational high school. It has been stated that "the READS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program is unmatched in the state."

Program options range from self-contained classrooms with a Teacher of the Deaf providing maximum support in a small group, to full inclusion in general education settings with appropriate supports tailored to individual students. Instruction is accessible to students through the direct use of American Sign Language, interpreted ASL, use of spoken English, and a variety of specialized instructional techniques that enhance language and literacy for d/Deaf students.

The DHH preschool is a full-day program offering intensive language intervention (ASL and spoken language/listening, as appropriate), sensory-motor integration, Early Childhood Learning Standards and social-emotional skills. Students engage in play-based learning with an early literacy focus incorporating themes based on children's literature.

Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through elementary grades, students receive academic and language instruction within self-contained classes with a Teacher of the Deaf while they also have opportunities to be included in general education classrooms. Students at this level join hearing peers for Specials classes (Art, PE, Computers, and Music (when accessible), and are increasingly accessing content in the general education classroom with interpreters or other accommodations and supports through the DHH program. Intensive literacy intervention and support is provided throughout the elementary years from two specialized Teachers of the Deaf.

Middle school students are fully included in general education Science classes with interpreters and modifications as needed. Additionally, they join STEM, Tech Ed, PE, Art and Music. Students are included in Math, Social Studies and English classes according to IEP Team recommendations and with appropriate support and services needed to succeed. At the middle school level, students often begin participating in extra-curricular activities with their hearing peers as well. Social emotional learning at this age is fully supported through both the general curriculum and with the assistance of a School Adjustment Counselor. The middle school level also includes programming for students with multiple diagnoses in addition to hearing loss or deafness. This classroom was developed in response to requests from two districts.

Students at both Norton High School and Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School are surrounded with supports that assist them in meeting the competency requirements for a high school diploma or certification of completion. They are able to participate in all school activities including extracurriculars according to their interests. Students in the DHH program who do not have an additional diagnosis to hearing loss will typically graduate from high school within 4 years. Some students attend high school for an additional year or two depending on their IEP transition goals. Students with an additional diagnosis are able to continue with a transition plan that includes placement in the program until the age of 22 as appropriate. Transition planning for these students includes participation in in-school pre-vocational internships & off-site internships as students are ready to do so.

The DHH program provides each child with access to a specialized teacher as well as teaching assistant in the classroom. Currently, Deaf adults, both teachers and assistants, provide in-depth modeling of American Sign

Language in our classrooms. Children have strong spoken language models provided by hearing adults who are also skilled in ASL.

The DHH program provides each child with the skills to effectively use an interpreter in a variety of settings as they become more academically independent. Students in the DHH program learn valuable skills for using an interpreter to access learning, social interaction, extra-curricular activities and formal events. The development of these skills begins in the early grades within the DHH classroom and expands to core academic classes as well as job sites and community events as students prepare for graduation from high school. READS interpreters are certified as achieving a qualifying score on the Educational Interpreter Proficiency Achievement (EIPA) in accordance with regulations and are registered with the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH).

The DHH program provides each child with speech and language intervention that is specialized to their level of language acquisition, communication mode and type of amplification. The Speech and Language Pathologists and Assistants are fluent in ASL and have specialized skills in working with DHH students. The DHH program provides each child intensive literacy intervention in the early grades and continued support through high school. The Literacy Specialists have specialized training in providing literacy intervention to children with hearing loss and incorporate tools and assessments designed for children who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing.

The DHH program provides children with specialized counseling services through a structured social emotional learning program designed for children with hearing loss in the early grades and ongoing group or individual counseling support as needed at the secondary level.

Students in Norton High School and Bristol-Plymouth programs who have success in graduating in 4 years are entering college or transitioning into a vocation. Students in the lower grades are more successfully reaching grade level academics and transitioning to more general education classes than 10 years ago. The DHH program is improving literacy rates as measured by the Leveled Literacy Intervention Program. The students in the DHH program have qualified for the past several years to send a high school team to the annual Gallaudet Academic Bowl. This trip is possible through the generous support of donations from area businesses, Deaf Community Event funds and funds from the Hearing Loss Association of America. Although unable to qualify for the Academic Bowl in 2024, efforts are being made to recruit and strengthen a Team for FY25.

In partnership with Norton Public Schools, students in DHH have access to one-to-one Chromebooks, Google for Education and other technology. READS has provided each classroom with a state of the art Promethean TouchScreen to replace outdated SmartBoards.

DHH Services Provided in All Locations

- Therapeutic support that includes:
  - Spoken language skill development
  - American Sign Language instruction
  - Speech/Language therapy
  - Specialized aural habilitation for children with Cochlear Implants and the full range of audition
  - Explicit literacy instruction
  - Small group and individual counseling
  - Educational Audiology consultation
- Academic Support to promote college and career readiness that includes:
  - Small group & individual instruction
  - General education classroom participation with supports
  - Educational Interpreters
  - School-to-work programming at the high school level
  - Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities

Additional services may include:

- Extra-curricular support
- Intensive intervention
- One to one assistant (job coach, nurse, note taker)
- Occupational/physical/adaptive physical education as needed
- Vision consultation as needed
- Extended School Year
- Functional Listening Evaluations

DHH Early Intervention Specialty Service Provider

READS DHH Educators also serve as Specialty Service Providers through the Department of Public Health to meet the needs of families with children identified with reduced hearing or deafness from birth to age 3. These Early Intervention services focus on building the infant or toddler's communication skills while supporting parents and connecting them to resources and other families with similar experiences.

READS provides specialized instruction and support to children and families through contracts with several Early Intervention Offices. These services are provided per-diem and offer families in-home therapeutic intervention in areas that include: care of cochlear implants; American Sign Language instruction; behavioral intervention; language development; communication development (alternative and augmentative communication if needed); auditory attention skills; fine motor development for sign language proficiency and early literacy.

The number of children receiving specialized services from DHH staff through Early Intervention varies each year. There were currently 16 children receiving in-home services and support to families as of June 2025. READS provides specialized Early Intervention in partnership with EI Centers in Brockton, Taunton, Fall River and others.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program's Progress toward Achieving the Objectives and Purposes Set forth in the Collaborative Agreement and Strategic Plan

- **Priority #1:** Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff

  * CrisiGo was secured as a management system for DHH not only for screening visitors, but as a way to alert our Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff and students as to Emergency announcements and notifications. Implementation scheduled to begin in August 2025.

  * Additional and necessary classroom spaces were secured through the purchase of the building located at 399 Old Colony rd. Norton, MA . Renovations are needed with a scheduled opening of this new DHH School scheduled for the fall of 2025. This building will house PreK - Grade 3 as well as a classroom for the new Transitions Program addressing the needs of DHH students ages 18-22.

- **Priority #2:** Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the Development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds

  * The DHH Program secured a licensed school adjustment counselor fluent in ASL by June 2025 for the

25-26 school year.

* Members of the DHH Program Leadership Team participated in recruitment opportunities through RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology), Northeastern University, and Gallaudet University.

* The DHH Leadership Team was able to secure two licensed teachers of the Deaf to replace two educators that were previously on waivers.

- **Priority #3:** Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports

  * Two of the DHH Program licensed educators became trainers for Visual Phonics instruction.

- **Priority #4:** Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based to ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.

  * Securing the purchase of a new DHH School in June 2025 opens the door to increased security in providing Deaf and Hard of Hearing educational services to our member districts and neighboring non-member districts in a cost effective manner.

District Services

The District Services Program is a highly individualized program encompassing a wide variety of services, including consultation, evaluation, and direct services in response to the needs of students and districts in the following areas:

- ◇ Academic Tutoring in the Home
- ◇ Adaptive Physical Education
- ◇ Assistive Technology Assessments and Consultation
- ◇ Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Assessments and Consultation
- ◇ Central Auditory Processing Evaluations
- ◇ Educational Audiology assessment and consultation
- ◇ Family Success Partnership Counselor (wraparound services)
- ◇ Functional Behavioral Assessments, consultation and training
- ◇ Home-Care Services
- ◇ Occupational Therapy
- ◇ Physical Therapy
- ◇ Professional Development
- ◇ Program Reviews
- ◇ Sensory Integration, evaluation/consultation
- ◇ Speech/Language Evaluation and Intervention
- ◇ Specialized Staffing, including counselors, school psychologists, and AT specialists
- ◇ Summer services
- ◇ Teacher of the Deaf Itinerant assessment, consultation, and direct services

District Services is constantly evolving and expanding services to meet the needs of students and the requests of districts. Director Dr. Bethany Estrella supervises service delivery and evaluations for the students, families and

districts. This year, District Services expanded upon the Teacher of the Deaf Itinerant services and Educational Audiology services, Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication Evaluations, home care services, speech and language therapy, and physical therapy services. The Family Success Partnership (FSP) program supported 4 districts and 45 families. The READS FSP counselors meet with families to set goals that improve outcomes for the family and result in improved learning for the students. Referrals are made by school teams and participation in the services is voluntary.

District Services continues to coordinate and provide Assistive Technology and AAC services. The Assistive Technology/AAC Team is composed of a Speech Pathologist and Occupational Therapist with specialized expertise. This team identifies low, mid, and high-tech assistive/AAC tools that can support students with learning and communication. The AT/AAC team's services also include a software/equipment loan program and a model for sustained support for implementation after the initial assessment and recommendations are made.

District Services excels at providing services to member and non-member districts at reasonable cost that include: FMLA and Maternity coverage, as well as ongoing services of OT, PT, Speech Therapy, TOD, Educational Audiology, AT, and APE. (Please see noted coverages on page 9.) There were 41 AT/AAC evaluations completed during the 24-25 school year. District Services expanded its scope of evaluations to provide Home Assessments/Psychosocial Assessments. District Services completed 111 evaluations (OT, PT, APE, and SLP [including 15 Independent Educational Evaluations) during the 2024-2025 school year to support 78 member and non-member districts, which is significantly greater than years past. In total, District Services conducted over 220 evaluations for the 2024-2025 school year.

Consultation Services from a Teacher of the Deaf (TOD)

The READS Consulting Team has continued to expand this year due to increased demand. The Consultation services are provided by licensed Teachers of Deaf who currently provide consultation that serves over 150 students in their home schools/districts, across 38 school districts, with 44 evaluations conducted. The consultation model in districts ranges from consulting with a teacher on just a few students on occasion to regular consultation and direct service for multiple days each week for dozens of students.

The Teacher of the Deaf also provides Functional Listening Evaluations for students in districts and assists with initial evaluation for incoming students. Due to increased demand, READS currently has 3 full time and 3 part-time Consulting Teachers of the Deaf.

Educational Audiology Consult

READS Audiologist, Dr. Kristy Lamoureux, provides a variety of consultation services to address the environmental concerns and needs of students in district classrooms as well as within READS DHH classrooms. The requests for educational audiology services continue to expand each year going with 163 audiological referrals, 27 Central Auditory Processing evaluations and 6 Audiological evaluations. These services are billed through District Services.

District Service's Progress toward Achieving the Objectives and Purposes Set forth in the Collaborative Agreement and Strategic Plan

- **Priority 1 -** Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for All Students and Staff.

* District Services staff comply with all safety directives from both READS Collaborative and the host schools in which they work.

- **Priority 2 -** Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the Development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds.

  * The Director of District Services attends local job fairs, posts positions across platforms, and consistently provides professional development opportunities for all team members.

- **Priority 3 -** Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports.

  * The Director of District Services consistently (at least once per year) reviews all assessment and curriculum utilized by related service providers.

- **Priority 4 -** Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based to Ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.

* District Services continues to offer services to students and families in their schools/homes and has seen an increase in contracts for services across services provided.

READS Diagnostic Clinic and Ancillary Services
Progress toward Achieving the Objectives and Purposes Set forth in the Collaborative Agreement and Strategic Plan

Clinic

Regional Educational Assessment and Diagnostic Services (READS) was formed in 1974 when superintendents realized that there was a need for close-to-home, cost-efficient diagnostic services for students with disabilities whose needs were not being met in classrooms in their schools. The Clinic was formed to provide assessment services to children between the ages of 3 and 22 years. The Clinic currently provides psycho-educational evaluations, neuropsychological-educational evaluations, risk assessments, personality assessments, and a variety of additional specialized assessments, including specialized evaluations of children with hearing loss. After all aspects of the evaluation have been completed, a post-evaluation conference is scheduled. Families and school personnel are an integral part of this conference and are invited to participate by providing information to supplement the findings of the evaluation team. A comprehensive report is provided with each evaluation.

Referrals to the various programs are accepted at any time during the year and are sent by the Special Education Teams through the Special Education Administrator of the district in which the child resides. Requests are reviewed by the Clinic Manager and Lead Psychologist. Specialized evaluations of children with hearing loss are offered in coordination with the Director of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program.

The Clinic provided 213 pre-committed evaluations to Member Districts last year. In total the clinical psychologists conducted 252 evaluations for students from Member and non-member districts during the 24-25 school year. The Clinic provides flexible assessment schedules to accommodate families on an individual basis. The Clinic has found that participation in conferences with districts and families following an evaluation has increased through the use of Zoom due to the reduced impact of driving distances and time constraints. This option for attending a conference will continue to be offered by the clinic.

Districts are permitted to use up to 25% of their pre-committed evaluation slots for Risk Assessments (not

to exceed 5). This expansion of Member's use of clinic slots reflects READS Collaborative's responsiveness to an increased need of the districts as indicated by the Special Education Administrators group and was adopted as general operational practice since the 2019-2020 school year.

Professional Development

READS continues to offer PD that is targeted to meet the requests of the districts. READS offered in person Educator Evaluation training for New Administrators in September 2024 to support both Member and Non-Member Districts. These sessions provided districts with an opportunity to send educators to professional development sessions at a lower cost than individual districts could have procured.

In addition, READS Collaborative created and delivered a total of 12 hours of professional development to the Somerset-Berkley Public Schools paraprofessionals per the request of the district's special education director. Topics included the Role and Responsibilities of a Paraprofessional, Supporting Students Experiencing Mental Health Challenges, Behavior / De-escalation Approaches, Instructional Strategies, Accommodations & Modifications, and Professional Boundaries & Self-Care. The Roles and Responsibilities of a Paraprofessional was also delivered to Taunton Public Schools Paraprofessionals as part of their professional development offerings to their paraprofessionals during the 24-25 school year.

MOEC (Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives)

READS is an active member of MOEC. MOEC represents the 24 Collaboratives spread throughout the state of Massachusetts. Collectively, the 24 Collaboratives provide programming and services to over 300 member and nonmember public school districts. MOEC provides a wide variety of valuable resources to the state's Collaboratives. This includes, but is not limited to, professional development, sharing of resources, policy development and research, information exchange and networking, and field support and technical assistance.

Cost Effectiveness of READS Collaborative Programs

READS COLLABORATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY - FY25

PROGRAM	*FY25 APPROVED BUDGET*
Administration	$1,471,025
Clinic	$339,920
Clinic Ancillary	$139,251
Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program	$3,808,167
Academy Program	$7,191,858
District Services & Ancillary	$1,718,493
Teacher of the Deaf / Audiological	$464,618
DHH Summer	$111,909

READS COLLABORATIVE BUDGET SUMMARY - FY25

PROGRAM	*FY25 APPROVED BUDGET*
Administration	$1,471,025
Academy Summer	$227,819
District Services Summer	$44,761
Early Intervention	$13,814
Professional Development	$12,800
TOTAL FY25 BUDGET	***$15,544,435***

The collaborative structure is designed to leverage cost savings on behalf of districts in the provision of programs and services to children with disabilities as well as other collaborations for services. The collaborative's process for the development of the budget provides for a thorough review of revenues and expenses in relation to tuition rates and fees for services. Budget subcommittees of the Special Education Administrators Advisory Group meet for an in-depth review of the following budgets: READS Academy, Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, District Services and the Clinic. The Personnel Subcommittee and Finance Subcommittee of the Board of Directors and the President of the Board meet jointly to do a further analysis of the proposed budget. The Special Education Administrators Advisory Group meets as a whole to endorse the budget after another review of revenues, expenses, tuition rates and projected service fees. The Board of Directors then meets to review the budget and discuss any additional adjustments prior to a subsequent meeting to vote approval of the budget.

This process provides for multiple avenues for input from the advisory group and the Board. Tuition increases are carefully considered and questioned before endorsement. READS has engaged in a lease of a newly renovated facility to further enhance programming for students and moved the Academy program PreK-12+ into the space as of September 2021. READS Academy tuition saw an increase over the previous 4 years in order to build toward funding for the new location, but continues to be a cost-effective option for districts in the region. The projected impact on tuition was shared with the Board throughout the process.

READS Collaborative sold the previous Academy property located at East Grove Street, Middleborough during the 2022-2023 school year. The proceeds of the sale were added to the general fund. READS leased 8 classroom spaces from Norton Public Schools, 1 space at Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical High School and 1 from West Bridgewater Public Schools at reasonable rates.

On June 3rd, 2025, READS Collaborative purchased a building located at 399 Old Colony Rd. Norton, MA to alleviate the space shortages within Norton Public Schools. This new building will become the new Deaf and Hard of Hearing School housing students in grades Preschool to grade 3. There is also space within this new building for a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Transition Classroom supporting students ages 18-22. Renovations have been underway with anticipated opening by January 2026. The building is mortgaged for a 5 year note.

READS Collaborative's educational programs provide interventions that promote a student's return to their home district to continue learning as appropriate. Students also receive support that has proven successful in helping them meet competency determinations for a high school diploma, most often within 4 years. Both of these

programmatic goals result in reduced expenses for school districts as students spend fewer years in READS Collaborative, if appropriate, than they might spend in a private placement.

No Membership Fee

READS Collaborative is unique in its membership structure. There is no membership fee. Each of the 20 Member Districts are required to purchase 4 evaluations per year through the READS Clinic. The districts have a choice of using these 'slots' for a psycho-educational evaluation, neuro-psychological evaluation or a risk assessment. This fee for service is the only requirement of membership in the collaborative other than participation in governance, program development and student enrollment. Essentially Member Districts have immediate return for their investment in the collaborative in the form of service.

Competitive Tuition Rates

The costs of services and programs provided by READS Collaborative are highly competitive and result in cost savings to the Member and Non-Member Districts when compared to other out of district placements. The services would not be available in the area if the Collaborative did not coordinate them on behalf of the Board of Directors and in collaboration with the Special Education Administrators Advisory Group. A comparison of tuition rates with private schools and other collaboratives does not yield an accurate or informative description of the multi-faceted cost effectiveness of READS programs and services. However, it does provide a cost savings compared to private schools and competitive costs compared to other collaboratives.

READS is a cost-effective solution in the region for both children with social-emotional challenges and children with reduced hearing or deafness. The READS Academy Program offers a comprehensive therapeutic approved public day program. The READS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program is the only collaborative program in the state to provide PreK-12+ education in a public school setting allowing for mainstream opportunities for the DHH students as appropriate based on their individual needs. Both READS Academy and the DHH Program have established levels of Tier 1 and 2 tuition rates. Tier 3 tuition rates are for students requiring a dedicated educational assistant. The tiered system offers flexibility for districts in their ability to provide support for students in a cost effective manner. Additional costs for participation in Bristol-Plymouth Vocational Technical High School, non-member costs, support for participation in extracurricular activities, specialized interventions and summer programs are not included in these rates. READS' tuition rates and fees for service are reviewed carefully by the Special Education Directors and the Superintendents who form the Board of Directors and determined to be cost-effective alternatives to private school placements or other agencies given the scope of services provided.

The assessment of cost-effectiveness for programs includes several factors that cannot be measured in tuition alone such as:

- proximity to the child's home district and reduced transportation costs for sending districts in most cases;
- reduced tuition costs for Members;
- higher rate of student return to districts for students in the READS Academy Program after improved self-regulation, resulting in multiple years of savings on tuition;
- increased likelihood of meeting competency determinations for graduation after 4 years of high school for most students (as determined by the Team) rather than the cost of educating them until they are 22 in both the Academy and DHH resulting in multiple years of savings on tuition;
- comprehensive support for families that reduces district day-to-day personnel resources to resolve issues and meet the child's needs thereby reducing the strain on resources of counselors, administrators and educators in the district; and

- provision of specialized services and equipment related to hearing loss in a coordinated manner, rather than reacting to specialized individual needs as they arise, thereby reducing the costly implications of compensatory services, litigation or hearings.

In relation to fees for service, the Collaborative absorbs the liability of health insurance costs and unemployment benefits for specialized service personnel and support personnel. The Clinic, District Services and Ancillary Services (including professional development) are designed to merely recoup the cost of providing the service and compensate the collaborative for administrative costs.

The surplus funds from these services are typically returned to the Member Districts in the form of Clinic Credits and Tuition Credits in the subsequent year thereby providing an additional financial benefit and further reducing the cost of participation in programs and services.

Tuition Credits and Clinic Credits to Districts at the Close of FY25

The READS Collaborative was unable to provide any tuition or clinic credits to districts at the close of FY25**.**

READS has provided cost-effective solutions to Member Districts since 1974 and will continue to provide those solutions into the future in alignment with the mission statement **to provide creative, flexible solutions that promote the success and well-being of each child, adolescent and adult learner.**

Prepared by:
Dina Medeiros, M.Ed. C.A.G.S.
Executive Director

508 947-3634 Ext. 1103
Fax: 508 946-1088
Email: dmedeiros@readscollab.org

Appendix A

Strategic Planning Action Steps 2024-2029

- **Priority #1: Implement Programs that Prioritize the Health, Safety, and Sense of Belonging for Students and Staff**
    - 1.1 - Staff, students and families will recognize continuously improved security measures in the buildings controlled by READS
    - 1.2 - The classroom environment is free from student cell phone use which regularly disrupts learning and social emotional well-being
    - 1.3 - Improve the staff attendance
    - 1.4 - Develop a sustainable financial model to expand the training and the implementation of the Collaborative Problem Solving model (CPS)
    - 1.5 - Improve and expand the relationship of READS Academy staff and students with the Middleborough Police Department

- **Priority #2: Develop a 5 Year Plan for Recruiting and Retaining Diverse Highly Qualified Staff that Provides for the Development of their Skills in Educating High Needs Students from All Backgrounds**
    - 2.1 - Successfully recruit highly qualified, diverse staff through a variety of sources
    - 2.2 - Support new and veteran staff to develop their skills, advance their qualifications and broaden their readiness for advancement
    - 2.3 - Raise the public's awareness of the talented, diverse staff and students along with the successes of READS Collaborative.
    - 2.4 - Provide on–going professional development for READS staff on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in order to better understand and connect with our students.

- **Priority #3: Review and Strengthen Curriculum and Improve the Fidelity of Specialized Supports**
    - 3.1 Ac. - Improve Literacy instruction, intervention and support services from PreK-12+
    - 3.2 Ac. - Document and refine curriculum for Academy Work-Based-Learning tracks
    - 3.1 DHH - Build up the DHH Early Intervention Program to meet the needs of families of children birth to 3
    - 3.2 DHH - Build a robust DHH High School Transition Program

- **Priority #4: Provide Programs and Services that are Cost-Effective as well as High Quality and Evidence-Based to ensure that READS is the Preferred Provider for its 20 Member Districts.**
    - 4.1 - Offer differentiated, specialized protocols and evaluations through the READS Clinic
    - 4.2 - Offer an expanded menu of Professional Development to READS staff and to meet the needs of member districts

- 4.3 - DHH will expand programs and services to become a leading provider within the state
- 4.4 - Prepare to meet the need for classrooms and school buildings
- 4.5 Ac - Establish processes that provide for the independent financial stability of the Academy program