



Dr. Nicholas Bettencourt, Principal

Winter 2026 Budget Planning – SY27

Budget Overview - Executive Summary

Key priorities for SY27 - We will improve staff retention and student outcomes through aligned coaching, PLC-driven collaboration, inclusive practices, and focused observation and feedback to meet shared academic and social-emotional goals.

What's Changing

- Strengthening the Special Education Readiness Rubric to advance inclusive practices and support transitions to integrated settings
- Expanding staff development pathways, including content-area teaching roles

What Remains Stable

- Commitment to staff retention, coaching, PLC alignment, and feedback cycles
- Focus on inclusive environments and aligned academic and SEL goals

Why This Matters

- Ensures consistency while building capacity, equity, and instructional quality—so staff feel supported and students experience inclusive, high-quality learning environments.

Budget Proposal: Primary Drivers

- Sustain ongoing growth and achievement through continued investment in effective practices
- Strengthen accountability and improve performance beyond the lowest DESE quartile
- Align resources to sustaining practices that support long-term improvement

Why This Matters - Strategic continuation of proven efforts ensures stability, accountability, and sustained progress for students and staff.

Alignment to District Priorities:

Teaching and Learning:

- The January 2026 Report indicates growth in Content Understanding, reflected in deeper lesson content and instructional practices that support student comprehension of key concepts, skills, and procedures. Observations show increased teacher–student interactions that integrate facts, skills, and concepts.
 - Implication: The school is making progress in implementing HQIM. Continued emphasis on the integrity and instructional rigor will strengthen grade-level expectations and ensure consistent, high-quality learning across classrooms.

Student Support & Well-Being:

- Student Support & Well-Being ratings fall within the high range, indicating a consistently positive classroom climate characterized by the absence of negative interactions. Observations showed no significant expressions of anger, aggression, threats, yelling, sarcasm, or disrespect by teachers or students. When minor instances of negativity occurred, they were effectively managed and did not escalate. To ensure alignment across dimensions, observer scores were inversed; therefore, higher scores reflect a lower presence of negative climate. The school's average Negative Climate score of 6.7 reflects strong performance in maintaining respectful, emotionally supportive learning environments.
 - Implication: The consistently positive climate supports student well-being and establishes conditions conducive to engagement, collaboration, and academic learning. Continued attention to these practices will help sustain emotional safety while supporting high expectations and instructional rigor.

Alignment to District Priorities

Equity & Access

- Equity & Access (Regard for Student Perspectives): Ratings currently fall within the low range, with a school average of 2.8, identifying this area as a focus for growth. Observations indicate predominantly teacher-directed instruction; however, early efforts to incorporate student input, engagement routines, and shared responsibility reflect emerging implementation.
 - Implication / Continuous Improvement Focus: The school is well positioned to make incremental gains in this dimension. By continuing to implement small, intentional shifts that elevate student voice, choice, and autonomy, instructional practices will become increasingly inclusive, strengthening equitable access and student ownership of learning over time.

Operational Efficiency

- Operational Efficiency (Productivity): Productivity ratings fall within the high range, with a school average of 6.4, indicating effective management of instructional time, routines, and transitions. Observations reflect well-established classroom procedures that maximize learning time and consistently engage students in instructional activities.
 - Implication: Strong productivity supports sustained student engagement and instructional momentum. Maintaining these efficient routines while integrating increasingly rigorous and student-centered learning opportunities will further enhance instructional effectiveness.

Academic Needs Assessment

Student performance trends:

(Whole School) In 2024 met 18% of accountability targets. In 2025 met 54% of accountability targets.

ELA: 6-8 performance increase from SY 26 A1 to A2.

Math: 6-8 performance increase from SY 25 A1 to SY 26 A1.

Identified instructional gaps:

42% students are in need of Tier 3 intervention in ELA

56% students are in need of Tier 3 intervention in Math

- *On average Special Ed students scored 19.5 points lower on A1 in ELA and 21.2 points lower on A1 in Math compared to like peers*
- *On average MLL students scored 20.2 points lower on A1 in ELA and 15.8 points lower on A1 in Math compared to like peers*

MLL: 46 of 89 MLL Students have a *Current Difficulty Index greater than or equal to 75*

Curriculum or intervention needs:

- Maintain current staffing and fill any open positions

Professional learning implications:

- Ongoing in-building/district PD will be needed to support the internalization of these curricula.

Social-Emotional & Behavioral Needs

Social-Emotional & Behavioral Progress

- Tiered SEL supports (1:1, small group, classroom-based) addressing attendance, social skills, peer conflict, and self-advocacy
- Strategic partnerships (SATCHEL, Cartwheel, Child & Family, PowerUp Fridays) supporting prevention and intervention
- **YTD suspensions reduced: 91 → 72** compared to prior year
- AIR Report (Jan 2026): **Behavior Management Avg = 5.8**, with continued movement toward high-range consistency using existing resources

Attendance Trends

Attendance: Monitoring & Response

- Year-to-date chronic absenteeism: 21.8% compared to 19.8% at the same point last year
- Attendance incentives, proactive monitoring, and early interventions are driving improved engagement and supporting continued progress

Student Engagement Opportunities

Coaching for Change: Engagement as Social-Emotional Support

- Expanded Access to Athletics & Clubs: Multiple sports and student organizations increase connection, belonging, and positive peer relationships
- Student Development: Participation builds leadership, teamwork, self-advocacy, and resilience
- Protective Impact: Engagement in extracurriculars supports improved attendance, behavior, and overall school climate
- Strategic Alignment: Coaching and advising reinforce schoolwide SEL goals using existing programs and staff

Enrollment Trends

	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24	Projected* SY 24-25	SY24-25	SY25-26
Total Enrollment	717	693	737	713	757	671
ELL Enrollment	110	150	132	125	152	88
	15%	21.60%	18%	17.5%	20%	13.11%
SPED Enrollment	140	148	207	197	211	217
	19.50%	21.30%	28%	27.6%	27.8%	32.33%
Students Without IEPs or ELL Designation	467	395	395	391	394	366
	65%	57%	54%	55%	52%	54.54%

Operational & Facilities Considerations

Facility or space constraints

- 22 full sized classrooms
- 6 science labs
- 3 classrooms assigned to the RISE program
- 5 classrooms assigned to the STRIDE program
- 1 sensory room
- 1 reset room
- (1 gymnasium; 2 art classrooms; 2 music classrooms; 1 auditorium; 1 cafeteria; 2 classrooms in the library; 1 PLTW classroom; 1 art tech classroom (Lib); 1 TV Studio

Technology needs

- All classrooms have a functioning Promethean Board
- All students are assigned a chromebook.
- The school is in need of storage devices for chomebooks as chromebooks will be kept in house for the 2026-27 school year.

Safety and supervision considerations

- One security guard assigned to Morton Middle School. The other traditional middles schools have two security guards.

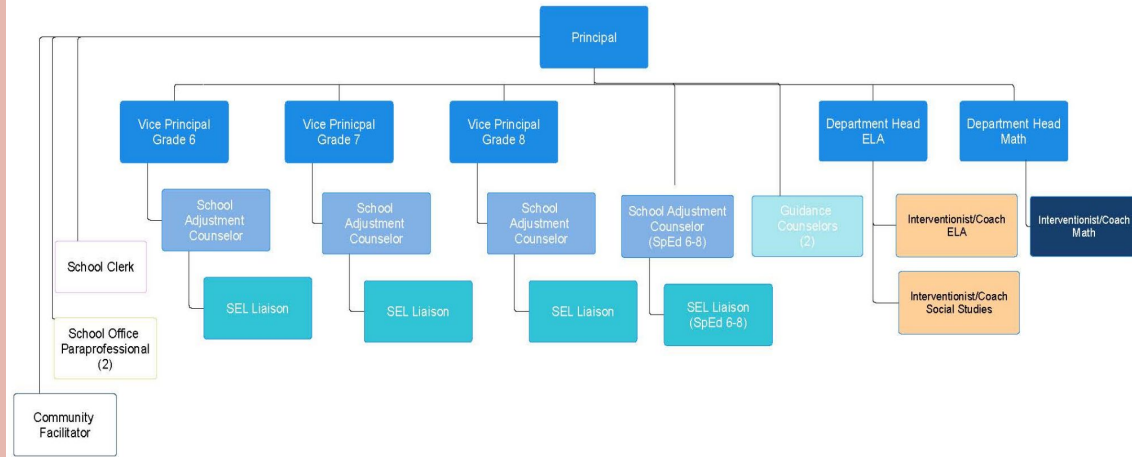
Other operational factors impacting instruction

Current Staffing Overview

Current Staffing

James Madison Morton Middle School
1135 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720

Administrative Support (SY25-26)



- **Average Class Size (Core) 26:1; Unified Arts 23:1; Strategies about 6-8 students**

Effectiveness of Current Staffing

Structures that are working well

- Our self contained push out program is working effectively. 12 students (8 8th graders, 3 7th graders and 1 6th grade student), have successfully integrated into the inclusion setting. Students are receiving high quality instruction from licensed teachers.

Areas of concern or strain

- The 4/2 scheduling provides a significant challenge to scheduling our MTSS program that does not allow for students to be rescheduled with the term/semester (the preferable scheduling model would be a 5 day a week schedule)

Conversions:

- To effectively support our students we will convert our Math Interventionist/Coach position to a STEM Coach.

Anticipated Staffing Changes for SY27

Convert the Math Interventionist/Coach position to a STEM Interventionist/Coach.

No reductions or reallocations are proposed.

The position will support Project Lead the Way, science interventions, current math intervention structures and district instructional priorities aligned to the SIP.

Strategic Use of Resources

No programs are being reduced or discontinued; current models are under review to better align with student needs.

Focus remains on strengthening Tier I instruction aligned to district and SIP priorities.

The current intervention, scheduling, Unified Arts, and Health/Wellness structures limit growth and alignment.

Exploring schedule and program redesign to improve MTSS implementation, Unified Arts coherence, and alignment to Naviance and CVTE pathways, maximizing existing resources through improved structure and student exposure.

Grants & Supplemental Funding

Current Grants: Title I and Title II support personnel, instructional materials, textbooks, and technology.

ALLI One 8 Grant: Supports targeted instructional and programmatic initiatives.

Mini-Grants & Infinite Fitness Programming: Provide after-school enrichment, wellness, and student engagement opportunities.

Transportation Consideration: Explore acquisition of a school-based van to support programming, attendance interventions, and experiential learning, leveraging prior success to increase participation and engagement.

Discussion & Questions

Clarifying Questions

- Additional information or considerations would support our programming and planning?

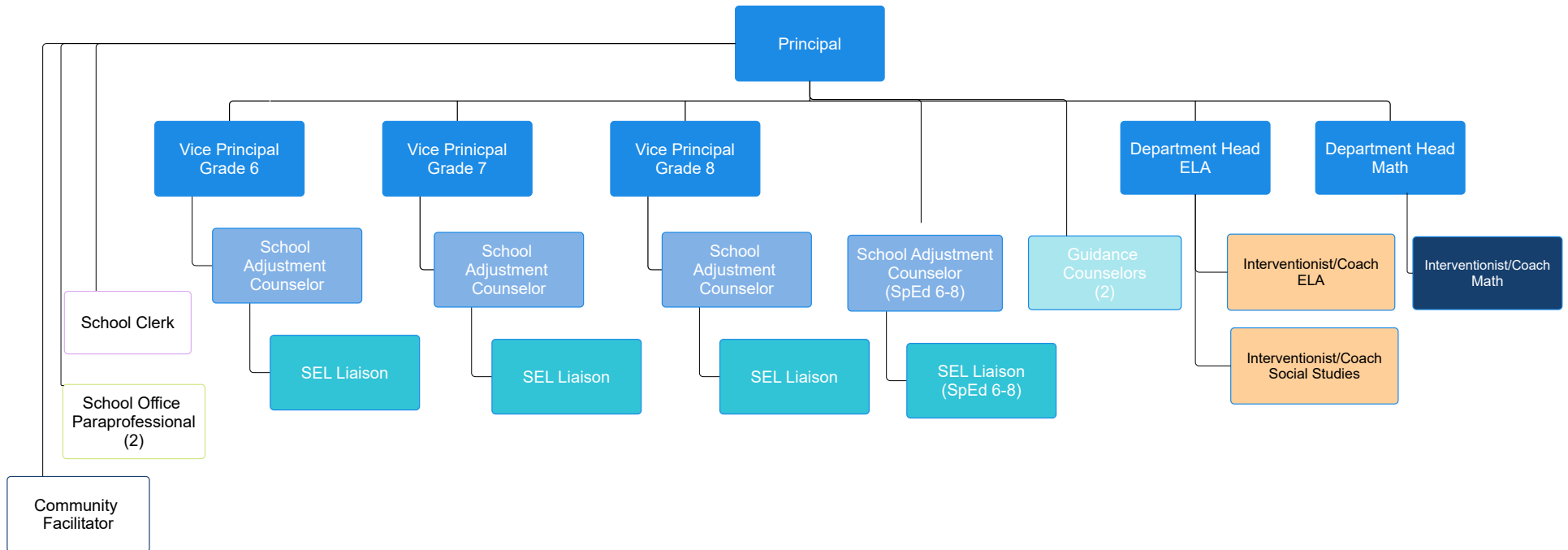
Feedback & Next Steps

- Incorporate committee feedback to refine staffing, scheduling, and programmatic recommendations aligned to district priorities.

James Madison Morton Middle School
1135 North Main Street
Fall River, MA 02720



Administrative Support (SY25-26)





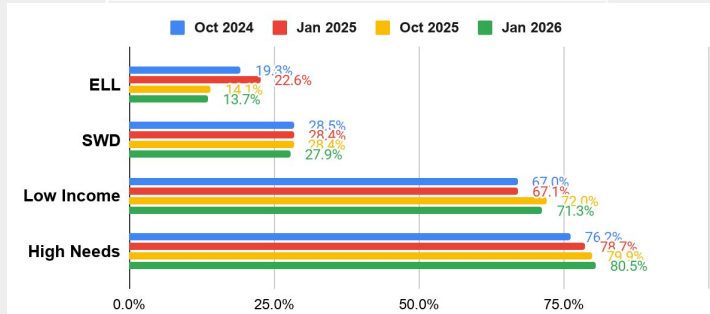
James Madison Morton Middle School

Nicholas Bettencourt, Principal
Grades 6-8
7:20AM - 2:20PM

Enrollment

As of 10/1/2024	751
As of 10/1/2025	672
As of 1/1/2026	673

Selected Populations



Programs

Extended Day	No
Pre-Kindergarten	No
ELL Foundational	Yes
Special Education	Yes

Accountability Profile

Overall Classification	Requiring assistance or intervention
Reason for Classification	In need of focused/targeted support - Among the lowest performing 10% of schools - Low student group performance: Black or African American -White -Students with Disabilities -Low Income -Hispanic or Latino -EL and Former EL -High Needs
Progress Toward Targets	45% - Moderate progress toward targets

Attendance

	SY26 (March 1, 2026)	SY25 (End of Year)
Attendance Rate	93.8%	92.0%
Chronically Absent Rate (>10%)	23.2%	27.4%

Federal Designation

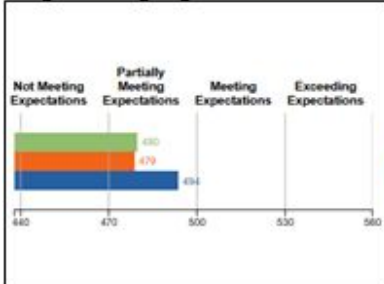
Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

Accountability Percentile

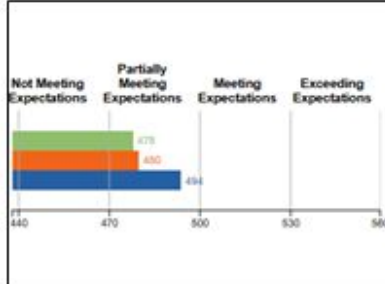
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MCAS 2025

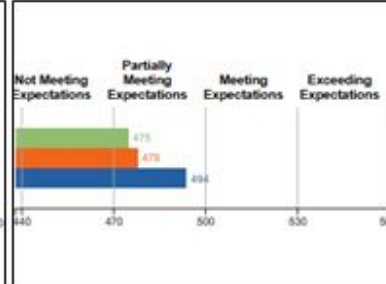
English Language Arts Grades 3-8



Mathematics Grades 3-8



Science Grades 5 and 8



Civics Grades 8



School District Massachusetts

Priority Areas

Last Name	First Name	Org-Object-Project	Staff Assignment	Total Salary	Location	Comment
BETTENCOURT	NICHOLAS	20460000-511200-	Principal	161,899.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
BURDMAN	CHRISTOPHER	20460000-511200-	Vice-Principal	136,697.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
GRIFFIN	KEVIN	20460000-511200-	Vice-Principal	139,920.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MOREIRA	JEAN	20460000-511200-	Department Head	126,032.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
O'BRIEN	TARA	20460000-511200-	Department Head	128,883.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CONDE	ANTONIO	20452000-511204-	Counselor-Adjustment	109,781.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
FERREIRA	NICOLE	20452000-511204-	Counselor-Adjustment	93,313.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
PIPPEN	TANESHA	20452000-511204-	Counselor-Adjustment	109,781.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
ROSE	KRISTEN	20452000-511204-	Counselor-Adjustment	96,329.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
ARRUDA	DANIELLE	20452000-511204-	Counselor-Guidance	98,964.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MASSA	KALYN	20452000-511204-	Counselor-Guidance	88,383.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
ST MICHEL	SHEILA	20460000-511215-	Clerk - Confidential	58,236.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
HERNANDEZ	BETHAIDA	20460000-511215-	Community Facilitator	42,213.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20460000-511230-	Para-School Office	36,779.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
SEDOMA	ROBIN	20460000-511230-	Para-School Office	40,005.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CARVALHO	AMANDA	20409000-511220-	Teacher - ELA	102,414.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CORBETT	NICOLE	20409000-511220-	Teacher - ELA	106,271.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
HUBBARD	DANA	20409000-511220-	Teacher - ELA	102,193.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MOLLER	TRAVIS	20409000-511220-	Teacher - ELA	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
POMBO	JASON	20409000-511220-	Teacher - ELA	68,934.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
TAVARES	JAMIE	20409000-511220-	Teacher - ELA	70,208.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CARVALHO	DOUGLAS	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	103,072.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DEVALL	KARA	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	93,938.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
GAMACHE	CARYN	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	97,710.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MADDEN	GRACE	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
NINO ANGARITA	MIGUEL	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	-	James Madison Morton Middle School	Eliminate-Not Required in the Schedule
SHEA	MCKENNA	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	80,071.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
WEISSMAN	JODI	20410000-511220-	Teacher - Math	104,156.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DIXON	XAVIER	20415000-511220-	Teacher - Science	89,557.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
HARRISON	STEVEN	20415000-511220-	Teacher - Science	65,467.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20415000-511220-	Teacher - Science	-	James Madison Morton Middle School	Eliminate-Not Required in the Schedule
PREVOST	KAROLINE	20415000-511220-	Teacher - Science	79,880.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
SOMWANSHI	WRUTUJA	20415000-511220-	Teacher - Science	83,370.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
WEISSMAN	EDWARD	20415000-511220-	Teacher - Science	101,660.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
BLANCHETTE	CHRISTOPHER	20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	102,908.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
BOWEN	TYLER	20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	91,252.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CONNOLLY	WILLIAM	20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	104,947.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MCMAHON	MICHAEL	20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	101,662.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	-	James Madison Morton Middle School	Eliminate-Not Required in the Schedule
SCHWARTZ	LEONARD	20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	69,636.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
TUFTS	MARGARET	20416000-511220-	Teacher - Social Studies	73,630.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MORENO CHINCOA	NATIVIDAD	20411000-511220-	Teacher - Spanish	100,898.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MATTEI	JENNIFER	20453000-511220-	Teacher - Art	105,470.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
VALOIS	CHELSEA	20453000-511220-	Teacher - Art	102,908.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CORDELL	JARED	20456000-511220-	Teacher - Music	96,956.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DRESSEL	NATHAN	20456000-511220-	Teacher - Music	75,594.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	

Last Name	First Name	Org-Object-Project	Staff Assignment	Total Salary	Location	Comment
FITZGERALD	ROBERT	20457000-511220-	Teacher - PE/Health	104,780.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
PEREIRA	JUSTIN	20457000-511220-	Teacher - PE/Health	65,467.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
SKOLIS	JILLIAN	20457000-511220-	Teacher - PE/Health	69,253.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MCNEIL-MCKEAG	JANE	20408000-511220-	Teacher - Technology	78,345.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
IGLESIAS ALPERI	MARIA	20408000-511220-	Teacher - Art Technology	82,164.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
FERREIRA	CHRISTOPHER	20415000-511220-	Teacher - Project Lead the Way	102,974.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
BORRULL ESPUNY	ALEJANDRO	20408000-511220-	Teacher - STEM	101,660.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DAVIS	BRANDON	20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
HAGUE	MEGHAN	20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	69,253.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MCELROY	CHERYL	20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	106,271.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
ROBINSON	KAREN	20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	106,232.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
ROY	CHERYL ANN	20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	106,232.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
3(FTE)		20463000-511220-	Teacher - SPED Self Contain Classroom	210,000.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	3 Additional Sub-Separate Program Teachers Required
KLAMKIN	ALLISON	20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	90,129.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OMAN	JENNIFER	20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	68,681.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
SILVIA	JENNIFER	20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	104,156.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
SOUZA	NICHOLAS	20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	72,625.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
WORDELL	KATELYN	20463000-511220-	Teacher - Inclusion Sped	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DE MANUEL DOCE	BEATRIZ	20451000-511220-	Teacher - ELL Mainstream	101,660.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20451000-511220-	Teacher - ELL Mainstream	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20451000-511220-	Teacher - ELL Mainstream	62,411.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
RUIZ-MURILLO	ESPERANZA	20451000-511220-	Teacher - ELL Mainstream	105,699.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CURRY	TIFFANY	20409000-511220-	Coach/Interventionist	102,414.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20415000-511220-	Coach/Interventionist	70,000.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	Convert to STEM Coach/Interventionist from Math Coach/Interventionist
CHHEAN	SOKLIM	20416000-511220-	Coach/Interventionist	103,532.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20416000-511220-	Teacher - Criminal Justice	70,000.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
BREWSTER	ISAIAH	20463000-511220-	SEL Liaison	58,215.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
CARDOSO	REBECCA	20463000-511220-	SEL Liaison	61,035.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DASILVA	HERMANO	20463000-511220-	SEL Liaison	55,982.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
LEVESQUE	MELANIE	20463000-511220-	SEL Liaison	61,735.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
NEW POSITION		20463000-511220-	SEL Liaison	50,000.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	Program Improvement
ALLEN	MARK	20460000-511230-	Instructional Support Liaison	42,543.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20460000-511230-	Instructional Support Liaison	42,543.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20460000-511230-	Instructional Support Liaison	42,543.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
APO-CARREIRO	KAYLI	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	38,614.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
DEJESUS	ALEXANDRA	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	42,794.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
GIBBS-HOUSTON	CARINDA	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	43,914.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	

Last Name	First Name	Org-Object-Project	Staff Assignment	Total Salary	Location	Comment
HOLDING	ALLYSON	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	43,694.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
HOUDE	MICHELE	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	44,305.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MALDONADO	CARIN	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	42,679.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MARTINEZ	NOAH	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	44,605.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MEDEIROS	KRISTAL	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	45,205.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
MEDEIROS	MICHAEL	20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	42,679.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	42,679.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	42,679.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
OPEN TBD		20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	42,679.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
1(FTE)		20463002-511230-	Para - SPED Self Contain Class	38,000.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	1 Additional Sub-Separate Program Para required
CABRERA	JESENIA	20463002-511230-	Para- 1 on 1 Sped	36,779.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
JANELLE	MICHEALA	20463002-511230-	Para- 1 on 1 Sped	36,779.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
LANGLAIS	STEPHEN	20463002-511230-	Para- 1 on 1 Sped	43,014.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
6(FTE)		20463002-511230-	Para- SPED Classroom / Inclusion	228,000.00	Matthew J. Kuss Middle School	6 Inclusion paraprofessionals for Science and Social Studies
APONTE	TATIANA	20460000-511230-	Para - ELL	43,106.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
VIEIRA	BRIANA	20460000-511230-	Para - ELL	37,806.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	
		TOTAL SALARIES-OPERATING		8,139,453.00		
ANDERSON	JONATHAN	34848100-511200-SY25	Vice-Principal	133,927.00	James Madison Morton Middle School	TITLE II
		TOTAL SALARIES-GRANTS		133,927.00		
		20460002-511225	Substitutes	59,700.00		
		20460002-511225	Substitutes-Building Sub	15,300.00		
		20460000-513000	Overtime	10,000.00		
		26969004-551200-00004	Textbooks/Technology Materials	10,500.00		
		TOTAL EXPENSES-OPERATING		95,500.00		
		TOTAL MORTON-OPERATING BUDGET		8,234,953.00		
		TOTAL MORTON-GRANTS		133,927.00		