



From the Desk of Dr. Xi

May 3, 2026

Amherst-Pelham Regional Public Schools (Grades 7–12)

Greetings Amherst-Pelham Regional Community,

As we approach the close of the 2025–2026 school year, I want to take a moment to reflect on how far we have come together. The last day of school for students is scheduled for June 18, 2026, and we are truly in the homestretch. Across our schools, I see the energy of Step-Up Days, culminating projects, performances, and celebrations that reflect the growth of our students.

“Our students are not just finishing a school year, they are finishing a chapter of growth, resilience, and discovery.”

I also want to acknowledge the incredible work of our educators during this time, especially as they continue to support students through MCAS and end-of-year learning. Their commitment does not waver.

This week is Teacher Appreciation Week, and I ask each of you to take a moment to reach out to a teacher, past or present. Let them know the impact they have had on your life, or on your child’s life. Education can sometimes feel like a dusky field, where the promise of sunshine and flourishing growth exists, but the acknowledgment is not always present. Our educators pour their hearts into this work every day.

To all of our ARPS educators, and especially our teachers:

I see you. I appreciate you. I thank you for wearing your hearts on your sleeves and for centering your work on our children as you build the future.



What to Keep a Close Eye On:

- **Budget Updates**

I would like to extend my gratitude to the residents of Leverett, who voted on Saturday, May 2, to approve their allocation of the Regional Budget. Your support of public education, particularly during challenging financial times, is deeply appreciated. This coming Saturday, May 9, the towns of Shutesbury and Pelham will hold their Town Meetings at 9:00 a.m. in their respective elementary schools. In Amherst, the Town Manager has submitted his recommended budget. I, alongside our Finance Director and School Committee Chairs, will present to the Finance Committee on May 7 at 3:00 p.m.

These moments matter. They shape the resources we can provide to our students. Thank you for staying engaged.

- **Tea with Dr. Xi**

Join me this week on ARPSTube at 6:00 p.m. for a live informational session. I will be joined by our Multilingual Learner Administrator, Celia Senckowski, to discuss our MLE programs and the Dual Language Caminantes program. There will also be a live Q&A.

- **School Start and End Time Discussion – What You Should Know**

At this time, no decision has been made regarding changes to school start or end times. This is not a simple adjustment. It is a complex, system-wide operational analysis that directly impacts all three districts.

Over the past several months, the district has:

- Collected staff and caregiver survey data
- Engaged in transportation efficiency studies
- Reviewed route timing and capacity constraints
- Assessed facility access challenges, particularly with the opening of Amethyst Brook Elementary

One of the most important realities to understand is this:

Our transportation system is fully interconnected across Amherst, Pelham, and the Regional schools. A change in one district directly impacts another.



The upcoming work focuses on evaluating the proposed transportation structure for the 2026–2027 school year, with attention to:

- Access and egress at Amethyst Brook, including traffic flow and timing constraints
- Arrival and dismissal alignment between elementary and regional schools
- Bus tiering and routing efficiency, ensuring students arrive on time and safely
- Instructional time requirements and maintaining compliance with state expectations
- Minimizing delays and maximizing consistency for families

This is why the discussion must occur collectively across all districts.

The district will present a full analysis and next steps at the Joint School Committee Meeting on May 20 at 6:30 p.m.

I encourage our community to stay engaged in this process, as any future decisions will be grounded in data, safety, and the overall student experience.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your engagement, and your trust. Please continue to look out for updates in the coming weeks. It is truly an honor to lead and serve such a committed and caring community.

With gratitude,
Dr. Xi
Superintendent

Thursday, June 18, 2026, is the last day of School for students.

