

**GROTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2026 @ 6:00 P.M.
CENTRAL OFFICE, ROOM 11/HYBRID**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Beverly Washington – Chairperson, Adrian Johnson – Vice Chairperson, Andrea Ackerman, Sean Corcoran, Mitch Shinbrot, Ian Thomas, Jay Weitlauf, Jennifer White, Michael Whitney

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Austin, Anne Marie Mancini, Lauren Casini, Denise Doolittle, Matt Brown, Marc Romano, Samantha Singleton

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mrs. Beverly Washington, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. Review of the June 15, 2026, meeting minutes: The meeting minutes of June 15, 2026, with correction under VI with the addition of “...after vetting from the architect.”
PASSED - UNANIMOUSLY

III. Climate Survey – Attachment #1

Denise Doolittle and Lauren Casini gave an in-depth overview of the Climate Survey.

IV. Lottery Update – Attachment #2

Lauren Casini gave an overview of the Lottery process.

V. FHS Exit Survey Result - Attachment #3

Matt Brown, FHS Principal, gave an overview of the Exit Survey.

VI. FHS & GMS Sports – Attachment #4

Marc Romano and Samantha Singleton gave an in-depth overview of sports at FHS and GMS.

VII. REVIEW OF REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET – Attachment #5

The Board reviewed the Referral Tracking Sheet.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ackerman, Corcoran: The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



School Climate Survey

August 10, 2026

GPS Strategic Plan Pillars

1

**Accelerate
Academic
Achievement**



2

**Cultivate a Rich and
Vibrant Learning
Community**



3

**Strengthen Pathways
that Develop Post
Secondary Readiness**



4

**Attract and Grow
A Skilled and
Supported Workforce**



5

**Improve Operational
Efforts and Increase
Fiscal Responsibility**



Key Performance Indicators

Academics	Attendance	Behavior	College and Career Readiness	Communications & Climate
Accountability Index	Average Daily Attendance	# of Incidents of In-School Suspensions	% On-track for Graduation	% of K-5 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
DPI- ELA	% of Students Chronically Absent	# of Incidents of Out of School Suspensions	% Taking CCR Courses	% of 6-12 Students Who Can Identify a Trusted Adult
DPI- Math	Average # of Staff Absences		Postsecondary Entrance	% of Staff Reporting PD is Connected to Position
DPI- Science			4-Year Graduation Rate	% of Parents Who Believe there are Opportunities for Caregiver Involvement



Climate Survey Overview

Elementary Surveys Provided	Elementary Surveys Completed
Grade 3-5 Students	755
Staff	203
Parents	347

Secondary Surveys Provided	Secondary Surveys Completed
Students	1252
Staff	132
Parents	222

**Adapted from the Center on PBIS-Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports*

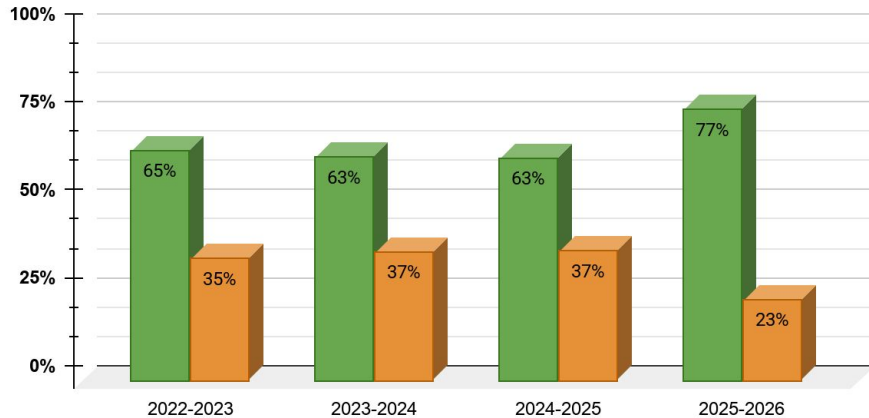
School Safety

Student Surveys

"I feel safe at school"

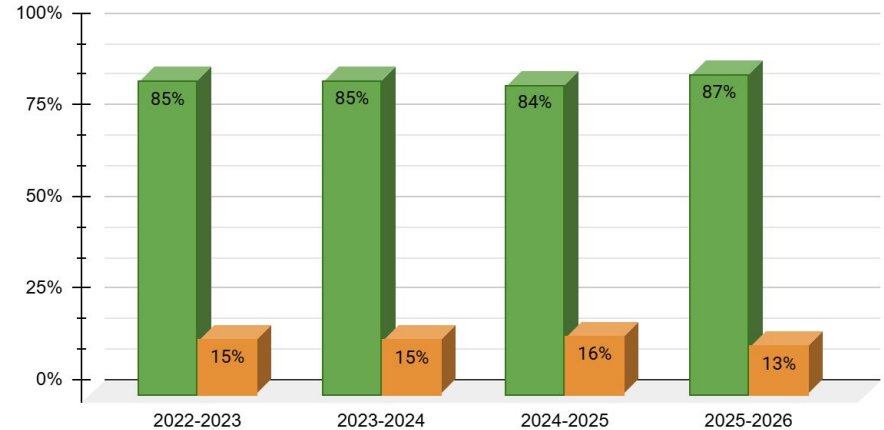
Student Survey: Elementary

■ Reports "feeling safe" ■ Reports "not feeling safe"



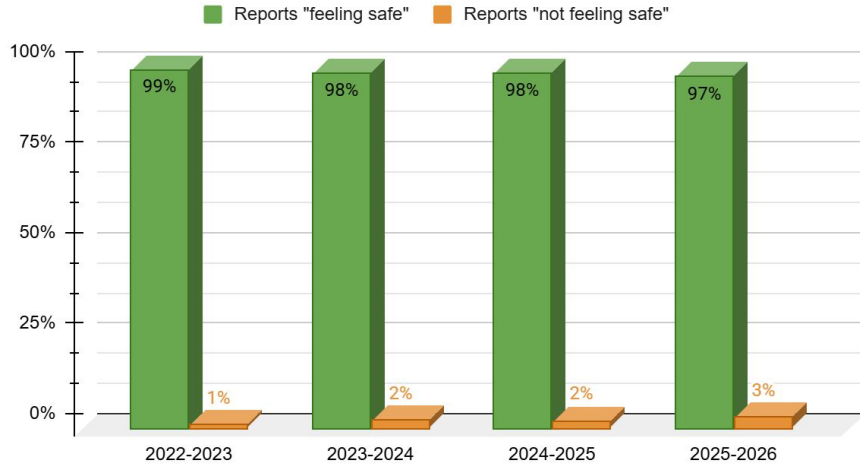
Student Survey: Secondary

■ Reports "feeling safe" ■ Reports "not feeling safe"



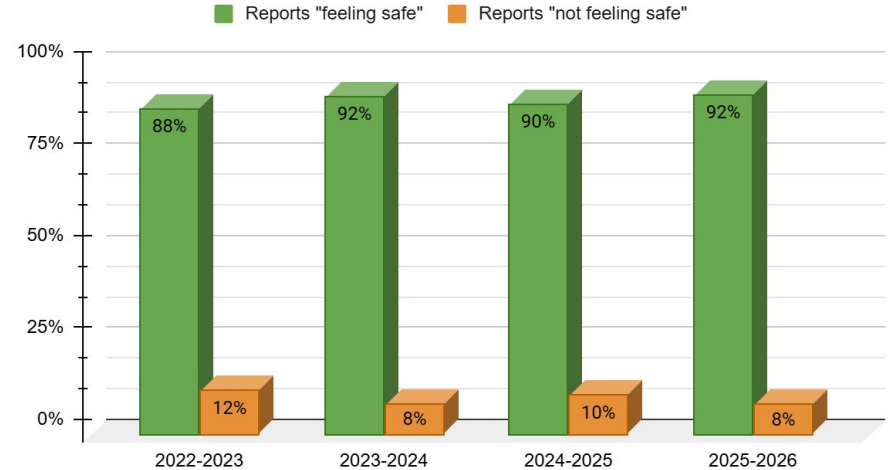
Elementary School Adults

Parent Survey: Elementary



My student feels safe at school

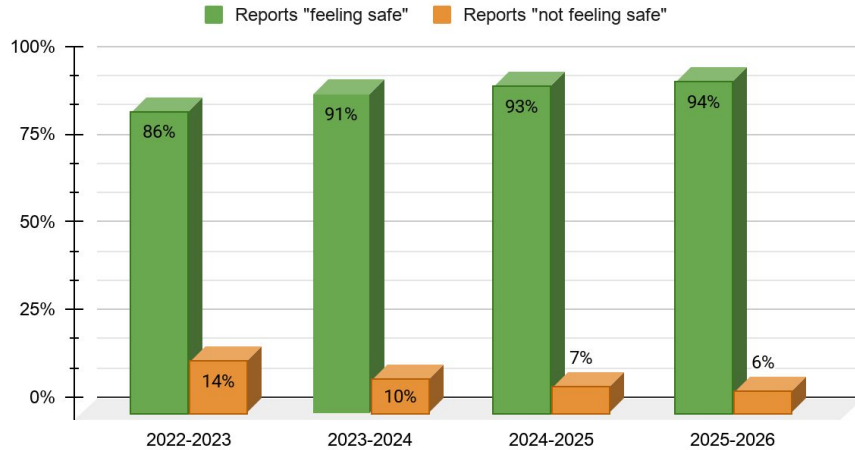
Staff Survey: Elementary



I feel safe at my school

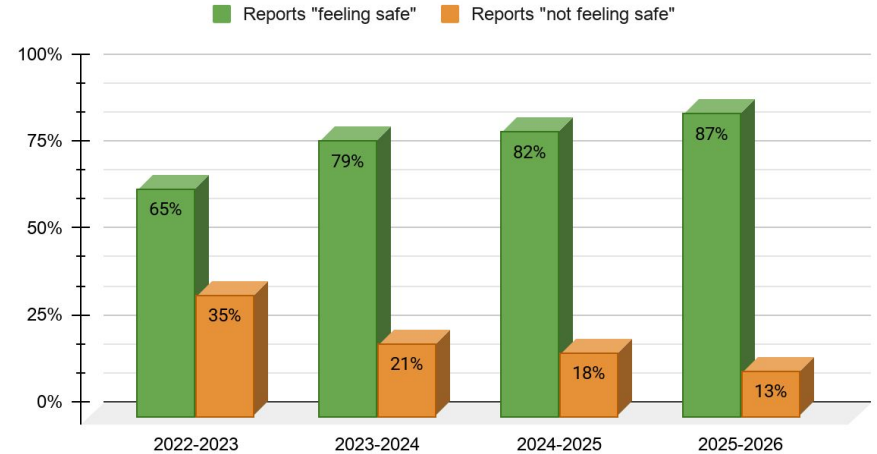
Secondary School Adults

Parent Survey: Secondary



My student feels safe at school

Staff Survey: Secondary



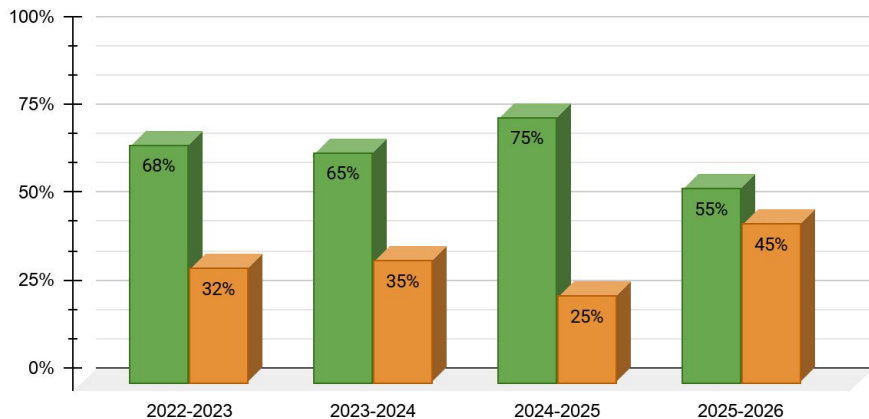
I feel safe at my school

School Connectedness

Student Survey: Elementary

Student Survey: Elementary

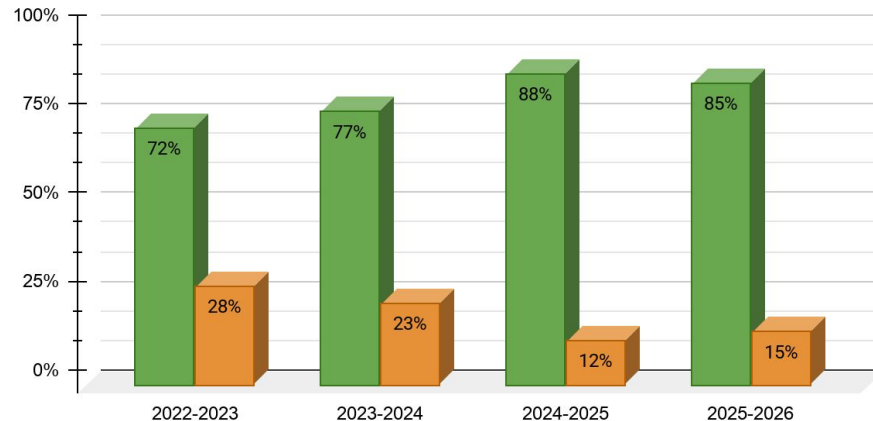
■ Reports "liking school" ■ Reports "not liking school"



I like going to my school

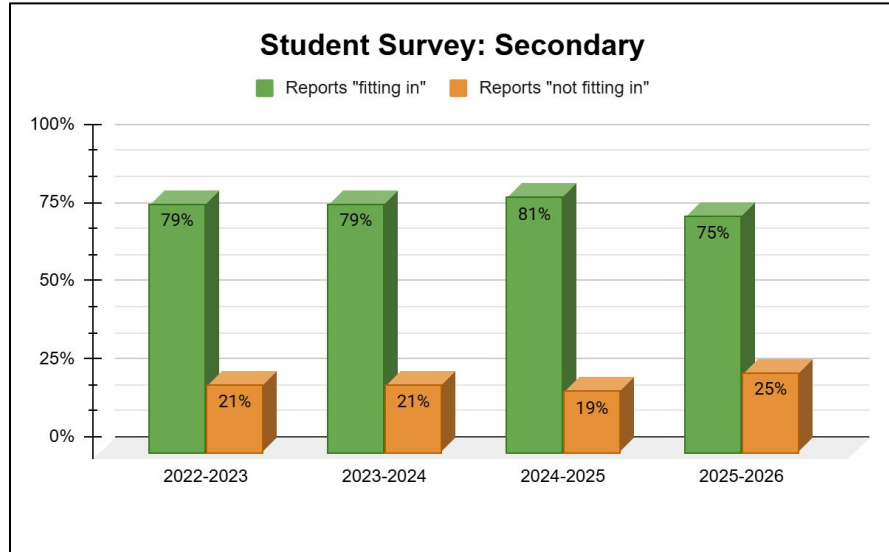
Student Survey: Elementary

■ Reports "having a trusted adult" ■ Reports "not having a trusted adult"

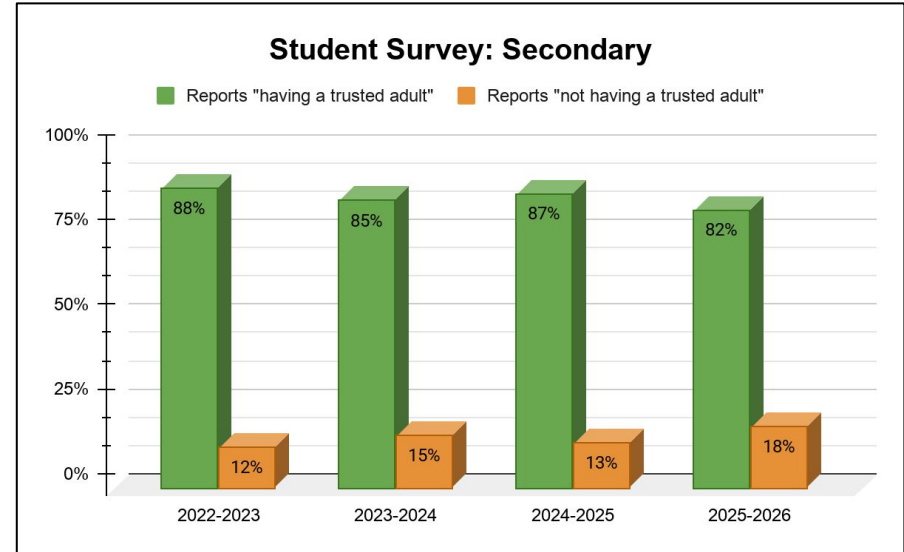


There is an adult at my school who will help me if I need it .

Secondary Students



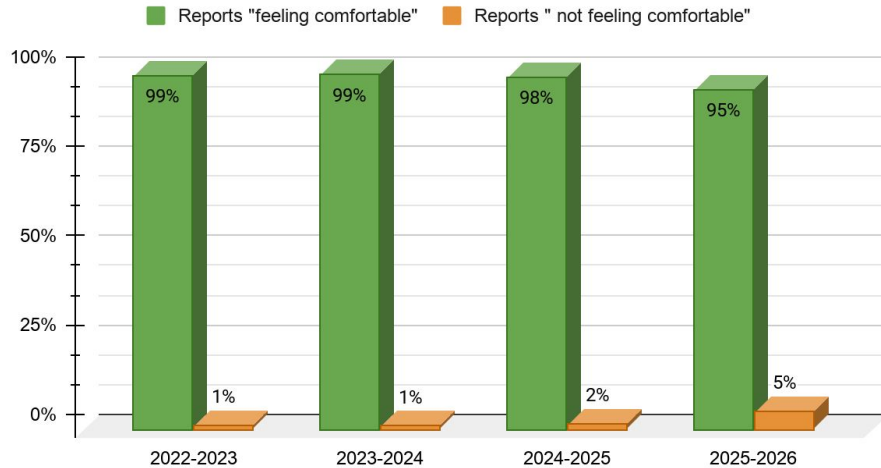
I feel like I fit in at my school



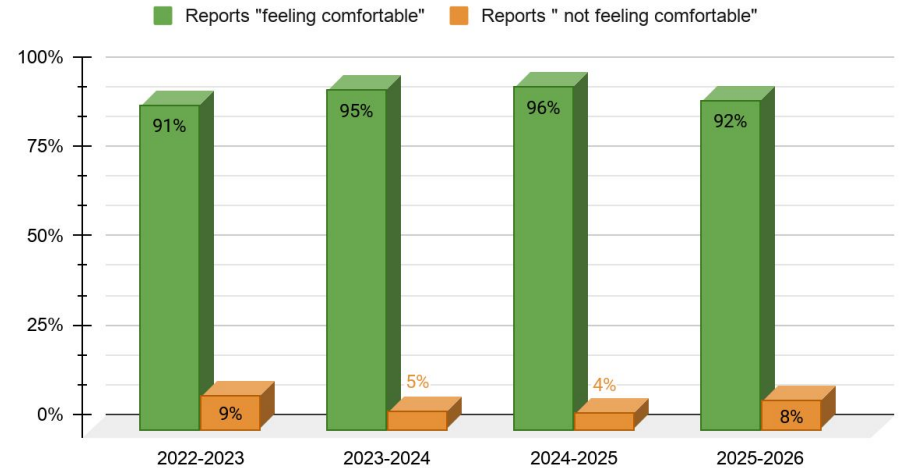
I know an adult at school that I can talk with if I need help.

Parent Survey

Parent Survey: Elementary



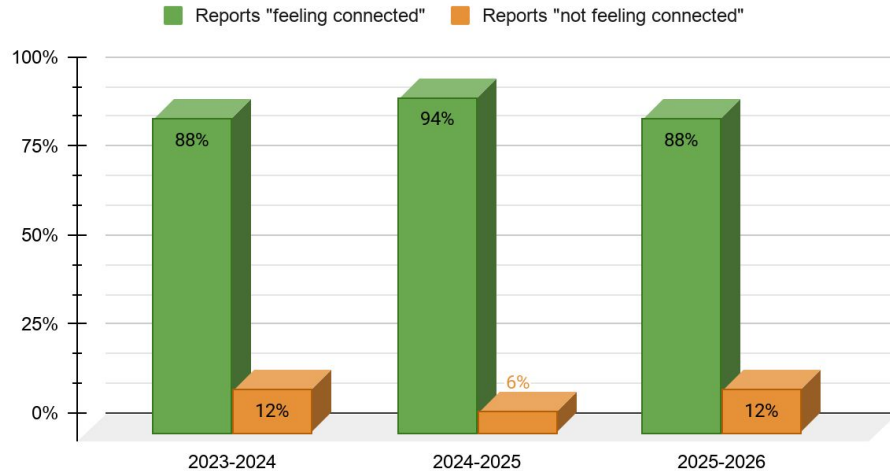
Parent Survey: Secondary



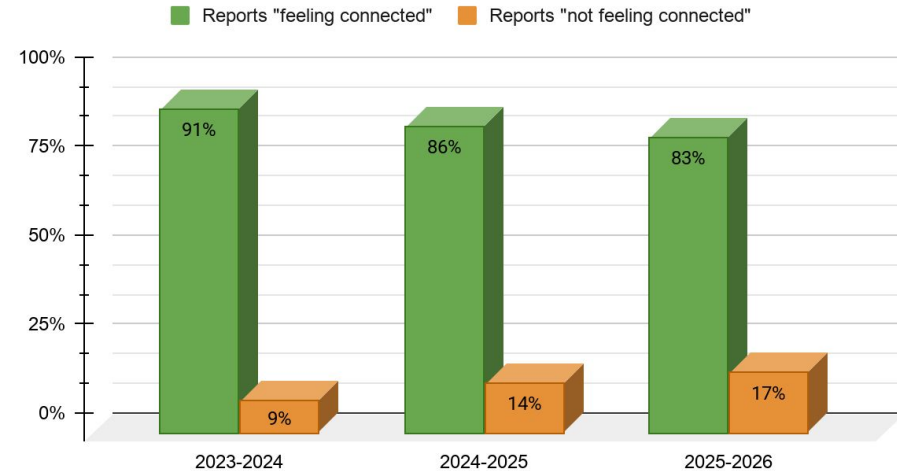
I am comfortable talking to staff members at my student's school

Staff Survey

Staff Survey: Elementary



Staff Survey: Secondary



I feel connected to the staff members at my school

Social Support & Learning

Student Survey: Elementary

My school has clear rules for behavior	88%
Adults in my school treat me with respect	83%
Good behavior is noticed at my school	67%
I get along with other students	70%
Students treat each other well	58%



NEW

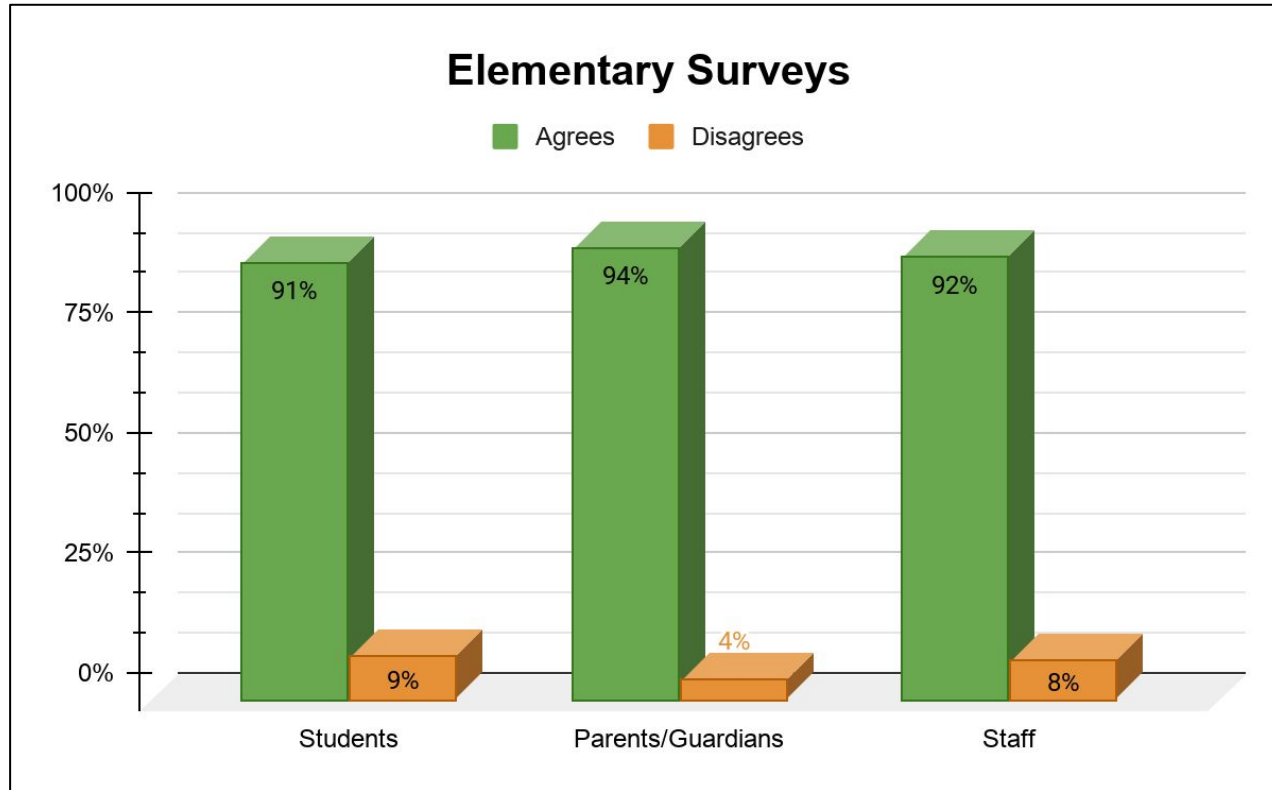
Student Survey: Secondary

Doing the right thing is important to me.	96%
Honesty is an important trait to me.	94%
I know a student at my school that I can talk to if I need help (e.g., homework, class assignments, projects).	90%
Students at my school treat each other with respect.	68%



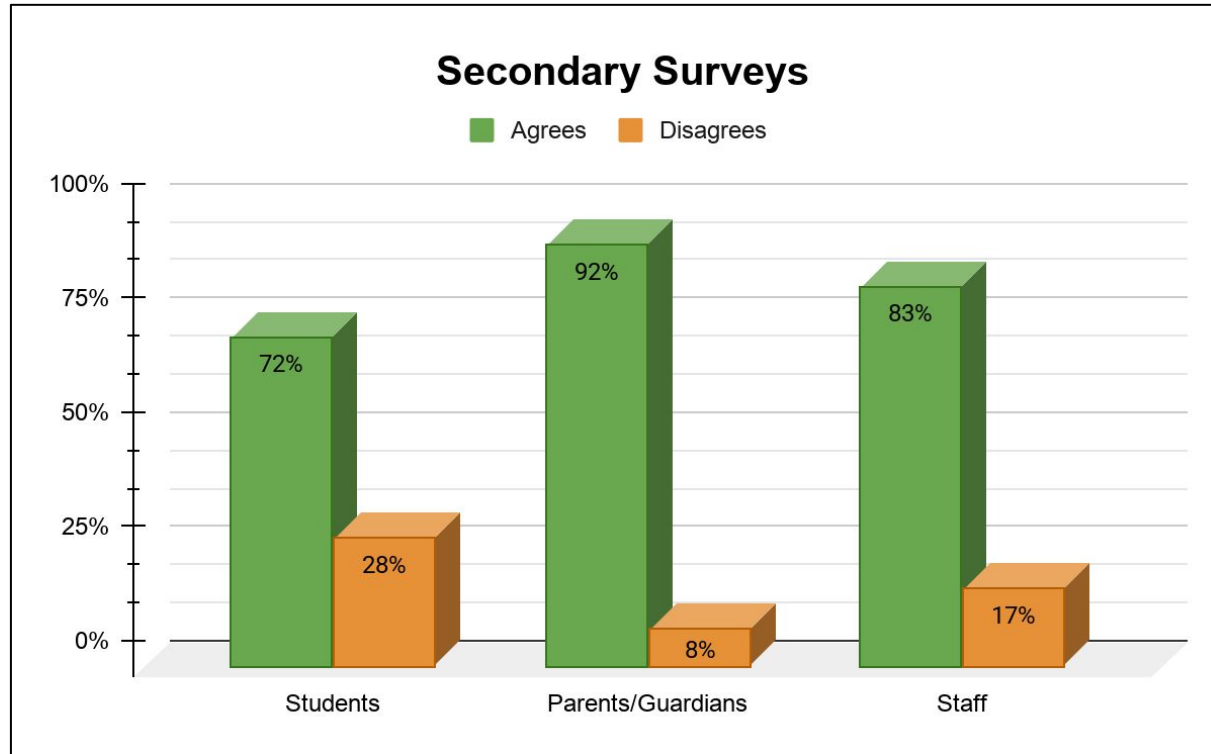
Teaching and Learning

Elementary Surveys



My (student's) school has high standards for achievement

Secondary Surveys



My (student's) school has high standards for achievement

Takeaways with a Focus on KPI's



- The percent of 3-5 students who can identify a trusted adult has increased by 13% since 2022.



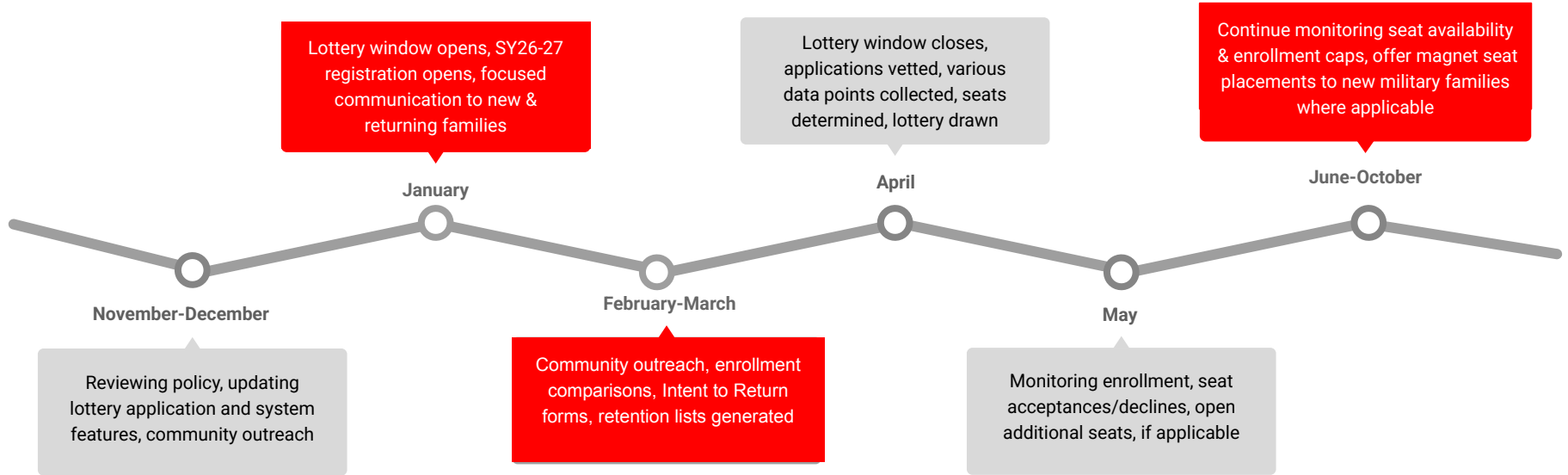
- 82% percent of 6-12 students can identify a trusted adult which decreased 5% from last year, while 90% identify a peer they can go to for help.
- More than 80% of staff across K-12 feel connected to staff members at their school.
- An overwhelming percentage of families continue to report year over year that they feel comfortable talking with staff members at their student's school.
- While parents/guardians overwhelmingly agreed students were safe, safety will always be a priority.



Lottery Results SY26-27

August 10, 2026

Lottery Timeline



Promote K-5 magnet themes across all elementary schools

Lottery Process

- Vetting each lottery application to ensure accuracy of information
 - a. Attendance zone schools
 - b. Choice seating accuracy
 - c. Sibling/home school priorities
 - d. Grade levels
- Compiling various available data points
 - a. Enrollment at each school and grade level
 - b. New student registration for the 2026-2027 school year
 - c. Intent to Return
 - d. Retention lists
- Analyzing patterns of movement
 - a. Cross-referencing lottery demands in and out of specific schools and grade levels
 - b. Sibling preference impacts

Seated Summary Report

Elementary School	Seats Offered	Seated	Waitlisted
Catherine Kolnaski STEAM Magnet School	26	22	22
Charles Barnum Discovery Magnet School	4	2	4
Mystic River Active Exploration (Play and Ingenuity) Magnet School	8	8	15
Northeast Academy Arts Magnet School	14	13	16
Thames River Environmental and Marine Science Magnet School	22	18	17
Totals	74	63	74

Kindergarten Placement

Kindergarten	Attendance-Zone School					
Lottery Seated School	CBM	CKM	MRMS	NEM	TRMS	Grand Total
CBM	\	0	0	0	0	0
CKM	3	\	4	2	11	20
MRMS	4	1	\	0	2	7
NEM	4	1	3	\	1	9
TRMS	8	2	4	0	\	14
Grand Total	18	4	11	2	14	50

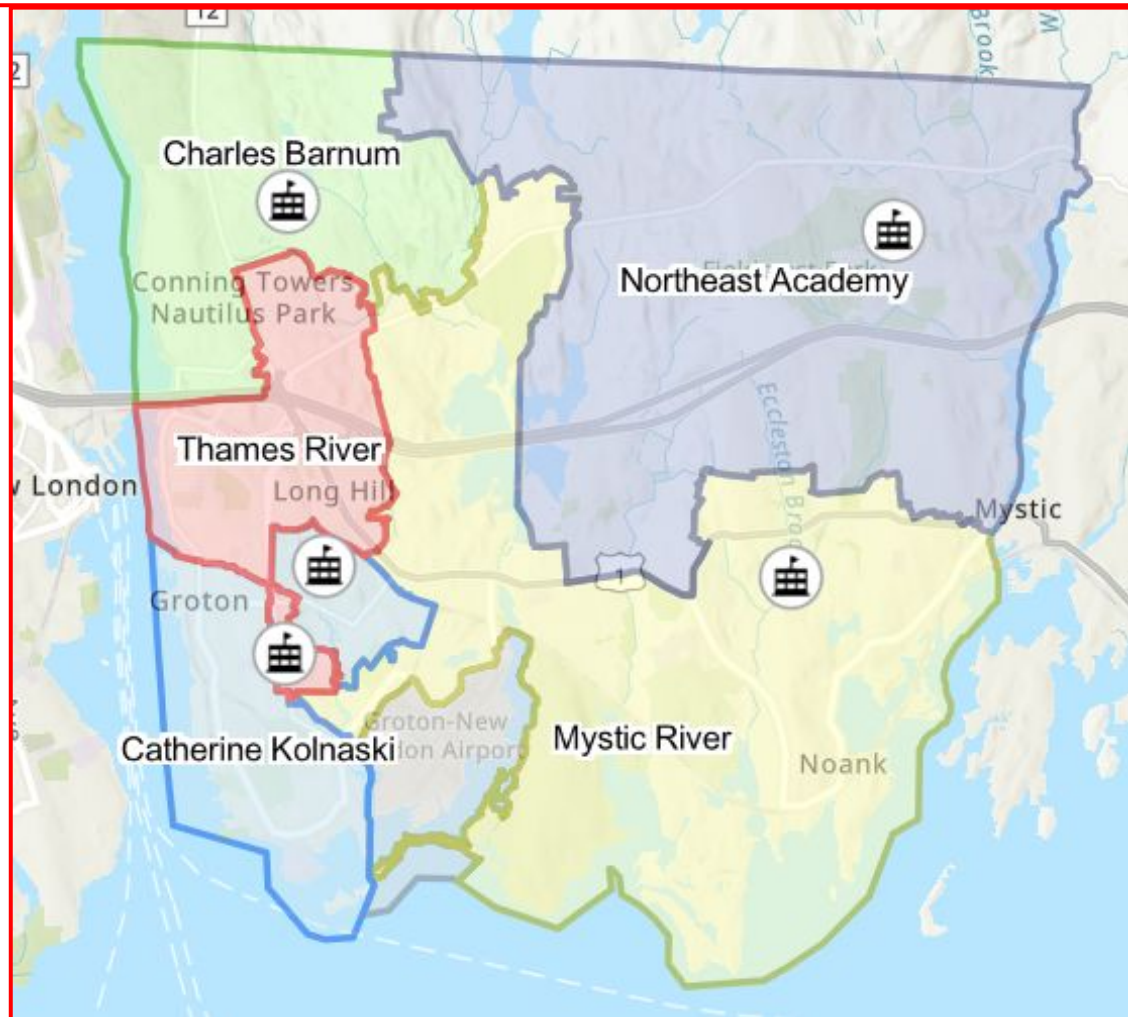
Grade 1-5 Placement

Grades 1-5	Previous School						
Lottery Seated School	CBM	CKM	MRMS	NEM	TRMS	Other Public/ Magnet	Grand Total
CBM		2					2
CKM	1					1	2
MRMS					1		1
NEM			1		1	2	4
TRMS		2	1		1		4
Grand Total	1	4	2	0	2	2	13

Historical Lottery Demand- Grade Level

Grade Level	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
K	84	96	82	74	77
1	20	26	16	18	16
2	12	15	14	7	18
3	18	15	11	11	6
4	9	20	11	12	10
5	13	8	9	5	11
Total	156	180	161	127	138

Attendance Zone School Map



Current School vs. Attendance Zoned School

	Attendance Zone School					
<i>Current School</i>	CBM	CKM	MRMS	NEM	TRMS	Current Enrollment: Grand Total
CBM	284	7	6	1	12	310
CKM	47	170	39	14	44	314
MRMS	30	15	323	15	18	401
NEM	45	9	46	211	12	323
TRMS	31	22	13	8	282	356
Attendance Zone: Grand Total	437	223	427	249	368	1704

Graduates Prepared to R.I.S.E.

Class of 2026 Responses to the Exit Survey



The Class of 2026



- 23 Earned the Seal of Biliteracy
- Our band Placed 6th at Nationals
- 11 plan to enlist into the military
- EdRising, NJROTC, EMT & CNA Grads

The Class of 2026

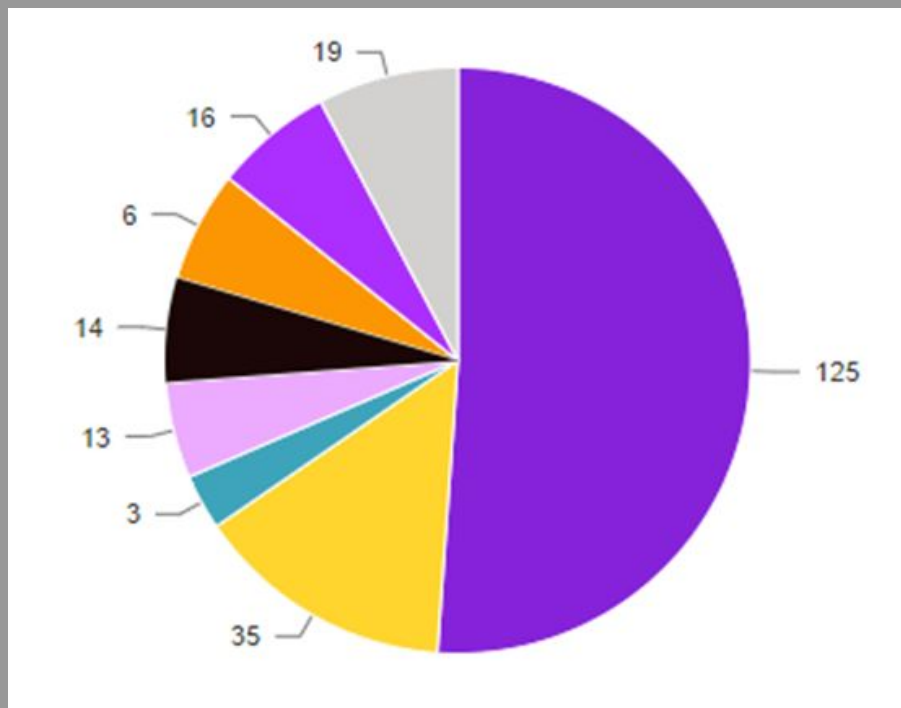


- Sports - 42 All ECC, 3 POY & 10 All State
- ECC Champs in 3 sports
- 75% Seniors took an AP, IB, or ECE courses.
- Earned close to \$1.5 Million in scholarships.

Many Full Rides!



Class of 2026 - 231 Responses



- 4-Year degree (125)
- 2-Year degree (35)
- Trade School/Technical Program (3)
- Apprenticeship (6)
- Internship
- Workforce (14)
- Gap year (16)
- Volunteer
- Military (13)
- Other (19)

71% Schooling - 6% Military - 9% Workforce/Apprenticeship



Oh the Places they Will GO!!!!

Colleges Include:

UConn (41)
Lincoln Tech (3)
Miami
BYU
Conn College (3)
RIC
UVM
URI (4)
U. New Haven (3)
Dean
Endicot
Hofstra

CCSU - ECSU - SCSU - WCSU
(35 at these four schools ↑)
Sacred Heart
Boston Univ.
Fordham
James Madison
LSU
NorthEastern (2)
Providence College
Syracuse
Charleston Southern
Coastal Carolina
Marist

CSCC (26)
SUNY
Tufts
SDSU
Florida Atlantic
UN Florida
South Carolina
St. Joseph
Pheonix
Austin CC
Cedarville
JWU
Mitchell

Military, Emergency Response, Work Force & Other

Airforce (7)

Navy (2)

Marines (3)

Coast Guard

Fire/EMT (3)

Job Core

General Dynamics EB (10)

Daycare

Senior Center

Shopping Centers

Landscaping

Aquarium

Cosmotology

Gap Year (20)

Other (19)



Board of Education Presentation

Groton Public Schools

Student Athletic Pathway

Community Programs → Middle School → High School



Presented by:
Marc Romano
Director of Athletics

Mission:

Provide every student with opportunities to participate, compete, develop leadership, improve wellness, and build lifelong connections through athletics and physical activity.

Athletic Continuum

Community Programs - Groton MS- Fitch HS

to

College • Career • Military • Lifetime Fitness

Fitch HS

- Member of the Eastern CT Conference**
- ECC consists of 19 local high schools**
- Provides Championship opportunities for 30 Varsity Athletic teams**
- Recognizes- Scholar-Athletes, Sportsmanship, Coaches and Players of the Year for each sport**

Groton MS

- Member of the Eastern CT Middle School Conference**
- ECMSC consists of 12 local middle schools**
- Provides Championship opportunities for 9 Varsity Athletic teams**
- Trophy awarded to Championship Teams**

FHS Sports:	GMS Sports:	GMS Intramurals:	Community Programs:	Summer Camps:
Fall Season:	Fall Season:	Seasons Varied:	Seasons Varied:	
Boys Cross Country	Boys Cross Country			X
Boys Soccer	Boys Soccer		SSC, GSC, Rush, P/R	X
Football		Flag Football	GMYP	X
Girls Cross Country	Girls Cross Country			X
Girls Soccer	Girls Soccer		SSC, GSC, Rush, P/R	X
Girls Volleyball		Volleyball		X
Girls Swimming		Coed Swimming	YMCA, CT Aquatics	
Sideline Cheer			GMYP, AAU	X
Field Hockey		Field Hockey		X
Unified Soccer	Unified Soccer		Special Olympics, P/R	

FHS Winter Season:	GMS Winter Season:	GMS Intramurals:	Community Programs:	Summer Camps:
		Seasons Varied:	Seasons Varied:	
Boys Basketball	Boys Basketball	Coed Basketball	GMB, GBL, P/R	X
Boys Wrestling		Coed Wrestling		
Boys Indoor Track				X
Boys Swimming		Coed Swimming	YMCA, CT Aquatics	
Girls Gymnastics			AAU	
Girls Wrestling		Coed Wrestling		
Girls Basketball	Girls Basketball	Coed Basketball	GMB, GBL, P/R	X
Girls Indoor Track				X
Coed Fencing		Coed Fencing		
Competitive Cheer			GMYFC, AAU	X
Unified Basketball	Unified Basketball		Special Olympics, P/R	

FHS Spring Season:	GMS Spring Season:	GMS Intramurals:	Community Programs:	Summer Camps:
		Seasons Varied:	Seasons Varied:	
Baseball			MLL, GLL, AAU	X
Boys Outdoor Track	Boys Outdoor Track			X
Boys Tennis		Coed Tennis		X
Boys Lacrosse			GMYL, AAU	
Boys Golf		Coed Golf		
Softball	Softball		GMSL	X
Girls Outdoor Track	Girls Outdoor Track	Girls on the Run		X
Girls Tennis		Coed Tennis		X
Girls Lacrosse			GMYL, AAU	
Girls Golf		Coed Golf		
Unified Sports	Unified Sports		Special Olympics, P/R	
		Yoga		
		Fitness Club		
		Archery		
		Ultimate Frisbee		

FITCH HS Athletic Opportunities

Fall Teams	Winter Teams	Spring Teams
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Baseball
Boys Soccer	Boys Wrestling	Boys Outdoor Track
Football	Boys Indoor Track	Boys Tennis
Girls Cross Country	Boys Swimming	Boys Lacrosse
Girls Soccer	Girls Gymnastics	Boys Golf
Girls Volleyball	Girls Wrestling	Softball
Girls Swimming	Girls Basketball	Girls Outdoor Track
Sideline Cheer	Girls Indoor Track	Girls Tennis
Field Hockey	Coed Fencing	Girls Lacrosse
Unified Soccer	Competitive Cheer	Girls Golf
	Unified Basketball	Unified Sports

GROTON MS Athletic Opportunities

Fall Teams	Winter Teams	Spring Teams
Boys Cross Country	Boys Basketball	Boys Outdoor Track
Boys Soccer	Girls Basketball	Girls Outdoor Track
Girls Cross Country	Unified Basketball	Softball
Girls Soccer		Unified Sports
Unified Soccer		

GROTON MS Intramural Opportunities

Flag Football

Coed Basketball

Wiffle Ball

Coed Wrestling

Volleyball

Coed Golf

Field Hockey

Coed Swimming

Girls on the Run

Coed Fencing

Yoga

Fitness Club

Coed Tennis

Ultimate Frisbee

Archery

Seasons Vary

GROTON Community Youth Athletic Partners

Special Olympics	Mystic Little League (MLL)
Southeastern Soccer Club (SSC)	Groton Little League (GLL)
Groton Soccer Club (GSC)	Groton Mystic Softball League (GMSL)
Rush Soccer	Groton Mystic Youth Lacrosse (GMYL)
Groton Parks & Recreation	Connecticut Aquatics
Groton Mystic Youth Football and Cheer (GMYFC)	YMCA- Swimming
Groton Mystic Basketball (GMB)	AAU Programs
Groton Basketball League (GBL)	

GROTON Camp Opportunities

B/G Cross Country

Boys Basketball

B/G Soccer

Girls Basketball

Football

Cheerleading

Girls Volleyball

Baseball

Field Hockey

Softball

B/G Track

B/G Tennis

Snapshot of Athletic Opportunities

Fitch Varsity Athletic Programs- 32

Fitch Sub-Varsity Athletic Programs- 18

GMS Varsity Athletic Programs- 9

GMS Intramural Programs- 12+

Community Youth Organizations- 20+

Summer Camps- Multiple Annual Camps

Total Opportunities: More than 70 athletic and wellness opportunities

Snapshot of Athletic Opportunities

- **25-26 GMS Intramurals- Over 230 students participated in Intramurals**
- **25-26 GMS Athletics- Over 400 students registered to participate in GMS Athletics**
- **25-26 FHS Athletics- 548 unique students participated in at least one sport**
- **25-26 FHS Athletics- 278 Multi-sport athletes**
- **66% of the student enrollment at FHS participated in athletics**

Athletic Opportunities

QUESTIONS?

BOARD OF EDUCATION - REFERRAL TRACKING SHEET

Revised: July 27, 2026

CURRICULUM/INSTRUCTION			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Date Completed
R2023-22	11/3/23	Development of a schedule for curriculum updates in all subjects	
R2023-23	12/18/23	Discussion re: Reading & Writing K-12 (AJ) – Discussed at COW on 4/28/2025	Ongoing
R2024-34	12/2/24	Discussion re: the study of IB (IT)	
R2024-35	12/2/24	Review of the math curriculum (BW) – Discussed on 4/4/2025 & 11/24/2025	Ongoing
R2026-7	11/3/25	Discussion of World Language Offerings (BW)	7/27/2026
R2026-8	7/27/26	Discussion re: other metrics to measure student success (AJ)	
R2026-9	7/27/26	Discussion re: World Language in the elementary schools (BW)	
R2026-10	7/27/26	Discussion re: the number of students taking World Language Courses & ASL (AJ)	

POLICY			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Date Completed
R2024-31	10/15/24	Discussion re: P1312 Public Complaints process and procedure (IT)	
R2026-1	2/23/26	Review policy P3542.43 Food Service-Charging Policy (SC)	1 st reading - 6/29/2026
R2026-2	2/23/26	Development of a policy re: lawsuits filed against the district/BOE/employees be reported by the Superintendent/Attorney to the Board within 30 days (IT)	
R2026-11	7/27/26	Attendance policy revision (AJ)	

FINANCE/FACILITIES			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Date Completed
R2025-2	4/21/25	Discussion re: a four-month Facilities Plan (BW)	
R2025-3	4/21/25	Discussion re: staffing levels relative to the budget (MW)	
R2025-11	10/14/25	Discussion re: launching an employee efficiency suggestion campaign (JW)	
R2026-4	2/23/26	Develop a calendar of the meetings (more formalized) similar to the Town Council's (IT)	
R2026-5	7/27/26	Explore strategies to economize fuel usage in the buildings and on busses (MW)	
R2026-12	7/27/26	Discussion re: setting up automatic payment accounts (AJ)	

COMMUNICATIONS			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Date Completed
R2024-20	5/28/24	Discussion re: how the district communicates and engages families of children of all levels of abilities (JW)	

COW			
Referral #	Date Initiated	Subject	Date Completed
R2024-10	4/15/24	Discussion re: the Board's interest in drafting a policy regarding family and BOE notification of testing data (AJ)	
R2024-13	4/15/24	Review of the Tier 2 & Tier 3 interventions for ELA in the K-5 curriculum (AJ)	
R2024-25	9/16/24	Discussion re: climate survey data details and consistent tracker (IT)	
R2024-30	10/15/24	Discussion regarding open communication with state delegation to allow for interpreters or interpretative technology of SBAC testing (IT)	
R2024-33	10/28/24	Discussion re: space - or lack thereof - in schools (MS)	
R2024-36	12/2/24	Update re: Robotics (IT)	
R2025-1	3/17/25	Discussion re: an Early Childhood Center (MW) – Discussed on 2/28/2026	Ongoing
R2025-5	4/21/25	Discussion re: a simple student exit survey (MS)	