SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



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FY27 Preliminary In-District Enrollment 9.15.26

Elementary				
Grade Level				
	Memorial Total	**Essex Total**	**Memorial Class Avg**	**Essex Class Avg**
Pre-Kindergarten	*24*			
Kindergarten	48	32	16	16
First Grade	37	30	19	15
Second Grade	44	29	15	15
Third Grade	42	37	21	19
Fourth Grade	50	35	17	18
Fifth Grade	39	35	20	18
Total	284	198	*15 Sections*	*12 Sections*
Avg Class Size	17	17	*3 Classrooms*	*2 Classrooms*

Shown current student enrollment by school. Inclusive of cross-district enrollment.

Secondary		
	Total Enrollment	**Avg. Class Size**
6	87	19
7	93	16
8	81	18
School Total	**261**	**18**
9	90	16
10	90	
11	80	
12	98	
School Total	**358**	

Totals By Level	
Elementary Total	482
Middle School Total	261
HS Total	358
In-District Total	1101

as of September 15, 2026

Essex Elementary Building Project Update



For more information, including meeting materials and project documents, please watch our **Essex Elementary School Building Project Video Series** or visit the **Essex Elementary Building Project** website.

Essex Elementary Building Project Update

Essex Elementary School Building Project

Mark your calendar!

Community Meetings are hybrid—held in-person and via Zoom. Complete details, including Zoom information, will be posted on the project website prior to each meeting.

October 8 @ 6:00 PM Community Meeting
at Essex Elementary School

October 13 @ 6:00 PM Community Meeting
at Manchester Memorial Elementary School

November 4 @ 6:00 PM Community Meeting
at Essex Elementary School

November 16 Town Meeting Vote
in both Essex and Manchester

December 10 Debt Exclusion Vote
in both Essex and Manchester

Manchester Essex Regional School District

DORE + WHITTIER

CONSIGLI Est. 1905

JCJARCHITECTURE







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Essex School Building Committee

Fall 2026 Meeting Schedule
Location: Essex Elementary Cafeteria / Webex
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

September 22 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

September 29 (Tuesday) – Abutters Meeting

October 8 (Thursday) – Essex SBC Community Meeting

October 13 (Tuesday) – Essex SBC Community Meeting @ Manchester Memorial School

October 27 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

November 4(Thursday) – Essex SBC Community Meeting

November 10 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

November 16 Essex & Manchester Fall Town Meetings

November 24 (Tuesday) – Business Meeting

December 10 – Funding Approval Ballot Vote

📌 *Note: Business meeting time is the **4th Tuesday of each month.***

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

PROTECT Act: School District Requirements

- The PROTECT Act establishes new requirements for Massachusetts school districts related to civil immigration enforcement in schools.
- Since 2024–2025, MERSD has had procedures provided by school counsel outlining what administrators and staff should do in the event of an ICE visit to a District school.
- Districts received notice of the new requirements on August 21, with the legislation calling for policies to be in place by September 1.
- MASC and MASS have acknowledged the challenges of the short timeline and advised districts to complete the policy adoption process as soon as practicable.
- The required policy will be brought to the School Committee for review and adoption at the next meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

On the SC Agenda Fall 2026-2027

- Essex Elementary Building Project Design / Approval
- Student Activity Fees & School Choice
- Negotiations

New /Returning

EES Morning Movers: Morning before school dropoff program at Essex Elementary

Bus Company: Doherty's Garage replacing Salter. Late bus to return mid-mid September

Early Literacy Tutoring: MERSD is continuing participation in DESE's Early Literacy High-Dosage Tutoring program, providing daily one-on-one virtual tutoring for students below benchmark, with 21 seats distributed across Elementary Schools based on data.

ParentSquare Expansion: Secure communication platform that replaces personal device use and supports calls, texts, translation, messaging, and forms to streamline and enhance family communication.

Cell Phone Expectations: MERSD is relaunching the *Off and Away* practice at all levels, with principals sharing grade-level expectations through handbooks and parent communications.

- High School is exploring practice revisions this fall with a direction determination due by November.