

Governor Wentworth Regional School District
Memo to School Board
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Superintendent's Report

Student Enrollment

Tentative enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year totals 2,047 students: 993 in elementary grades (PK-6), 338 at the middle school, and 716 at the high school, including students attending Kingswood Academy. This represents a decrease of 33 students from 2,080 in 2025-2026. In addition, LRTC serves 85 students from our sending schools: Farmington High School, Prospect Mountain High School, and Moultonborough Academy. The final enrollment report will be available later this month, but we do not anticipate any significant changes.

Strategic Plan Update

Under the Strategic Plan's Academic Achievement goal, "GWRSD will offer multiple learning pathways to improve academic achievement and make learning universally accessible to all students." Two years ago, we formalized three diploma pathways at KRHS, with 20-, 26-, and 28-credit options. Last year, we proposed an alternative pathway through Kingswood Academy, which is now implemented and housed at KRHS. This year, we will update policies, procedures, and practices to communicate these pathways more clearly to students and families and provide greater scheduling flexibility for students to pursue other learning experiences while completing the requirements for a Kingswood diploma.

Across PK-12, staff are deepening their work with Universal Design for Learning (UDL), which means planning lessons with students' different needs in mind from the start and providing multiple ways to engage in learning, understand information, and demonstrate what they know. Following initial training last March and opportunities to share strategies, all staff—including teachers, counselors, and administrators—began this year on Opening Day by setting a "UDL +1" goal focused on engagement, one pillar of UDL, for the first third of the year. This manageable approach asks each staff member to choose one strategy to try over the next three months to improve student engagement. Our after-school and early-release professional development time is specifically designed to support this work, reinforced through monthly department and grade-level meetings, Administrative Team meetings, and portions of faculty meetings. In December, staff will select another UDL +1 goal, continuing to build change

through small, supported steps. Student presentations at Board meetings this year will highlight examples of the UDL strategies teachers are using and how they support student learning.

NEDCC District-Community Grant

The district has submitted a \$494,000 grant request over three years to the New England District-Community Consortium (NEDCC), in collaboration with Kingswood Youth Center and Carroll County Coalition for Public Health, to improve access and belonging for students with one or more risk factors. Proposed strategies include school-community hubs; a middle school student mentoring and adult advocate program, where data showed lower levels of engagement and belonging; and expanded after-school transportation for outlying towns whose elementary students do not have access to a late bus. Three members of our Community Design Team will attend the NEDCC Annual Convening in Massachusetts next week to learn about strategies that support these goals and connect with other districts. Grant recipients will be announced at the end of October, and we are hopeful that our proposal will receive funding.