

Valley Collaborative
Board of Directors Meeting
11 Executive Park Drive, North Billerica, Massachusetts
Thursday, October 22, 2026 ■ 10:00 a.m.

Action Required

- I. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Board of Directors Meeting, General Session Minutes: September 17, 2026
- II. Financial Update
 - a. FY'27 Update
 - Proposed FY 27 Budget Amendment
 - Interim Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets For the Period Ending September 30, 2026
 - Interim Statement of Net Assets For the period Ended 9.30.2026
 - b. Treasurer's Report(s)
 - August 2026
 - September 2026
 - c. PARS Statement(s)
 - September 2026
 - d. Enrollment Update

No Action Required

- III. Making a Difference Awards
- IV. Communications

State Agencies:

- a. DESE Annual Report Guidelines for Education Collaboratives
- b. DESE Annual Independent Audit Guidelines for Education Collaboratives
- c. DDS CORI Audit Letter
- d. MOEC Meet and Greet Flyer

Valley Program Updates:

- a. Elementary School Update
- b. Middle School & Transitional High School Update - Alternative Programming
- c. Middle School & Transitional High School Update - Transitional Programming
- d. Adult Services Update
- e. Safety Committee Update
- f. Technology Update- E-rate Funding

Community and Staff:

- a. Valley Collaborative Fall 2026 Newsletter
- b. PD Memo: September 23, 2026 Early Release Offerings

**Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
General Session Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2026
10:02 a.m. – 10:37 a.m.
11 Executive Park Drive, N. Billerica, Massachusetts**

Board Members Present: Dr. Jay Lang, Dr. Denise Pigeon, Dr. Christopher Chew, Dr. Geoff Bruno, Mr. Michael Woodlock, Dr. Nancy Milligan, Mr. Brad Morgan, Dr. Kerry Clery

Board Members Absent: Mr. Steven Stone

Collaborative Representatives Present: Dr. Chris Scott, Executive Director; Ms. Heidi Kriger, Treasurer; James A. George, Business Manager/Accountant

Also Present: Thomas Lent, Barrow Lent LLP

Call to Order: Dr. Jay Lang, Chairman, convened the Collaborative Board Meeting at 10:02 a.m. and requested that the record indicate that the Board Meeting was being held remotely. Dr. Lang conducted roll call attendance of all Board Members participating remotely.

Dr. Lang and Dr. Chris Scott welcomed all in attendance, including the two new members Mr. Michael Woodlock and Dr. Nancy Milligan.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Jay Lang requested the Board to review the meeting minutes made available for review and asked for a motion relating to the minutes.

On a motion made by Dr. Christopher Chew and seconded by Dr. Geoff Bruno, a quorum of voters being present, it was voted by roll call vote:

VOTED: To approve the General Session Meeting Minutes for the Board of Directors dated June 11, 2026.

The roll call vote was 6-0-2. Yes: Dr. Jay Lang, Dr. Denise Pigeon, Dr. Christopher Chew, Dr. Geoff Bruno, Mr. Brad Morgan, Dr. Kerry Clery. Abstain: Mr. Michael Woodlock, Dr. Nancy Milligan

Financial and Enrollment Update

Executive Director's Report

Dr. Scott directed the Board to the financial update memo contained within the Board meeting materials. Dr. Scott reviewed the revenues, expenses and budget. Dr. Scott reviewed the PARS statements, copies of which were within the Board materials. Dr. Scott also reviewed the Capital

Fund and capital needs and strategic investments. She also reviewed the projected cumulative surplus fund calculation, which remains subject to audit, as provided by James A. George, Business Manager/Accountant which would be reviewed further during the upcoming Board meetings. Dr. Scott also reviewed with the Board enrollment numbers and projections. The Board discussed.

Dr. Scott presented an enrollment update and directed the Board to the programmatic enrollment data included within the Board meeting materials. The Board discussed.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Heidi Kriger, the Collaborative Treasurer, provided the Board with her report which covered the months through July 2026. The PARS monthly and annual statement was included. Ms. Kriger provided a verbal summary of her report. A written summary report was contained within the Board materials. There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Dr. Kerry Clery and seconded by Dr. Denise Pigeon, a quorum of voters being present, it was voted by roll call vote:

VOTED: That the Board of Directors accepts the report of the Collaborative Treasurer for the months of May, June, and July 2026, as presented at this meeting.

The roll call vote was 8-0. Yes: Dr. Jay Lang, Dr. Denise Pigeon, Dr. Christopher Chew, Dr. Geoff Bruno, Mr. Brad Morgan, Dr. Kerry Clery, Mr. Michael Woodlock, Dr. Nancy Milligan

Quarterly Reports on Collaborative Business

Dr. Scott directed the Board to the quarterly reports on Collaborative business that were both in the Board materials and provided to the respective member districts. Dr. Scott reminded the Board that the quarterly reports should be included within the member district school committee agendas for their review at their respective meetings.

Communications

Dr. Scott directed the Board to the communications which were provided within the Board materials, which she reviewed and explained. There was no further discussion.

On a motion made by Dr. Christopher Chew and seconded by Dr. Kerry Clery, a quorum of voters being present, it was voted by roll call vote:

VOTED: To adjourn the Board meeting.

The roll call vote was 8-0. Yes: Dr. Jay Lang, Dr. Denise Pigeon, Dr. Christopher Chew, Dr. Geoff Bruno, Mr. Brad Morgan, Dr. Kerry Clery, Mr. Michael Woodlock, Dr. Nancy Milligan

Dr. Jay Lang adjourned the Collaborative Board Meeting at 10:37 a.m.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS USED, DISTRIBUTED AND REVIEWED AT THIS MEETING:

- School Year 2026-2027 Electronic Board Binder Board Meeting, September 17, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Jay Lang, Chairman

Dated: _____



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Drive, N. Billerica MA 01821 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
Mr. James George, Accountant/Business Manager
Date: October 22, 2026
Re: Financial Update - FY'26 & FY'27

Valley Collaborative's FY'26 school year was very successful programmatically and financially.

- **Strong Financial Position:** As of June 30, 2026, Valley Collaborative's total assets were \$27,689,662 (unaudited). This includes \$9,545,141.55 (unaudited) held in the Collaborative's OPEB Trust.
- **Fully Funded Capital Fund:** Valley's Capital Fund remained fully funded at \$1.5 million at the close of FY'26, providing the Collaborative with the resources necessary to support future capital needs and strategic investments.
- **Growth in Net Assets:** The change in net assets from operations for FY'26 was \$1,516,344 (unaudited). This strong result reflects effective management of Collaborative expenses and personnel costs while continuing to meet the evolving needs of the students and adult clients we serve.
- **Return of Surplus to Member Districts:** At its June 2026 meeting, the Board of Directors voted to return \$1,745,297 of FY'26 surplus to Valley's member districts. Because the 25% surplus threshold is calculated based on Valley's expense budget, the Collaborative's cumulative surplus percentage prior to completion of the final audit is 34.08%+.
- **Valley's currently completing its FY'26 Independent Financial Audit.** Daniel Shaffner, CPA with Fritz DeGuglielmo LLC, will present the audit results at the November 19, Board of Director's meeting.
- **Valley has had a very strong first quarter.** As of September 30, 2026, Valley has completed 49 of 210 days (23.3%) for FY'27 resulting in total revenues at 23.39% of the budget and total expenses at 25.03% of the budget. Typically, the first quarter of the year's expenses exceed the percentage of the year complete, as Valley does most of its capital purchasing for the school year in Q1. Valley's revenue is on target even though enrollment remains stable in both the K-12 School District and Adult Services. Enrollment as of October 15, 2026 is 258 students, whereas last year at this time, enrollment totaled 267 students; DDS/Adult Services has an impressive 145 individuals enrolled making it one of the largest and most successful DDS Adult programs in the Northeast.

Required Action:

- Amend FY 27 Budget

Attachments:

- Proposed FY 27 Budget Amendment
- Interim Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Assets For the Period Ending September 30, 2026
- Interim Statement of Net Assets For the period Ended 9.30.2026
- Treasurer's Reports
- PARS Statements
- Enrollment Update



VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

FY2027 BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget Amendment

	FY2024		FY2025		FY2026	FY 2026 Amended	FY 2027			
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Original</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Requested Amendment 10/2026</u>	<u>vs. 2027 Original</u>	<u>% change</u>
REVENUES										
Services	19,600,000	20,646,468	22,045,706	22,197,833	22,399,500	23,012,981	23,903,370	23,903,370	\$ -	-
State contracts	4,500,000	4,590,023	4,500,000	4,483,224	5,100,000	5,800,000	6,100,000	5,250,000	(850,000)	
Other	700,000	663,525	649,609	692,920	750,000	750,000	800,000	800,000	-	-
Interest	5,000	59,537	55,000	54,508	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	-	-
Total Revenues	\$ 24,805,000	\$ 25,959,553	\$ 27,250,315	27,428,485	\$ 28,279,500	\$ 29,592,981	\$ 30,833,370	\$ 29,983,370	\$ (850,000)	-2.76%
EXPENSES										
Salaries	16,431,226	16,717,809	18,094,418	18,016,511	18,788,975	18,788,975	19,736,328	19,736,328	-	-
Operating Expenses	6,644,655	7,223,818	7,385,074	7,747,034	8,368,040	8,768,040	9,221,044	9,221,044	-	-
Total Expenses	\$ 23,075,881	\$ 23,941,627	\$ 25,479,492	25,763,545	\$ 27,157,015	\$ 27,557,015	\$ 28,957,372	\$ 28,957,372	\$ -	0.00%
Revenues over/(under) Expenses	1,729,119	2,017,926	1,770,823	1,664,940	1,122,485	2,035,966	1,875,998	1,025,998	(850,000)	
NON-OPERATING										
Capital	1,015,000	-	1,000,000	-	1,075,000	1,275,000	925,000	1,000,000	75,000	
BUDGETED SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)	\$ 714,119	\$ 2,017,926	\$ 770,823	\$ 1,664,940	\$ 47,485	\$ 760,966	\$ 950,998	\$ 25,998	(925,000)	

Valley Collaborative
Interim Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Assets
For the Period Ending September 30, 2026
49 of 210 (23.3%) School Days

UNAUDITED		
	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTUAL
REVENUES		
Services	\$ 23,903,370	\$ 5,327,179
State Contracts	5,250,000	1,403,751
Other	800,000	262,764
Interest	30,000	19,010
Total Revenues	29,983,370	7,012,704 23.39%
EXPENSES		
Salaries	19,736,328	5,052,003
Employee Benefits	4,441,574	972,222
Operating Expenses	3,579,200	838,238
Leases & Rentals	449,270	197,754
Depreciation	751,000	187,750
Total Expenses	28,957,372	7,247,967 25.03%
Change in Net Assets - Operating	\$ 1,025,998	\$ (235,263)
Non Operating Activities		
Return to Member Districts	-	
Non-Operating Expenses (1)	(1,000,000)	(991,269)
Change in Net Assets	\$ 25,998	\$ (1,226,532)

Substantially all disclosures and the Statement of Cash Flows required by GAAP are omitted. No assurance is provided on these financial statements.

Valley Collaborative
Interim Statement of Net Assets
For the Period Ended
September 30, 2026

UNAUDITED		
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	6,358,943
Restricted Investments - OPEB		9,614,607
Accounts Receivable, Net		4,052,770
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets		22,221
Cash Held for Member Districts		638,004
Total Current Assets		<u>20,686,545</u>
Non-Current Assets		
Land & Building		4,078,925
Furniture, Equipment, and Leasehold Improvements, Net of Depreciation		2,182,757
Construction in Progress		-
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>6,261,682</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>26,948,227</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$	1,045,453
Other Liabilities		2,511,997
Member District Accounts (Settlement)		638,004
Total Current Liabilities		<u>4,195,454</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>4,195,454</u>
Net Assets		
Operating - Unrestricted		6,823,670
Restricted - Student Activities		50,741
Reserved - OPEB Trust		7,125,411
Reserved - Capital		1,500,000
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt		7,252,951
Total Net Assets		<u>22,752,773</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	<u>26,948,227</u>
		-

Substantially all disclosures and the Statement of Cash Flows required by GAAP are omitted.
No assurance is provided on these financial statements.

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
TREASURER'S REPORT
AUGUST 31, 2026

		Beginning		Accounts			Ending	
		Balance	Receipts	Payroll	Payable	Earnings	Transfers	Balance
ROCKLAND TRUST ACCOUNTS								
Operating	a/c 493426	\$ 5,747,467.86	\$ 675,980.68		\$ (383,002.97)		\$ (1,700,000.00)	\$ 4,340,445.57
Payroll	a/c 795823	\$ 80,454.82		\$ (1,561,116.80)			\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 219,338.02
Joe's Bistro	a/c 531401	\$ 2,443.46	\$ 955.05					\$ 3,398.51
ICS MMDA	a/c 856490	\$ 4,795.69				\$ 1.01		\$ 4,796.70
Capital Reserve	a/c 4063467	\$ 1,500,000.00						\$ 1,500,000.00
Independence Project	a/c 821315	\$ 114.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114.36
TOTAL ROCKLAND TRUST ACCOUNTS		\$ 7,335,276.19	\$ 676,935.73	\$ (1,561,116.80)	\$ (383,002.97)	\$ 1.01	\$ -	\$ 6,068,093.16
MMDT	a/c 0044263747	\$ 1,209,001.43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,971.79	\$ -	\$ 1,212,973.22
Total Unrestricted Cash		\$ 8,544,277.62	\$ 676,935.73	\$ (1,561,116.80)	\$ (383,002.97)	\$ 3,972.80	\$ -	\$ 7,281,066.38
PARS OPEB Trust		\$ 9,472,005.57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,483.99)	\$ 145,085.53	\$ -	\$ 9,614,607.11
TOTAL CASH		\$ 18,016,283.19	\$ 676,935.73	\$ (1,561,116.80)	\$ (385,486.96)	\$ 149,058.33	\$ -	\$ 16,895,673.49

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
TREASURER'S REPORT
SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

		Beginning		Accounts			Ending	
		Balance	Receipts	Payroll	Payable	Earnings	Transfers	Balance
ROCKLAND TRUST ACCOUNTS								
Operating	a/c 493426	\$ 4,340,445.57	\$ 2,280,787.75		\$ (349,653.53)	\$ 6,819.15	\$ (2,200,000.00)	\$ 4,078,398.94
Payroll	a/c 795823	\$ 219,338.02		\$ (2,370,343.63)		\$ 320.99	\$ 2,200,000.00	\$ 49,315.38
Joe's Bistro	a/c 531401	\$ 3,398.51	\$ 1,775.21			\$ 4.31		\$ 5,178.03
ICS MMDA	a/c 856490	\$ 4,796.70				\$ 0.98		\$ 4,797.68
Capital Reserve	a/c 4063467	\$ 1,500,000.00				\$ 2,260.27		\$ 1,502,260.27
Independence Project	a/c 821315	\$ 114.36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 114.36
TOTAL ROCKLAND TRUST ACCOUNTS		\$ 6,068,093.16	\$ 2,282,562.96	\$ (2,370,343.63)	\$ (349,653.53)	\$ 9,405.70	\$ -	\$ 5,640,064.66
MMDT	a/c 004263747	\$ 1,212,973.22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,949.51	\$ -	\$ 1,216,922.73
Total Unrestricted Cash		\$ 7,281,066.38	\$ 2,282,562.96	\$ (2,370,343.63)	\$ (349,653.53)	\$ 13,355.21	\$ -	\$ 6,856,987.39
PARS OPEB Trust		\$ 9,614,607.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (2,525.84)	\$ (197,602.43)	\$ -	\$ 9,414,478.84
TOTAL CASH		\$ 16,895,673.49	\$ 2,282,562.96	\$ (2,370,343.63)	\$ (352,179.37)	\$ (184,247.22)	\$ -	\$ 16,271,466.23



VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
PARS OPEB Trust Program

Account Report for the Period
9/1/2026 to 9/30/2026

Heidi Kriger
Treasurer
Valley Collaborative
40 Linnell Circle
Billerica, MA 01821

Account Summary

Source	Beginning Balance as of 9/1/2026	Contributions	Earnings	Expenses	Distributions	Transfers	Ending Balance as of 9/30/2026
OPEB	\$9,614,607.11	\$0.00	-\$197,602.43	\$2,525.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,414,478.84
Totals	\$9,614,607.11	\$0.00	-\$197,602.43	\$2,525.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,414,478.84

Investment Selection

Source	
OPEB	Target Index Balanced Strategy

Investment Objective

Source	
OPEB	Dual goals are to provide a moderate amount of current income with moderate capital growth.

Investment Return

Source	1-Month	3-Months	1-Year	Annualized Return			Plan's Inception Date
				3-Years	5-Years	10-Years	
OPEB	-2.06%	-1.30%	8.44%	14.22%	6.45%	8.12%	6/24/2015

Information as provided by US Bank, Trustee for PARS; Not FDIC Insured; No Bank Guarantee; May Lose Value

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Performance returns may not reflect the deduction of applicable fees, which could reduce returns. Information is deemed reliable but may be subject to change.
Investment Return: Annualized rate of return is the return on an investment over a period other than one year multiplied or divided to give a comparable one-year return.

Account balances are inclusive of Trust Administration, Trustee and Investment Management fees

Headquarters - 4350 Von Karman Ave., Suite 100, Newport Beach, CA 92660 800.540.6369 Fax 949.250.1250 www.pars.org

Valley Collaborative Programmatic Enrollment Data

Program	6/8/2026			9/9/2026			9/10/2025			10/15/2026			10/15/2025		
	Member	Non-Member	Program Total	Member	Non-Member	Program Total	Member	Non-Member	Program Total	Member	Non-Member	Program Total	Member	Non-Member	Program Total
Elementary	51.5	53.5	105	42.5	39.5	82	44	49	93	41.5	42.5	84	46.5	49.5	96
Middle - ALT Programming	8	7	15	9	8	17	6	5	11	9	8	17	5	6	11
Middle - Transitional Programming	10	18	28	10	16	26	10	17	27	10	14	24	10	18	28
High - ALT Programming	38	21	59	30	18	48	31	20	51	29	20	49	32	23	55
High - Transitional Programming	37	35	72	44	39	83	43	35	78	44	40	84	43	34	77
Totals	144.5	134.5	279	135.5	120.5	256	134	126	260	133.5	124.5	258	136.5	130.5	267

June - Sept
-23

Sep 2025 -
2026
-4

Oct 2025 -
2026
-9

BOARD MEETING October 22, 2026

Student and Staff Awards:

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Muhammed "Abubakr" Wasif

Staff of the Month: Tristan Cordero

Valley Alternative Programming Middle/High School

Student of the Month MS: Nevaeh Shattuck

Student of the Month HS: Austin McHugh-Beaulieu

Staff of the Month Alt Program: Miranda Mellonakas

Valley Transitional Programming Middle School

Student of the Month: [Evan Allendorph](#)

Staff of the Month: [Peter Belmont](#)

Valley Transitional Programming High School

Student of the Month: [Brandon Kinglocke](#)

Staff of the Month: [Pauline Mohs](#)

Valley Adult Services

Individual of the Month: Alexander Lamarre

Staff of the Month: Christine Joslin

Community Partner Award:

John Ryan - Monarch Ranch Tewksbury. MA

Valley District Staff:

Dale Bragan



ANNUAL REPORT GUIDELINES FOR EDUCATION COLLABORATIVES

These guidelines provide direction on the format, content, and submission of the education collaborative annual report which includes the 2025-26 academic year.

Fiscal Year 2026

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Pedro Martinez, Commissioner

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Members

Ms. Katherine Craven, Chair, Brookline

Mr. Matt Hills, Vice-Chair, Newton

Ms. Isabella Chamberlain, Student Member, Hudson

Dr. Ericka Fisher, Worcester

Dr. Christina Grant, Cambridge

Ms. Farzana Mohamed, Newton

Ms. Dálida Rocha, Worcester

Ms. Mary Ann Stewart, Lexington

Dr. Steven Zrike Tutwiler, Secretary of Education

Dr. Martin West, Newton

Pedro Martinez, Commissioner

Secretary to the Board

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, an affirmative action employer, is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public.

We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Inquiries regarding the Department's compliance with Title IX and other civil rights laws may be directed to the Human Resources Director, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149. Phone: 781-338-6105.

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Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Introduction

[Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4E](#) and [Education Collaborative Regulations, 603 CMR 50.00](#) require each education collaborative to submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education (commissioner), to each member school committee and charter school board (member district).ⁱ The annual report must address the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2026. The annual report must be approved by the collaborative board of directors (collaborative board) and submitted on or before **January 1, 2027**.ⁱⁱ The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) issues these guidelines to provide direction on the format, content, and submission of the FY26 annual reports.

PLEASE NOTE THAT JANUARY 1ST IS A STATUTORY DEADLINE AND CANNOT BE WAIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

An extensive summary of the collaborative's programs and services from the previous fiscal year should be included in the annual report. The collaborative's progress toward achieving the goals and purpose(s) outlined in the collaborative agreement can be evaluated by member districts, the collaborative board, the Department, and the general public through the annual report. **It is the collaborative's responsibility to conform to the current reporting requirements of the Department. Incomplete annual reports will be rejected by the Department and will require resubmission.**

Annual Report Content Requirements

Letter from Executive Director and/or the Chairperson of the Collaborative Board

This letter serves as an introduction to the key elements of the annual report and provides a brief overview of collaborative activities and significant changes from the previous annual report, including the total number of students served by the collaborative, and any new programs or services, or significant changes in program offerings or locations since the last annual report.

General Information - Include the name of the collaborative, the contact information for key personnel, the physical address of the collaborative's administrative offices, the website for the collaborative, and the fiscal year that is being presented in the report.

Governance and Leadership - List the member districts, and the names and roles of the appointed representatives for each member district.

Programs and Services - Provide a detailed description and location for each program offered by the collaborative. Describe the type and scope of service for each service offered by the collaborative, noting the number of individuals served, the number of

professional development sessions offered, and/or the entities benefiting from cooperative purchasing, joint transportation, or Medicaid billing.

Progress Made toward Achieving the Purposes and Objectives Set Forth in the Collaborative Agreement - Provide a detailed description of the progress made toward achieving the purpose(s) and objectives **set forth in the collaborative agreement**. Discuss the measures that the collaborative uses to determine progress toward achieving the purpose(s) and objectives; provide evidence that the collaborative has met or is striving to meet the measures.

Cost-Effectiveness of Programs and Services – Provide a description of the cost-effectiveness of each of the collaborative’s programs and each of the collaborative’s services, including clear explanations of the methodologies used to assess cost-effectiveness. Include citations to data sources (name comparable programs, schools and the like, to which you draw comparisons). Please ensure that the report also addresses every program and service offered by the collaborative, that reasonable methodologies are used to measure cost-effectiveness, and that they are described sufficiently, so that readers understand how the collaborative measured cost-effectiveness.

The Department does not advocate or promote any particular means of measuring cost-effectiveness. That determination is to be made by the individual collaborative. However, there are a number of different ways collaboratives in Massachusetts and educational service agencies in other states have measured cost-effectiveness, some of which are listed below. These examples are not all-inclusive and are not intended to require any particular means of measurement. Measuring cost-effectiveness may include cost comparisons and qualitative comparisons.

Measuring Cost-effectiveness of Programs and Services: Examples

Cost comparisons - The cost of programs and services offered through a collaborative can be compared to the cost of providing the same programs and services in individual districts or through private placements or contracts. Please identify the agencies or entities to which cost comparisons are made. Documentation or evidence may include:

- Reductions in combined administration and coordination costs for staffing and administration of programs and services versus costs at the individual district level;
- Collaborative tuitions compared to costs of program creation or maintenance, at the individual district level;
- Costs incurred by individual districts’ placement of students at collaborative programs compared to those at comparable private schools that offer substantially similar programs;

- Fees-for-services for related services as compared to the costs individual districts would pay full-time employees, private vendors and/or hospitals;
- Transportation savings due to joint bidding and/or shared routes;
- Transportation costs as compared to those districts would pay or have paid in the past;
- Savings realized from Medicaid billing;
- Professional development (PD) costs compared to those an individual teacher or district would have to pay colleges, universities, and/or other PD providers;
- Savings in travel costs and staff time for staff to attend professional development sessions at locations closer to their local districts; and
- Savings realized from increased bargaining power associated with pooled purchases of school and professional development materials, cafeteria food, utilities, health insurance and transportation vehicles.

Qualitative comparisons - The cost-effectiveness determination does not have to be based solely on financial analysis, but may include qualitative factors or other tangible benefits, as follows:

- Ability to offer higher quality services (e.g., a more costly and more experienced professional development provider) due to pooling resources;
- Increased opportunity through shared resources, (e.g., teachers from smaller districts or districts with a lower budget can avail themselves of the same professional development as teachers from larger or more affluent districts);
- Ability to retain students in the least restrictive environment for academic programs and/or extracurricular and/or non-academic activities;
- Standardization of content and ability for follow-up (fewer presenters can ensure consistency of message, and local presenters/PD providers can monitor delivery of content more readily); and
- Likelihood that service would not have been provided at all if an individual district had to plan and fund the service alone.

Posting Requirements

Each collaborative must publish the approved annual report with the annual independent audit in an accessible format on the collaborative's website. Once approved by the board, the annual report and the annual independent audit are public documents and must remain accessible to the public.

Naming of Documents and Electronic Submission

Please be sure to use the following naming conventions when you submit the following documents, as applicable.

Document	File Format	Naming Convention	Notes
Annual Report (2025-26)	PDF	FY26 CollabName _Annual Report	An acronym may be substituted for the CollabName
Vote of Acceptance by the Board of Directors	PDF	FY26 CollabName _Annual Report Vote	

All documents must be submitted to the Department in electronic format (PDF for reports, letters, and signature pages) via the Education Collaborative Drop Box in the Department's Security Portal. Please ensure that the report is saved as a PDF and not as an image file. Image files are often too large to upload to the Drop Box. All annual reports must be received between **October 1, 2026**, and **January 1, 2027**, by following these directions below:

1. Navigate to the  [webpage](#).
2. Enter your username and password.
3. Select **Application List** at the top of the page.
4. Select **Drop Box Central** from the center of the page.
5. Select **Education Collaboratives** from the Drop Box list then select **Next**.
6. Select **Browse** to find and select the FY26 Annual Report on your computer.
7. Select the **Upload File** button to transmit your document.

If you are unable to access any of these fields, you may not have the necessary security clearance and should contact your collaborative's directory administrator in order to gain access to the portal.

Once your submission has been received, you will receive an email confirming receipt of the document(s), the date, and the time of submission. Please email any questions regarding this submission to Alaena Podmore or Christine Romancewicz in the Office of Approved Special Education Schools.

Collaborative Board of Directors Acceptance

Collaborative Board Approval and Submission of the Annual Report - The collaborative board must discuss and vote to approve the annual report at an open

meeting. Upon approval by the collaborative board and no later than January 1st, the annual report must be submitted to the chair of each member district and the commissioner. Documentation of the collaborative board's approval in the form of a signed certification from the collaborative board chair (See Appendix) or the approved meeting minutes must be submitted with the annual report.

APPENDIX Certification of Board Vote

NAME OF COLLABORATIVE

Acceptance of Annual Report (Board Vote) For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

We, the Board of Directors of the **[Insert name of Collaborative]**, voted at an open meeting to accept the **[2025-26 CollabName _Annual Report]** as submitted for the fiscal year 2026.

We also certify that the representations made in the annual report are accurate and have been disclosed in accordance with Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines.

Board Chairperson Signature

Date of Board Vote

Endnotes

ⁱ [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4E](#) (e) Each education collaborative shall submit an annual report, on or before January 1 for the previous fiscal year, to the commissioner, to each member school committee and to each member charter school board. The annual report shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the board of elementary and secondary education and shall include, but not be limited to: (1) information on the programs and services provided by the education collaborative, including discussion of the cost-effectiveness of such programs and services and progress made towards achieving the objectives and purposes set forth in the collaborative agreement; and (2) audited financial statements and the independent auditor's report, as described in subsection (d). Each education collaborative shall publish such annual report on its internet website and shall provide a printed hard copy of the most recent annual report to members of the public upon request.

ⁱⁱ [Education Collaborative Regulations 603 CMR 50.08](#): An educational collaborative shall prepare an annual report. Upon approval by the collaborative board of directors and no later than January 1st of each year, the annual report for the preceding fiscal year shall be submitted to the chair of each member district and the Commissioner. The collaborative shall make the annual report available on its website. The format and content of the annual report shall be presented in accordance with guidelines established by the Department, and shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (a) information on the programs and services provided by the collaborative;
- (b) discussion of the cost-effectiveness of such programs and services;
- (c) progress made toward achieving the objectives and purposes set forth by the collaborative ; and
- (d) audited financial statements and the independent auditor's report in accordance with 603 CMR 50.08(2).



Annual Independent Audit Guidelines For Education Collaboratives

These audit guidelines provide information on the financial reporting and audit requirements for Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved education collaboratives

Fiscal Year 2026

This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Pedro Martinez, Commissioner

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Members

Ms. Katherine Craven, Chair, Brookline
Mr. Matt Hills, Vice-Chair, Newton
Ms. Isabella Chamberlain, Student Member, Hudson
Dr. Ericka Fisher, Worcester
Dr. Christina Grant, Cambridge
Ms. Farzana Mohamed, Newton
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Dr. Steven Zrike, Secretary of Education
Dr. Martin West, Newton

Pedro Martinez, Commissioner
Secretary to the Board

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, an affirmative action employer, is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public.

We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Inquiries regarding the Department's compliance with Title IX and other civil rights laws may be directed to the Human Resources Director, 135 Santilli Highway, Everett, MA 02149. Phone: 781-338-6105.

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Introduction and Background

[Massachusetts General Law c. 40, § 4Eⁱ](#) and [Education Collaborative Regulations 603 CMR 50.08\(2\)ⁱⁱ](#), require each education collaborative to annually ensure an independent audit is conducted of its accounts, consistent with generally accepted governmental auditing standards and consistent with guidelines issued by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department). These Annual Independent Audit Guidelines for Education Collaboratives (guidelines) are provided to assist collaboratives in fulfilling the audit requirement and should be shared with your independent auditors to ensure the submission of a complete independent audit report.

The guidelines that follow outline the financial statements to be audited, specific additional disclosures, required votes of acceptance (Appendix A) of the annual independent audit report by the collaborative board of directors (board), instructions for submission to the Department and should be shared with independent auditors to ensure the submission of a complete independent audit report.

The collaborative must annually prepare financial statements that meet the requirements of 603 CMR 50.07(11). The collaborative's accounts, financial statements, accompanying notes, and supplemental schedules must be audited on an annual basis in accordance with the requirements cited throughout this document. In addition to the audited financial statements, accompanying notes, management letters and/or memos to the board, the submission must also provide the following supplementary disclosures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 (FY26):

The names, duties, and total compensation of the five most highly compensated employees - Include the name, a general statement of duties, and total compensation for each of the five highest compensated employees.

Transactions between the collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organization - Report on the amount and nature of each transaction or indicate that the collaborative had no transactions with a related for-profit or non-profit organization, as defined in M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E.

Amounts expended on services for individuals aged 22 years and older - Indicate the amounts expended or indicate that the collaborative did not expend funds on services for individuals aged 22 years and older.

Amounts expended on administration and overhead. - The amounts must include both administration and overhead. Both categories of expenditures must be labeled to clearly indicate the category of cost addressed.

Accounts held by the collaborative that may be spent at the discretion of another person/entity - Report on the amount and the purpose of each account, as well as the

legal authority for holding the account, or indicate that the collaborative held no such accounts. Accounts or funds held by the collaborative on behalf of a school committee as prepayment for tuition or services, as permitted by M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E(h), must be identifiable in the financial statements and in the audit report, but should **not** be reported in this category.

Transactions or contracts related to purchase, sale, rental or lease of real property - Include a description of each transaction or contract related to the purchase, sale, rental or lease of real property, or indicate that no such transactions or contracts existed. This component must list rental and lease agreements between the collaborative and school districts, charter school boards, and/or municipalities. Note that the description of each transaction or contract must indicate whether goods or services were exchanged and/or payments were made toward the sale, rental or lease of real property.

Annual Determination and Disclosure of Cumulative Surplus - In accordance with 603 CMR 50.07(9), Limitation on Surplus Funds and Department guidelines, at the close of the fiscal year, unexpended general funds may be carried forward and used in subsequent budget cycles. These unexpended general funds are determined to be the current surplus. Cumulative surplus is derived by adding prior year surplus funds to the current year surplus funds. The collaborative board of directors shall annually **approve by majority vote**, the dollar amount designated as cumulative surplus.

The board of directors **shall vote annually** to retain the cumulative surplus funds for the collaborative's use or return all, or some portion, of the funds to the member districts. The determination of surplus funds (worksheet provided in Appendix B) shall not include funds deposited in a capital reserve as provided for in 603 CMR 50.07(10), funds deposited in trust in accordance with M.G.L. c. 32B, § 20, or funds prepaid to the collaborative for tuition or services in accordance with M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E. In no event shall such cumulative surplus funds exceed 25 percent of the audited fiscal year's general fund expenditures.

Findings and Questioned Costs - The Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (**Appendix C**) must identify significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, fraud, illegal acts, violations of provisions of contracts and grant agreements, and abuse related to financial statements for which Government Auditing Standards requires reporting.

Prior Audit Findings -The Status Report of Prior Audit Findings (Appendix D) reports the auditor's assessment of the status of all findings included within the prior year's Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

Board of Directors Certification of Acceptance - At the time of submission each Collaborative must include either the approved board meeting minutes or a certification of acceptance (forms provided in Appendix A), certifying that the board

of directors has voted to accept the information included in the Annual Independent Audit.

Management Letter - Issues identified that are not material but more than inconsequential must be communicated in a management letter.

Cumulative Surplus Calculation

Massachusetts General Law c. 40, § 4E permits two or more school committees and or charter school boards of trustees to enter into a written collaborative agreement (agreement) to provide shared programs and services, as long as the primary purpose of these shared programs and services is to complement the educational programs of member school committees and charter school boards in a cost-effective manner. Each agreement outlines board determined policies and procedures and includes the declaration of a limit to the total amount of surplus funds that can be carried forward in subsequent budget cycles. The Education Collaborative regulations, initially developed and adopted by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in 2013 and revised in 2020, reflect statutory changes and clarify uniform rules and procedures governing the establishment and operation of educational collaboratives.

Additionally, the regulations outline the 25 percent limitation on the amount of surplus funds an education collaborative may carry forward to be used in subsequent budget cycles. Please use the Cumulative Surplus worksheet (Appendix B) to calculate the FY26 cumulative surplus.

Collaborative Board of Directors Acceptance

The collaborative board must discuss and **vote** to accept the annual independent audit report **and** the annual determination of cumulative surplus at a meeting held in compliance with the Open Meeting Lawⁱⁱⁱ. Upon acceptance and no later than **January 1, 2027**, each collaborative board must file all required FY26 documents with the Department, the Office of the State Auditor, and the chair of each member school committee and charter school board.

PLEASE NOTE THAT JANUARY 1ST IS A STATUTORY DEADLINE AND CANNOT BE WAIVED BY THE DEPARTMENT. IF A COLLABORATIVE WILL NOT MEET THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STATE AUDITOR IN WRITING.

Naming of Documents, Electronic Submission and Posting Requirements

Please be sure to use the following naming conventions when you submit the following documents, as applicable.

Document	File Format	Naming Convention	Notes
Annual Independent Audit Report	PDF	FY26 CollabName _AuditReport	An acronym may be substituted for the CollabName .
Vote of Acceptance by the Board of Directors	PDF	FY26 CollabName _Audit Vote	If changes are made prior to the board vote, approved meeting minutes reflecting the board discussion must be submitted.
Board Determination Vote (Acceptance/Reduction) of Cumulative Surplus (Appendix A)	PDF	FY26 CollabName _CSurplus Vote	
Cumulative Surplus Worksheet (Appendix B)	PDF	FY26 CollabName _Cumulative Surplus Worksheet	Do not modify existing fields.
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Appendix C)	PDF	FY26 CollabName _Findings	If applicable
Status of Prior Audit Findings (Appendix D)	PDF	FY26 CollabName _StatusPrior Findings	If applicable

All documents must be submitted to the Department in electronic format (PDF for reports, letters, and signature pages) via the Education Collaborative Drop Box in the Department's Security Portal. Please ensure that the report is saved as a PDF and not as an image file. Image files are often too large to upload to the Drop Box. All annual independent audit reports must be received between **October 1, 2026**, and **January 1, 2027**, using the directions below:

1. Navigate to the  [webpage](#).
2. Enter your username and password.
3. Select **Application List** at the top of the page.
4. Select **Drop Box Central** from the center of the page.
5. Select **Education Collaboratives** from the Drop Box list then select **Next**.
6. Select **Browse** to find and select the FY26 document(s) on your computer.
7. Select the **Upload File** button to transmit your document(s).

If you are unable to access any of these fields, you may not have the necessary security clearance and should contact your collaborative's directory administrator in order to gain access to the portal.

Once your submission has been received, you will receive an email confirming receipt of the document(s), the date, and the time of submission. Please email any questions regarding this submission to Alaena Podmore or Christine Romancewicz in the Office of Approved Special Education Schools.

APPENDIX A Certification of Board Votes

NAME OF COLLABORATIVE

Acceptance of Annual Independent Audit Report (Board Vote) For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

We, the Board of Directors of the **[Insert name of Collaborative]**, voted to accept the representations of management and the expression of the opinions made by **[Insert name of Auditor]** as embodied in the financial statements, required supplementary schedules and independent auditor's reports for the year ended June 30, 2026.

We also certify that the representations made by management and the disclosures in the financial statements are accurate and have been correctly and completely disclosed as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and under Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws for the year ended June 30, 2026.

Board Chairperson

Date of Board Vote

NAME OF COLLABORATIVE

**Determination of Cumulative Surplus (Board Vote)
For the Year Ended June 30, 2026**

We, the Board of Directors of the **[Insert name of Collaborative]**, have determined the FY26 cumulative surplus to be \$ _____ and have voted to accept/reduce said surplus as presented in the Cumulative Surplus worksheet (Appendix B) .

We also certify that the representations made by management and the disclosures in the financial statements are accurate and have been correctly and completely disclosed as required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and under Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws for the year ended June 30, 2026.

Board Chairperson

Date of Board Vote

APPENDIX B Cumulative Surplus Worksheet

FY26 Cumulative Surplus Worksheet

This form is designed to assist the collaborative board of directors with the calculation the cumulative surplus, determination of whether that surplus exceeds the allowable limit, and the reporting of any board approved reductions, if made. Formulas have been embedded within certain fields, to assist with the calculation of the cumulative surplus and its corresponding percentage of the collaborative's reported general fund expenditures in any given fiscal year.

Once completed the worksheet should reflect both the collaborative board's determination of surplus (amount), the cumulative surplus percentage, the assignment of any cumulative surplus in excess of the 25 percent limitation and ensure a clear segregation of Local Education Agency (LEA) funds from other sources such as grants, gifts, and contracts reported within the general fund.

To activate the worksheet double click or right-click inside the table, then choose "Open Worksheet Object."

Cumulative Surplus Calculation		LEA		Other (Non LEA)		Total		Page in FY26 FS	
Fiscal Year 2026		Enter values below	Calculated Column	Enter values below	Calculated Column	Calculated Total		(A) p.	(B) p.
(A)	Cumulative Surplus as of 6/30/25 (FY25 Unassigned General Fund Balance)				(1)				
(B)	Board voted uses of cumulative surplus funds during FY26								
	b(1) used to support the FY26 budget								
	b(2) used to support the FY27 budget								
	b(3) issued as credits to member districts								
	b(4) issued as a check(s) to member district(s)								
	b(5) deposited to a restricted account(s) (OPEB/Capital Reserve)								
	FY25 Cumulative Surplus after REDUCTIONS (if applicable)								
	Credited to member districts for tuition, services, etc.								
	Deposited to an established trust and/or reserve fund								
	Returned (check) to school districts/towns								
(C)	FY26 Unexpended General Funds (FY26 Unassigned General Fund Balance)								
(D)	Cumulative Surplus as of 6/30/26								
(E)	FY26 Total General Fund Expenditures								
(F)	FY26 Cumulative Surplus Percentage								
(G)	Allowable Cumulative Surplus based upon Expenditures								
FY26 CUMULATIVE SURPLUS REDUCTION (if necessary)									
Allowable uses of surplus to reduce excess to or below the 25% limit									
(D)	Cumulative surplus as of 6/30/26 before Reductions								
(F)	FY26 Cumulative Surplus Percentage before Reductions								
(G)	Allowable Cumulative Surplus based upon Expenditures								
(H)	Cumulative Surplus REDUCTIONS								
	h(1) Credited to member districts for tuition, services, etc.								
	h(2) Deposit to an established trust and/or reserve fund								
	h(3) Returned (check) to school districts/towns								
	FY26 Cumulative Surplus after Reductions								
	FY26 Cumulative Surplus Percentage after Reductions								

(1) The beginning balance of cumulative surplus attributable to other, non-LEA budget funding sources was estimated based on a three-year average of surplus generated from activities outside the LEA budget.

APPENDIX C Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs

NAME OF COLLABORATIVE

Schedule of Findings and Responses For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

Item 2026-01 - [Title of Finding]

Condition:

Criteria:

Cause:

Potential effect:

Response:

Item 2026-02 - [Title of Finding]

Condition:

Criteria:

Cause:

Potential effect:

Response:

[Continue to list items consecutively, as necessary]

APPENDIX D Status Report of Prior Audit Findings

NAME OF COLLABORATIVE

Status Report of Prior Audit Findings For the Year Ended June 30, 2026

Item 2025-01 [Status]

Item 2025-02 [Status]

APPENDIX E Endnotes

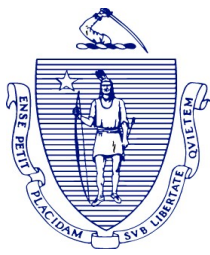
ⁱ [Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4E \(d\)](#): Each board of directors of an education collaborative shall annually prepare financial statements, including: (1) a statement of net assets; (2) a statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in net assets; and (3) such supplemental statements and schedules as may be required by regulation. Each board of directors of an education collaborative shall annually cause an independent audit to be made of its financial statements consistent with generally accepted governmental auditing standards and shall discuss and vote to accept the audit report at an open meeting of the board. Each board of directors shall file such audit report and any related management letters annually on or before January 1 for the previous fiscal year with the department and the state auditor and shall transmit a copy of such audit report and any related management letters to each member school committee and charter school board.

ⁱⁱ [Education Collaborative Regulations 603 CMR 50.08\(2\)](#): Audit Report: An educational collaborative shall submit an annual independent audit report to the collaborative board of directors for discussion and approval. Upon approval by the collaborative board of directors and no later than January 1st of each year, the annual audit report for the preceding fiscal year shall be submitted to the chair of each member district, the Commissioner and the State Auditor. The collaborative shall make the audit report available on its website. The Department, in consultation with the State Auditor, may establish standards for financial reporting and for supplemental statements to accompany the audit report, as needed. The audit report shall be presented in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards and additional guidelines as may be established by the Department. The audited financial statements, accompanying notes, and supplemental schedules shall also disclose:

- (a) transactions between the educational collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organization;
- (b) transactions or contracts related to the purchase, sale, rental, or lease of real property;
- (c) the names, duties, and total compensation of the five most highly compensated employees;
- (d) the amounts expended on administration and overhead;
- (e) any accounts held by the collaborative that may be spent at the discretion of another person or entity; and
- (f) the amounts expended on services for individuals with disabilities, age 22 and older.

ⁱⁱⁱ [Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 20](#): Meetings of a public body to be open to the public; notice of meeting; remote participation; recording and transmission of meeting; removal of persons for disruption of proceedings; office holders to certify receipt of open meeting law and educational materials

Section 20. (a) Except as provided in section 21, all meetings of a public body shall be open to the public.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health & Human Services

Department of Developmental Services

40 Broad Street, 4th Floor

Boston, MA 02109

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GOVERNOR

KIAME MAHANIAH, MD, MBA
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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COMMISSIONER

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www.mass.gov/dds

October 6, 2026

By Electronic Mail

Dr. Chris Scott, Executive Director
Valley Collaborative
40 Linnell Circle
Billerica, MA 01821
Email: Cscott@valleycollaborative.org

Re: DDS Criminal Background Checks – Notice of Audit Completion

Dear Executive Director Scott:

The Department of Developmental Services ("the Department" or "DDS") Criminal Background Check Unit is writing to advise you that the compliance audit of your organization conducted pursuant to 115 CMR 12.11 Post Audit and Compliance Review has been completed.

As part of the audit, on 10/5/2026, Valley Collaborative provided a list to the DDS Background Check Unit comprised of the names and identifying information of 44 staff members working in its DDS-licensed/funded programs subject to the DDS Background Check requirement(s). Review of the DDS Background Check System confirmed that all 44 individuals had been referred for a DDS Background Check by their respective employers and had been determined **SUITABLE** following such check.

Accordingly, consistent with the audit results, Valley Collaborative has been determined to be **IN COMPLIANCE** with the requirement of referring staff for DDS Fingerprint-based Criminal Background Checks. **See** 115 CMR 12.00 et seq.

Please retain this letter for your records.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact the DDS Criminal Background Check Unit by e-mail at: DDS.NBCU.Audits@mass.gov or call at (617) 624-7780.

Thank you for your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Beth Doyle", is centered below the "Sincerely," text.

Mary Beth Doyle, DDS Background Check Specialist/Auditor
DDS Criminal Background Check Unit

cc: DDS Office of Quality Enhancement

Valley Collaborative
(kdiaz@valleycollaborative.org)

Massachusetts Organization of Educational Collaboratives



Meet and Greet Your Collaborative Colleagues from Across the State

You are cordially invited to meet and greet your collaborative board member colleagues from across the state at our MOEC Networking/Information Session at the MASS/MASC Conference this year. This session will provide a forum for you to network with other collaborative members and to increase your knowledge of Collaboratives across the state. There will be a brief presentation and MOEC's Annual Report highlighting the work of MOEC on your collaborative's behalf.

Date: Friday, November 6th at 7:30 am

Location: Ballroom 1

Breakfast Menu: Assorted pastries and sweet breads, and scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, seasonal fruit, and assorted juices, coffee, decaf, teas

MOEC is the Commonwealth's primary advocate for collaboratives and the critical role they play in the Massachusetts educational system. Collectively through its membership, MOEC serves as the voice of its 24 collaboratives and works to develop a full appreciation and understanding of educational collaboratives at the federal, state, regional, and local levels. MOEC provides a forum to enhance the ability of collaboratives to promote leadership and direction to their organizations through professional development, information exchange, and advocacy for collaborative programming so that collaboratives can better serve their constituents.

MOEC and its member collaboratives have over a 50-year history of extending the capacity of more than 300 member and non-member school districts. Please join us to learn more!

Register today! Click [Here](#) to Register

If you have any questions, please email Emily Stephens at estephens@moecnet.org



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Dr., N. Billerica MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
 From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
 Date: October 22nd 2026
 Re: Monthly Update – Heather Mackay, Principal of Valley Elementary School

Elementary School: Respect and Kindness

From weekly events that let students share and express themselves to schoolwide initiatives aimed at creating a culture of kindness, the schoolyear at Valley Elementary is shaping up to be a very special one. Here's a look:

Free-To-Be-Me Fridays

The last Friday of every month, Valley Elementary counselors and music therapist Meghan Pope will be hosting “Free-To-Be-Me Fridays” where students will be encouraged to either showcase one of their talents or bring in an item from home to show-and-tell. As both performers and audience members, students have an opportunity to work on concepts such as confidence-building, descriptive language, social listening and questioning, self-expression and identity, and perseverance and practice. The events are a continuation of Free-To-Be-Me Fridays that were held every week throughout the summer program and were a hit with students, who looked forward to sharing and expressing themselves in front of peers and teachers each week.

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness in the Classroom is coming to Valley Elementary. The Tier 1 evidenced-based social emotional learning curriculum is designed to help schools create a culture of kindness. Each unit teaches six core kindness concepts: Respect, Caring, Inclusiveness, Integrity, Responsibility, and Courage. Throughout this school year, the Elementary School counselors will focus on these concepts in their social skills groups. After every six-week unit students will work collaboratively on a schoolwide group project. Examples include: Schoolwide Clean-up Day, Kindness Challenges, and Food Drives.

Community Connections Guide

The SLPs and OTs designed a Community Connections Guide to create a shared schoolwide experience across classrooms and related service providers. Each six-week Community Connection includes a common focus, character trait, and essential question that can be integrated into classroom instruction, therapy, specials, and schoolwide activities. The Community Connections themes include: Building Our School Community, Fall/Harvest & Community, Winter Around the World, Healthy Living, Stories & Discovery, and Caring for Our World. SLPs are running language groups throughout the school and OTs are leading cooking/craft groups in connection with this initiative.

A shared framework among teachers, therapists, and other service providers helps build essential skills including empathy, confidence, communication skills, and a sense of belonging; the Community Connections Guide creates a shared schoolwide experience while still allowing each classroom and each provider to make it their own. Says Sue: “In a world that can sometimes feel increasingly divided, distracted, and screen-focused, giving children—and the adults who support them—intentional opportunities to connect, participate, and belong may be one of the most important things we can do.”

The Elementary School currently has 84 students enrolled.

Required Action:

None

Attachments:

None



Valley Collaborative Elementary School Newsletter

October 2026



Last Month in Review

In September, we started the new school year, greeted new students, and welcomed returning students. We hosted an open house for families. Students spent time outdoors, hiking, biking, kayaking and participating in Soccer Club. We enjoyed an interactive musical assembly full of singing and dancing. The year is off to an exciting start with lots of learning and growing to come!



October Events

October 14th, 15th, & 16th: Pumpkin Picking Field Trips to Parlee Farms

Classes will be returning to Parlee Farms in Tyngsboro to pick pumpkins, take a hayride, visit farm animals, and enjoy apple cider & donuts. Classes will attend one of the three trips.

October 20th: Dentist Visit

SMILE Mobile Dentist will be returning to Valley on October 20th. The in-school dental team provides cleanings, x-rays, sealants and more. Permission slips have been sent home. You can also sign up at www.myschooldentist.com and select Valley Collaborative - Special Education.

October 30th: Halloween Event

On Halloween, we will hold our annual dance and Trunk-or-Treat events! Parents should be on the lookout the next week or so for a sign-up sheet & details on how to participate. Students may wear costumes on Halloween that exclude masks, weapons, or blood. If the student does not have a costume and would like to wear one, the school has some costumes that the student can borrow for the event. Please let your student's teacher know if you would like them be exempt from Halloween activities.

Parent Advisory Group

Please consider joining. All parents and families are welcome to come on board to collaborate, plan, and help support our school community. This is a fun way to give back, have your voices heard, share creativity with a team, and support families, students, staff, and the entire school community.

If you are interested, or would like further information, please email:

Bryan Thomas
bthomas@valleycollaborative.org

Picture Day

Picture day is scheduled for 10/5

Information for ordering pictures has been sent home and posted to Class Dojo

October Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5 <i>School Picture Day</i>	6	7	8	9
12 <i>Columbus Day No School</i>	13	14 <i>Pumpkin Picking Trip</i>	15 <i>Pumpkin Picking Trip</i>	16 <i>Pumpkin Picking Trip</i>
19	20 <i>Dentist Visit</i>	21 <i>Early Release for Students</i>	22	23
26	27	28	29	30 <i>Halloween Trunk-or-Treat</i>



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Dr., N. Billerica MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
 From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
 Date: October 8, 2026
 Re: Monthly Update - Nick LeClair, Principal Valley Alternative Programs

The 2026–2027 school year is off to a positive start across Valley Collaborative’s four alternative programming cohorts: Vocational, PSI Underclassmen Academy, Delta, and Alternative Middle School. Following a successful summer school, students and staff have returned with enthusiasm and a focus on building relationships, strengthening academic skills, and creating meaningful learning opportunities.

The Vocational shops are in full swing, with Landscaping servicing residential lawns, Culinary utilizing new equipment and an improved lunch service area, and Multimedia welcoming a new cast for its weekly news broadcast. Students continue to develop practical skills through hands on projects and real-world experiences.

PSI students have enjoyed trips to the zoo, trampoline park, and beach while completing academic diagnostic assessments to guide instruction. They have also created their own fidgets in art class and volunteered at a local garden nursery, developing job skills through plant labeling and seasonal cleanup.

Delta students are off to a strong start, with two participating in dual enrollment courses at Middlesex Community College. Outdoor Education students recently summited a local mountain, and upperclassmen participated in a college tour to explore postsecondary opportunities.

The Alternative Middle School welcomed a new cohort of students transitioning from the elementary program. Staff are establishing consistent literacy routines and screening reading and math skills to guide instruction. Students have also enjoyed community outings, including apple picking and a tour of Salem. Flag football and soccer in the afternoons have been a fun and engaging activity for middle schoolers.

Across all programs, students are participating in field trips, community service, and hands on learning experiences. Our annual Open House will take place on October 14, 2026. Following exceptional family participation last year, we look forward to welcoming families again and sharing the many opportunities available to our students. We are excited to build on this strong start and continue supporting student growth throughout the year.

Required Action:

None

Attachments:

None



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Dr., N. Billerica MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
 From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
 Date: October 19, 2026
 Re: Program Update – Nicole Noska, Principal of Transitional Programs, Valley Middle School & Valley Transitional High School

We are back and in full swing for the 2026-2027 school year. It's been a great start, finishing our extended school year summer program strong with fun and educational trips and practicing and generalizing social pragmatic skills out in the community. Some of the highlights were the Boston Duck Tour, trips to the beach, tour of Fenway Park, and after watching the day to day life cycle of a butterfly through growing kits, a culminating trip to the Butterfly Museum in Westford.

Students in both the middle and high school transitional programs are finishing up their iReady diagnostics in both ELA and math. This program has been instrumental in showing student progress in those areas and guiding instruction to help students strengthen their areas of need. Many students have made more than a grade levels growth just in the past school year. The teachers are able to pinpoint where the students need specific instruction and where their exact gaps are.

Elections are underway for high school student council where participation gives students a voice in school governance, builds leadership and civic skills, and connects them with their school community. On the ballot this year are 19 students trying to fill the seats for president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The students worked during their multimedia classes to create campaign posters, which outline their platforms on the topics most important to them. Some students want to see changes to the cafeteria's breakfast and lunch menus, while others are looking at bigger picture initiatives such as how to continue to foster caring and safe programming for all students to access.

The high school after school recreation program has started back up and student participation has finally rebounded to pre-Covid numbers. Students are enjoying trips to the orchard for apple and pumpkin picking, and in-house activities such as karaoke, game show night, Halloween crafts, and culinary classes. Students and staff are all looking forward to the annual Halloween Dance at the end of October. We are in our second year of the middle school rec program where three times per month students have the opportunity to sign up for trips after school in the community or activities in house working on life, social and overall transitional skills.

Required Action:

None

Attachments:

None



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Dr., N. Billerica MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
 From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
 Date: October 22, 2026
 Re: Monthly Update - Matthew Gentile, Director of DDS Services

Programming continues to roll on for Valley Collaborative's Adult individuals. With 144 individuals currently being served by the Adult Program, our days are active with various opportunities through Group Supported Employment, Independent Employment Supports, and Community Based Day Supports. While we continue to seek out meaningful and fulfilling opportunities for the individuals to engage in, this past year we have seen a renewed enthusiasm for our Community Gardening offerings.

Beyond the partnerships we hold with organizations in the community, we also highlight specific interests of the individuals and create programming accordingly. One interest many of the individuals continue to identify is gardening and the propagation of flower and plant life. Based on this intrigue, the Valley Adult Program now runs a daily interest exploration site titled "Community Gardening". The Community Gardening crew has established, and maintains, a number of gardens throughout our community, with differing focuses on the plant life being preserved at each site.

Behind the Tewksbury Public Library, the focus was twofold. The first area was set up as a vegetable garden. Direct Support Professional Angela Fiset, leaning on her own experience and expertise, created garden beds to enable the growth of a number of vegetables that individuals could take home to share with their families. The vegetables have even been that used in cooking lessons for individuals in CBDS programming. The gardening crew cultivated tomatoes, carrots, squash, cucumbers, blueberries, and snap peas. While maintaining the vegetable garden, the Valley crew met a man named John Ryan who runs the Monarch Ranch in Tewksbury. The Monarch Ranch is a nonprofit conservation initiative dedicated to breeding and releasing monarch butterflies, restoring native pollinator habitats, and providing environmental education. John and his team have been incredible in facilitating learning opportunities for our individuals, and have instilled a passion that led to the individuals wanting to create their own butterfly garden. Angela used a second garden plot behind the Tewksbury Library to do just that.

At the Billerica Housing Authority, Valley has donated both flowers and attention to multiple garden beds on site. Direct Support Professional Christine Joslin supported individuals while tapping into her own passion for horticulture. During the spring and summer, the crew planted marigolds, petunias, zinnias, sunflowers and a number of native grasses. These gardens have helped to create a welcoming and homie feeling to the people residing in the BHA buildings. Beyond creating the gardens at BHA, Christine also supports Community Gardening crews to establish and maintain plant life within the various Valley Collaborative buildings. Angela and crew also maintain a vegetable garden outside of the Valley Collaborative Elementary School full of vibrant colors and extensive plant life. Classrooms, offices, and common spaces throughout the Valley community are green and full of plant life based on the efforts of Angela, Christine, and the Community Gardening crews.

Required Action:

None

Attachments:

None



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Drive N. Billerica, MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
From: Dr. Chris Scott, Executive Director
Renato Silva, School Safety and Facilities Manager
Date: October 22, 2026
Re: Valley Collaborative School Safety Update

Over the summer, Valley Collaborative strengthened school safety at 40 Linnell Circle with the installation of the building's first public address (PA) system. Spearheaded by Mazyar Moshtaghi, Chief Technology Officer, this project represents an important investment in the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

The new Valcom system supports daily announcements and emergency communications through speakers inside and outside the building. LED panels in classrooms and common areas complement audio announcements with visual messages, helping important information reach our school community quickly and clearly. Authorized staff can make announcements through designated Communication Centers and desk phones.

Each classroom also features call buttons that provide staff with direct access to Reception, the Principal's Office, and the Nurse's Office. Standard Response Protocol options are available through the Communication Centers to support a coordinated emergency response. Together, these features strengthen everyday communication and our ability to respond to urgent situations, creating a safer, more connected school environment.

Required Action:

None

Attachments:

None



Central Administration

11 Executive Park Drive, N. Billerica, MA 01862 | Tel: (978) 528-7826 | www.valleycollaborative.org

MEMORANDUM

To: Valley Collaborative Board of Directors
From: Dr. Chris A. Scott, Executive Director
Mazyar Moshtaghi, Chief Technology Officer
Date: October 19, 2026
Re: Technology Update – E-rate funding

Valley Collaborative has been awarded a total of \$17,614.00 in E-Rate funding for the 2026–2027 school year, as detailed below:

- Category 1: \$5,544.00, representing an estimated 20% savings on internet services.
- Category 2: \$12,070.00, representing an estimated 20% savings on network infrastructure upgrades.

This funding will help reduce the cost of maintaining and improving our technology infrastructure and internet connectivity.



May 2, 2026

Funding Commitment Decision Letter

Funding Year 2026

Contact Information:

Cari Balbo
 VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
 40 LINNELL CIRCLE
 BILLERICA, MA 01821
cbalbo@ocerate.com

FCC Form 471: 261028725

BEN: 16028937

Wave: 1

Application Nickname: ValleyCollaborative-C1-FY
 2026

Totals

Total Committed	\$5,544.00
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What is in this letter?

Thank you for submitting your application for Funding Year 2026 Schools and Libraries Program (E-rate) funding. Attached to this letter, you will find the funding statuses for the FCC Form(s) 471, Services Ordered and Certification Form, that you submitted and referenced above.

The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) is sending this information to both the associated applicant(s) and the service provider(s) so that you can work together to complete the funding process.

Next Steps

1. Work with your service provider(s) to determine if your bills will be discounted or if you will request reimbursement from USAC after paying the full cost for the services you receive.
2. Review the [Children's Internet Protection Act \(CIPA\)](#) requirements and file the [FCC Form 486](#) (Service Confirmation and CIPA Certification Form). **The deadline to submit this form is 120 days from the date of this letter or from the service start date (whichever is later).**
3. Invoice USAC

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
BEN: 16028937

FCC Form 471: 261028725
Wave: 1

- **If you (the applicant) are invoicing USAC:** You must pay your service provider(s) the full cost for the services you receive and file the [FCC Form 472](#), the Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) Form, to invoice USAC for reimbursement of the discounted amount.
- **If your service provider(s) is invoicing USAC:** The service provider(s) must provide services, bill the applicant for the non-discounted share, and file the [FCC Form 474](#), the Service Provider Invoice (SPI) form, to invoice USAC for reimbursement for the discounted portion of costs. Every funding year, service providers must file an [FCC Form 473](#), the Service Provider Annual Certification Form, to be able to submit invoices and to receive disbursements.
- **To receive an invoice deadline extension, the applicant or service provider must request** an extension on or before the last date to invoice. **If you anticipate, for any reason, that invoices cannot be filed on time**, USAC will grant a one-time, 120-day invoice deadline extension if timely requested.

How to Appeal or Request a Waiver of a Decision

You can appeal or request a waiver of a decision in this letter **within 60 calendar days** of the date of this letter. Failure to meet this deadline will result in an automatic dismissal of your appeal or waiver request.

Note: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will not accept appeals of USAC decisions that have not first been appealed to USAC. However, if you are seeking a waiver of E-rate program rules, you must submit your request to the FCC and not to USAC. USAC is not able to waive the E-rate program rules.

- **To submit your appeal to USAC**, visit the Appeals section in the [E-rate Productivity Center \(EPC\)](#) and provide the required information. USAC will reply to your appeal submissions to confirm receipt. Visit USAC's [website](#) for additional information on submitting an appeal to USAC, including step-by-step instructions.
- **To request a waiver of the FCC's rules**, please submit it to the FCC in proceeding number CC Docket No. 02-6 using the [Electronic Comment Filing System](#) (ECFS). Include your contact information, a statement that your filing is a waiver request, identifying information, the FCC rule(s) for which you are seeking a waiver, a full description of the relevant facts that you believe support your waiver request and any related relief, and any supporting documentation.

For appeals to USAC or to the FCC, be sure to keep a copy of your entire appeal, including any correspondence and documentation, and provide a copy to the affected service provider(s).

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
BEN: 16028937

FCC Form 471: 261028725
Wave: 1

Obligation to Pay Non-Discount Portion

Applicants are required to pay the non-discount portion of the cost of the eligible products and/or services to their service providers. Service providers are required to bill applicants for the non-discount portion of costs for the eligible products and/or services. The FCC stated that requiring applicants to pay the non-discounted share of costs ensures efficiency and accountability in the program. If using the BEAR invoicing method, the applicant must pay the service provider in full (the non-discount plus discount portion) **before** seeking reimbursement from USAC. If using the SPI invoicing method, the service provider must first bill the applicant **before** invoicing USAC.

Notice on Rules and Funds Availability

The applicants' receipt of funding commitments is contingent on their compliance with all statutory, regulatory, and procedural requirements of the Schools and Libraries Program and the FCC's rules. Applicants who have received funding commitments continue to be subject to audits and other reviews that USAC and/or the FCC may undertake to assure that committed funds are being used in accordance with such requirements. USAC may be required to reduce or cancel funding commitments that were not issued in accordance with such requirements, whether due to action or inaction of USAC, the applicant, or the service provider. USAC, and other appropriate authorities (including but not limited to the FCC), may pursue enforcement actions and other means of recourse to collect improperly disbursed funds.

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE**BEN:** 16028937**FCC Form 471:** 261028725**Wave:** 1

Funding Commitment Decision Overview

Funding Year 2026

Application Comments for FCC Form 471: #261028725

The applicant did not submit any RAL corrections.

Funding Commitment Decision Overview

Funding Request Number (FRN)	Service Provider Name	Amount Requested	Amount Committed	Status
2699040750	New Horizon Communications Corp.	\$5,544.00	\$5,544.00	Funded

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE**BEN:** 16028937**FCC Form 471:** 261028725**Wave:** 1

FRN 2699040750	Service Type Data Transmission and/or Internet Access	Status Funded
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Dollars Committed			
Monthly Cost		One-time Cost	
Months of Service	12		
Total Eligible Recurring Charges	\$27,720.00	Total Eligible One Time Charges	\$0.00
Total Pre-discount Charges		\$27,720.00	
Discount Rate		20.00%	
Committed Amount		\$5,544.00	

Dates	
Service Start Date	7/1/2026
Contract Expiration Date	6/30/2027
Contract Award Date	3/7/2024
Service Delivery Deadline	6/30/2027
Expiration Date (All Extensions)	

Service Provider and Contract Information	
Service Provider	New Horizon Communications Corp.
SPIN (498ID)	143029113
Contract Number	
Account Number	
Establishing FCC Form 470	240017341
Invoicing Method	Service Provider - FCC Form 474 (SPI Form)

Consultant Information	
Consultant Name	Cari Balbo
Consultant's Employer	ONeal Consulting
CRN	16024811

Funding Commitment Decision Comments

MR1: Approved as submitted.



October 8, 2026

Funding Commitment Decision Letter

Funding Year 2026

Contact Information:

Cari Balbo
 VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
 40 LINNELL CIRCLE
 BILLERICA, MA 01821
cbalbo@ocerate.com

FCC Form 471: 261028736

BEN: 16028937

Wave: 24

Application Nickname: ValleyCollaborative-C2-FY
 2026

Totals

Total Committed	\$12,070.00
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What is in this letter?

Thank you for submitting your application for Funding Year 2026 Schools and Libraries Program (E-rate) funding. Attached to this letter, you will find the funding statuses for the FCC Form(s) 471, Services Ordered and Certification Form, that you submitted and referenced above.

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3. Invoice USAC

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
BEN: 16028937

FCC Form 471: 261028736
Wave: 24

- **If you (the applicant) are invoicing USAC:** You must pay your service provider(s) the full cost for the services you receive and file the [FCC Form 472](#), the Billed Entity Applicant Reimbursement (BEAR) Form, to invoice USAC for reimbursement of the discounted amount.
- **If your service provider(s) is invoicing USAC:** The service provider(s) must provide services, bill the applicant for the non-discounted share, and file the [FCC Form 474](#), the Service Provider Invoice (SPI) form, to invoice USAC for reimbursement for the discounted portion of costs. Every funding year, service providers must file an [FCC Form 473](#), the Service Provider Annual Certification Form, to be able to submit invoices and to receive disbursements.
- **To receive an invoice deadline extension, the applicant or service provider must request an extension on or before the last date to invoice. If you anticipate, for any reason, that invoices cannot be filed on time,** USAC will grant a one-time, 120-day invoice deadline extension if timely requested.

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- **To submit your appeal to USAC,** visit the Appeals section in the [E-rate Productivity Center \(EPC\)](#) and provide the required information. USAC will reply to your appeal submissions to confirm receipt. Visit USAC's [website](#) for additional information on submitting an appeal to USAC, including step-by-step instructions.
- **To request a waiver of the FCC's rules,** please submit it to the FCC in proceeding number CC Docket No. 02-6 using the [Electronic Comment Filing System](#) (ECFS). Include your contact information, a statement that your filing is a waiver request, identifying information, the FCC rule(s) for which you are seeking a waiver, a full description of the relevant facts that you believe support your waiver request and any related relief, and any supporting documentation.

For appeals to USAC or to the FCC, be sure to keep a copy of your entire appeal, including any correspondence and documentation, and provide a copy to the affected service provider(s).

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE**BEN:** 16028937**FCC Form 471:** 261028736**Wave:** 24

Obligation to Pay Non-Discount Portion

Applicants are required to pay the non-discount portion of the cost of the eligible products and/or services to their service providers. Service providers are required to bill applicants for the non-discount portion of costs for the eligible products and/or services. The FCC stated that requiring applicants to pay the non-discounted share of costs ensures efficiency and accountability in the program. If using the BEAR invoicing method, the applicant must pay the service provider in full (the non-discount plus discount portion) **before** seeking reimbursement from USAC. If using the SPI invoicing method, the service provider must first bill the applicant **before** invoicing USAC.

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BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE**BEN:** 16028937**FCC Form 471:** 261028736**Wave:** 24

Funding Commitment Decision Overview

Funding Year 2026

Application Comments for FCC Form 471: #261028736

The Student Count for Budget for Budgeted BEN 16028937 - VALLEY COLLABORATIVE was decreased from 269 to 233 students that could be validated based on third party data. <><><><><> FRN(s) modified in accordance with a RAL request.

Funding Commitment Decision Overview

Funding Request Number (FRN)	Service Provider Name	Amount Requested	Amount Committed	Status
2699040756	SHI International Corpo.	\$6,108.34	\$0.00	Cancelled
2699040769	Custom Computer Specialist, Inc.	\$18,204.57	\$12,070.00	Funded

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE**BEN:** 16028937**FCC Form 471:** 261028736**Wave:** 24

FRN 2699040756	Service Type Internal Connections	Status Cancelled
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Dollars Committed			
Monthly Cost		One-time Cost	
Months of Service	12		
Total Eligible Recurring Charges	\$0.00	Total Eligible One Time Charges	\$30,541.70
Total Pre-discount Charges		\$30,541.70	
Discount Rate		20.00%	
Committed Amount		\$0.00	

Dates	
Service Start Date	7/1/2026
Contract Expiration Date	9/30/2027
Contract Award Date	3/18/2026
Service Delivery Deadline	
Expiration Date (All Extensions)	

Service Provider and Contract Information	
Service Provider	SHI International Corpo.
SPIN (498ID)	143012572
Contract Number	
Account Number	
Establishing FCC Form 470	260012533
Invoicing Method	Service Provider - FCC Form 474 (SPI Form)

Consultant Information	
Consultant Name	Cari Balbo
Consultant's Employer	ONeal Consulting
CRN	16024811

Funding Commitment Decision Comments

CR1: FRN canceled in consultation with the applicant.

BEN Name: VALLEY COLLABORATIVE
BEN: 16028937

FCC Form 471: 261028736
Wave: 24

FRN 2699040769	Service Type Internal Connections	Status Funded
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Dollars Committed			
Monthly Cost		One-time Cost	
Months of Service	12		
Total Eligible Recurring Charges	\$0.00	Total Eligible One Time Charges	\$60,350.00
Total Pre-discount Charges		\$60,350.00	
Discount Rate		20.00%	
Committed Amount		\$12,070.00	

Dates	
Service Start Date	7/1/2026
Contract Expiration Date	9/30/2027
Contract Award Date	3/23/2026
Service Delivery Deadline	9/30/2027
Expiration Date (All Extensions)	

Service Provider and Contract Information	
Service Provider	Custom Computer Specialist, Inc.
SPIN (498ID)	143004965
Contract Number	
Account Number	
Establishing FCC Form 470	260012533
Invoicing Method	Service Provider - FCC Form 474 (SPI Form)

Consultant Information	
Consultant Name	Cari Balbo
Consultant's Employer	ONeal Consulting
CRN	16024811

Funding Commitment Decision Comments

MR1: The funding request amount was reduced from \$91,022.87 to \$60,350.00 to remove the amount that exceeded the Category Two budget set for the following entity(ies): 16028937 - VALLEY COLLABORATIVE.



Gaining Momentum

■ Page 2: Valley Elementary is creating a culture of respect and kindness.



Trying New Things

■ Page 3: The Transitional Programming at Valley Middle/High School is creating a culture that helps students thrive in all aspects of their lives.



Cultivating Connection

■ Page 8: A new community garden program is a hit with individuals, who are exploring their interest in growing flowers and vegetables.

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Volume 15, Issue 1 | News for the extended Valley Collaborative community | Fall 2026

Achieving Great Things



FROM LEFT: KURTIS LEDOUX, 6TH GRADE; BRYAN THOMAS, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, VALLEY ELEMENTARY; DR. CHRIS A. SCOTT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; ARMANI BLANCO, 3RD GRADE; JOIA MERCURIO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR; RENATO SILVA, SCHOOL SAFETY & FACILITIES MANAGER

Dear Students, Staff, and Families:

At Valley Collaborative, we know that great things happen when dedicated professionals come together with a shared commitment to student success. This year, our staff has continued to demonstrate that commitment through meaningful professional learning, collaboration, and a shared focus on strengthening teaching and learning across Valley. A significant part of this work has been our ongoing professional development series with Katie Novak, Education Consultant with Novak Education. Together, we are exploring the theme “Creating Multi-Tiered Systems with a Foundation of UDL in a Special Education Setting.”

This focused professional learning is providing our staff with opportunities to deepen their understanding of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support while connecting these practices directly to the unique needs of our students and classrooms.

One of the most valuable aspects of this work is the opportunity for teams to immediately apply their professional learning to curriculum development. Staff are collaborating, reflecting, and using UDL principles as they continue to refine their curriculum and develop meaningful scope and sequences.

**continued on page 7*

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Elementary School: Respect and Kindness



KURTIS LEDOUX PLAYS THE GUITAR AT A RECENT FREE-TO-BE-ME FRIDAY EVENT

From weekly events that let students share and express themselves to schoolwide initiatives aimed at creating a culture of kindness, the schoolyear at Valley Elementary is shaping up to be a very special one. Here's a look:

Free-To-Be-Me Fridays

The last Friday of every month, Valley Elementary counselors and music therapist Meghan Pope will be hosting "Free-To-Be-Me Fridays" where the students will be encouraged to either showcase one of their talents or bring in an item from home to show-and-tell. As both performers and audience members, the students have an opportunity to work on concepts such as confidence-building, descriptive language, social listening and questioning, self-expression and identity, and perseverance and practice. The events are a continuation of Free-To-Be-Me Fridays that were held every week throughout the summer program and were a hit with students, who looked forward

to sharing and expressing themselves in front of peers and teachers each week.

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness in the Classroom is coming to Valley Elementary. The Tier 1 evidenced-based social emotional learning curriculum is designed to help schools create a culture of kindness. Each unit teaches six core kindness concepts: Respect, Caring, Inclusiveness, Integrity, Responsibility, and Courage. Throughout this school year, the Elementary School counselors will focus on these concepts in their social skills groups. After every six week unit students will work collaboratively on a schoolwide group project. Examples include: Schoolwide Clean-up Day, Kindness Challenges, and Food Drives.

Community Connections Guide

The SLPs and OTs designed a Community Connections Guide to create a shared schoolwide experience across classrooms and related service providers. Each six-week Community Connection includes a common focus, character trait, and essential question that can be integrated into classroom instruction, therapy, specials, and schoolwide activities. The Community Connections themes include: Building Our School Community, Fall/Harvest & Community, Winter Around the World, Healthy Living, Stories & Discovery, and Caring for Our World. SLPs are running language groups throughout the school and OTs are leading cooking/craft groups in connection with the initiative.

"Our students are capable of incredible kindness, and we wanted to build those strengths and create a schoolwide culture where kindness, empathy, inclusion, and respect are celebrated and reinforced every day,"

explains School Counselor Jen Glow, who is leading the effort along with Speech Language Pathologist Jillian Wendler and Occupational Therapist Sue Donato.

The group explains that the initiative tries to turn the natural parts of being an elementary school student—friendship struggles, misunderstandings, hurt feelings, exclusion, and conflicts—into teachable moments. Says Jillian: "They provide opportunities for us to teach students how to treat others, navigate friendships, manage conflict, and make people feel included and valued. Creating a schoolwide focus around those ideas is a meaningful way to support both the social-emotional growth of our students and the positive community we want our school to be."

Cultivating community connections is another goal of the initiative. "Community connections are important right now, especially at the elementary school age, because children need opportunities to experience what it feels like to belong to something outside of their inner circle, where they can get to know the people around them, feel valued, and recognize that they have a place within their school community," says Sue.

With a shared framework among teachers, therapists, and other service providers that helps build essential skills including empathy, confidence, communication, and a sense of belonging, the Community Connections Guide creates a shared schoolwide experience while still allowing each classroom to make it their own. Says Sue: "In a world that can sometimes feel increasingly divided, distracted, and screen-focused, giving children—and the adults who support them—intentional opportunities to connect, participate, and belong may be one of the most important things we can do."

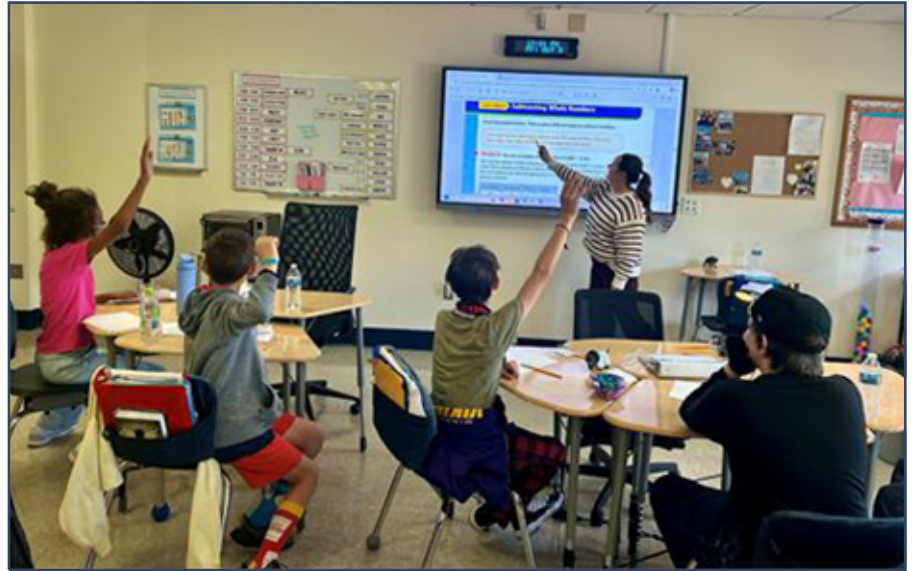
VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Transitional Programming at Valley Middle/High School: Aiming Higher!

When Kali Rowe started the school year, she set an ambitious goal for her students. “I wanted to work on them being excited to be at school,” says Kali, who is a transitional middle school special education teacher. A few months into the school year and that goal is turning into reality. “A lot of them are coming to love school. For kids who may have had difficult experiences in their previous schools, that’s a big deal.”

Down the hall from Kali, Lori Escolas has been helping students set their own goals for the school year. Lori, whose students are transitioning from middle to high school, encouraged them to write down what are known as SMART goals, an acronym for specific, measurable, attainable, reasonable and timely. “I wanted them to see that you can actually put an action plan together to make these goals happen,” says Lori. One student wanted to become a better reader, a goal he has been making big strides towards reaching. “He used to be shy to read in front of the class, but now he’s feeling more confident.

In the past few years, Valley Transitional Middle and High School has made great strides in creating a culture that makes students feel safe. The next step is to work in greater expectations for academic rigor, explains Assistant Principal Brian Mihalek. “When kids feel safe and valued in their classrooms they can take risks with their learning.” Last year saw new curriculum and programs introduced, along with data-driven decision making that helps Valley staff meet kids where they are. Those changes are already paying off, says Brian. “We’re able to help students reach their academic potential



KALI ROWE TEACHING A CLASS IN VALLEY'S TRANSITIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL.

in a way that’s really exciting.”

It is in classrooms like Kali’s and Lori’s where the vision and mission that Brian describes becomes real. Kali, who guides 11 middle schoolers through their core academics—reading, writing, math, history and science—says that she’s much more focused this year on ways to motivate her students to want to learn. “Too often students think of their academic work as something they have to do. I want to get them engaged and excited about what we’re doing,” says Kali.

Lori’s class of ninth graders has a major focus on literacy this year. Students are currently reading *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and even formerly ‘shy’ readers are eagerly participating, despite the book’s challenging vocabulary. “They’re really enjoying the book, which is great, because it means that they’re learning to enjoy reading,” says Lori.

While this is a transition year for her students, who’ve moved from middle to high school, it’s also a change for Lori. She formerly worked

with young adults at Valley, helping them learn the life skills necessary for the workplace and adulthood. The connection between learning and independence is something she emphasizes with her new students. “High school is much more about discovery learning and putting the pieces together yourself,” says Lori.

While Valley staff and leaders have been laser focused on academic standards, including working with education consultant Katie Novak to better align teaching and learning at the middle and high school with Massachusetts’ standards, there are still plenty of opportunities for joy. Field trips and community trips are a key part of building student excitement about school, says Kali. She describes a student whose transition to Valley from his previous school district had been challenging. This fall, he was able to participate in his first field trip. “He came back from apple picking and told us that he’d had the most amazing day ever,” says Kali.

*continued on page 7

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Alternative Programming at Valley Middle/High School: Setting a New Standard

The last few years have seen big changes for Valley Middle/High School's Alternative Programming. Physical relocation and construction have given various programs their own space, while a deepening commitment to social and emotional learning has made Valley a more welcoming place for students. This year, the leadership team is bringing renewed attention to academics. "The SEL piece is huge because students need to feel safe and regulated," says Principal Nick LeClair. "We've got that, and now we're all about achievement."

Key to this heightened academic focus is a systematic effort to identify where students are in their learning so that Valley teachers and staff can help them move to the next level. "It's really exciting," says Literacy Coach Jake Smith. "The goal is for teachers to have a clear picture of what students have already learned, what they need help with, and what kinds of interventions are going to benefit them." Jake says that while the thought, planning and coordination involved make this a big lift for the program, the payoff will be worth it. "I think it's going to make such a huge difference in how we address the needs of our students."

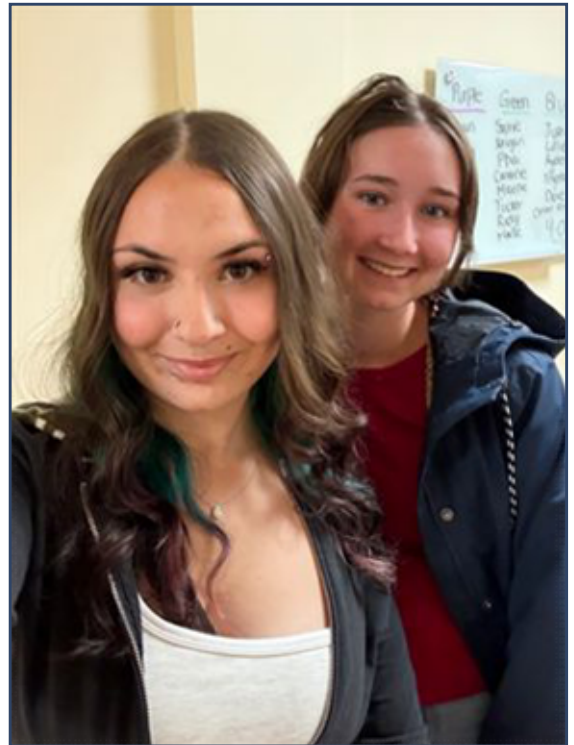
To help realize these ambitious goals, the school is partnering with education consultant Katie Novack. Nick says that he hopes that bringing in an objective set of eyes from outside to assess Valley's academic systems will result in better alignment with Massachusetts' standards. A new standards tracker allows teachers to see whether each student is meeting state benchmarks. "We're looking at math, science, history and ELA, but we're also

thinking ahead to the digital literacy standards that many districts are adopting," says Nick. "How can we help our students become ethical users of technology, including AI?"

There's also a heightened emphasis on literacy, including a new focus on helping students master the skills they'll need to read and comprehend text both in and out of school. As a literacy coach, Jake's focus is on working with teachers to incorporate literacy throughout the curriculum. "We're trying to make every class a literacy class," says Jake. Whereas in the past he was more likely to instruct teachers on what he wanted to see in their classroom, his new role is much more collaborative. "Now I'm much more focused on how I can help teachers reach our shared expectations."

While Valley is known for its social and emotional programming, Nick and his administration team hope to burnish its academic credentials, including by encouraging more students to participate in dual enrollment programs with partnering programs, including Middlesex Community College. Sophie Beard is currently taking an anatomy and physiology class, a subject she plans to study as a biology major in college. Caroline Kajko is taking college-level English, something that she thinks will prepare her for the next stage of her education. Both will graduate from Valley next spring having already earned college credits.

Both students say that academic



CAROLINE KAJKO AND SOPHIE BEARD, BOTH SENIORS, ARE TAKING COURSES AT MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE THROUGH VALLEY'S DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM.

support from teachers and staff at Valley have made it possible for them to thrive in their college-level classes. Caroline says that if someone had told her younger self that she'd soon be dual enrolled at a local college she wouldn't have believed them. "It seemed like something that was too hard for me." Sophie says that she hopes that more students will pursue dual enrollment, including those who aren't yet thinking about college. "There's always time to get your grades up. Don't stress about it," counsels Sophie. "But if you think you want to do dual enrollment, start early and remember that everyone at Valley is here to help you."

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Valley Making a Difference Awards: FY 2026

October 2025*Valley Elementary School*

Student of the Month:

Sammy Howlett

Staff of the Month: Luke Shaw

*Valley Alternative Programming
High School*

Student of the Month:

Tavernier Harris

Staff of the Month: Cristina Iebba

*Valley Alternative Programming
Middle School*

Student of the Month:

Emmanuel Terranova

*Valley Transitional Programming
Middle School*

Student of the Month:

Jaylin Jean-Baptiste

Staff of the Month: Taylor Pitari

*Valley Transitional Programming
High School*

Student of the Month: Gavin Wargo

Staff of the Month: Peter Teutsch

Valley Adult Services

Individual of the Month:

Hannah Dwight

Staff of the Month: Christine Joslin

November 2025*Valley Elementary School*

Student of the Month:

Dionisio Quadros

Staff of the Month: Kim Silva

*Valley Alternative Programming
Middle School/ High School*

Student of the Month MS:

Jacob Colon

Student of the Month HS:

Sophie Beard

Staff of the Month:

Colleen McAnespie

*Valley Transitional Programming
Middle School*

Student of the Month:

Calisto Tiburcio

Staff of the Month:

Victoria Clauson

*Valley Transitional Programming
High School*

Student of the Month:

Connor Bodas

Staff of the Month:

Mitchell Doherty

Valley Adult Services

Individual of the Month: Jason Doyle

Staff of the Month: Brenda Kenney

Valley District Staff

William Hernandez

December 2025*Valley Elementary School*

Student of the Month: Gracie Taff

Staff of the Month: Gabriella LeMay

*Valley Alternative Programming
Middle/High School*

Student of the Month MS:

Elijah Tong-Rousseau

Student of the Month HS:

Ryder Galvin

Staff of the Month: Ian MacAulay

*Valley Transitional Programming
Middle School*

Student of the Month:

Isaac Wilson

Staff of the Month: Rebecca Pincott

*Valley Transitional Programming
High School*

Student of the Month:

Aaron Callahan-Leon

Staff of the Month:

Courtney Dufresne

Valley Adult Services

Individual of the Month:

Jacob Bettencourt

Staff of the Month:

Robin Sabatino

Valley District Staff:

Matthew McCarthy

January 2026*Valley Elementary School*

Student of the Month:

Olivia Buonamano

Staff of the Month: Erin Frazier

*Valley Alternative Programming
Middle/High School*

Student of the Month MS:

Christian Lapierre

Student of the Month HS:

James Straffin

Staff of the Month: Joshua Plunkett

*Valley Transitional Programming
Middle School*

Student of the Month: Louis Lorino

Staff of the Month: Mariah Waldron

*Valley Transitional Programming
High School*

Student of the Month: Colby Provost

Staff of the Month: Amie Silva

Valley Adult Services

Individual of the Month: Matt Booth

Staff of the Month:

Samantha Weeden

Valley District Staff

Joseph Venskus

Chrystalia Metrakas

February 2026*Valley Elementary School*

Student of the Month:

Jameson Osterfield

Staff of the Month: Chloe Greco

*Valley High School – Alternative
Programming*

Student of the Month:

Gavin Correia

Staff of the Month:

Katharine Werner

*continued on next page

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Making a Difference: Awards FY 2026

October 2025

*continued from previous page

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month:
Valley Middle School – Transitional
Sammy Howlett

Staff of the Month: Luke Shaw

Student of the Month:

Jude Galbraith
Valley Alternative Programming
Staff of the Month: Hannah Barry
High School

Student of the Month:
Valley Transitional High School –
Tavernier Harris
Transitional Programming
Staff of the Month: Cristina Iebba

Staff of the Month: Clo Sherwood
Valley Alternative Programming
Middle School

April 2026

Student of the Month:
Valley Elementary School

Emmanuel Ferrarova
Student of the Month: Nate Skuse
Staff of the Month: Alyssa Thomas
Valley Transitional Programming

Middle School
Valley Alternative Programming
Student of the Month:

Middle/High School
Jaylin Jean Baptiste

Student of the Month MS:
Staff of the Month: Taylor Pitari
Anthony Estrada

Student of the Month HS:
Valley Transitional Programming
Keegan Carter
High School

Staff of the Month: Joshua Plunkett
Student of the Month: Gavin Wargo
Katharine Werner
Staff of the Month: Peter Teutsch
Timothy P. McDonald

Danielle E. Sheehan-Brabant
Valley Adult Services
Stephanie M. Wallace:
Individual of the Month:

Hannah Dwight
Valley Transitional Programming
Staff of the Month: Christine Joshi
Middle School

November 2025

Student of the Month:
Valley Elementary School

Staff of the Month: Faithe Shatford
Dionisio Quadros

Staff of the Month: Miro Silva
Valley Transitional Programming
High School

Valley Alternative Programming
Middle School/High School

Student of the Month: Kelly Tenhope
Jacob Colon

Student of the Month HS:

Staff of the Month:

Colleen McAnespie

Valley Transitional Programming
Middle School

Student of the Month:
Tiburcio

Staff of the Month:

Valley Adult Services
Victoria Jarome

Staff of the Month:
Valley Transitional Programming
High School

Student of the Month:

Staff of the Month:

Staff of the Month:

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Staff of the Month:

Staff of the Month:

Staff of the Month: Jason Doyle

Staff of the Month: Brenda Kenney

Staff of the Month: Alyssa Thomas

Staff of the Month: William Hernandez

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Staff of the Month: William Hernandez

Valley District Staff
Christina Foss

Brian Mihalek
Valley District Staff:
Bryan Thomas
Matthew McCarthy
Holly Tierney

November 2026

Valley Elementary School

Student of the Month: Award for High-

Student of the Month:

Staff of the Month: Erin Frazier

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Staff of the Month: Erin Frazier

In Recognition for Service to the Valley Community

Valley Collaborative recognizes two members of our Board of Directors who are retiring: former Superintendent of the Tewksbury Public Schools, Ms. Brenda Theriault-Regan, Dr. Michael Flanagan, former superintendents of the Tyngsborough Public Schools. Joining the Board are the new Tewksbury superintendent, Dr. Nancy Milligan, and Mr. Michael Woodlock, the new superintendent of Tyngsborough Public Schools. The extended Valley community is grateful to all for their service.

*continued on next page

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Transitional Programming at Valley Middle/High School: Aiming Higher

**continued from page 3*

For Lori, being in a brand new Valley classroom has provided an opportunity to reflect on her own lengthy career. "I just realized the other day that I've been teaching for 27 years. So I have seen it all." With so much experience teaching virtually every grade level, Lori says she's now revisiting what she's done in the past that will help students prepare for their futures. "I want them to see that the things we're working on in our classroom will help them in a few years when they're getting jobs outside of school or getting their drivers licenses," says Lori. "I want them to see that there is a lot to look forward to."



ANDRES DIAZ AND LUCHIEN MOORE IN WOODSHOP CLASS.

Six students on their goals for the school year

"By practicing and sitting for a longer period of time I will get good at reading and go up by 1 grade level," AD, high school.

"I want to learn more, be myself, stay true to myself by challenging my brain and being myself," SGF, high school.

"By the end of the year I will learn Algebra to get into Greater Lawrence Technical School," ES, high school.

"I want to be brave and be able to work with new staff," NS, middle school.

"I want to work on being kind, listen to staff, and not be so sneaky," RP, middle school.

"I want to have more discipline and have more focus in school," LL, middle school.

Achieving Great Things

**continued from cover*

The benefits of this work extend directly to our students. A strong foundation in UDL helps educators anticipate the diverse ways students learn and create multiple pathways for engagement, representation, and expression. Rather than waiting for students to experience difficulty, our teams are working to design learning experiences that are accessible and responsive from the start.

Our work with multi-tiered systems also strengthens our ability to identify and respond to individual student needs. By developing consistent systems of support and using student information to guide instruction, we can provide the right level of support at the right time.

Ultimately, this work helps create learning environments where students have greater access to instruction, increased opportunities for engagement, and multiple ways to demonstrate what they know and can do.

We are incredibly proud of the dedication, expertise, and enthusiasm our staff brings to this work each day. Their commitment to continued growth ultimately strengthens the educational experiences we provide to our students.

Together, we are learning, growing, and achieving great things at Valley Collaborative.

My door is always open.

My best to you,

Chris A. Scott, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Valley Collaborative

VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Adult Services: Cultivating Connection

The Valley Collaborative Adult Program partners with a number of different organizations to provide individuals with both Group Supported Employment and Volunteer opportunities. Beyond the partnerships we hold with organizations in the community, we also highlight specific interests of the individuals and create programming accordingly. One interest many of the individuals continue to identify is gardening and the propagation of flower and plant life. Based on this intrigue, the Valley Adult Program now runs a daily interest exploration site titled "Community Gardening." The Community Gardening crew has established, and maintains, a number of gardens throughout our community, with differing focuses on the plant life being preserved at each site.



JASON ROWE AND DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL ANGELA FISSETTE AT TEWKSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY.



LEFT TO RIGHT: JULIE ANDERSON, ERIK REGO, CAROLYN NOEL AND STACY FRANCIS SHOW OFF NATURE'S BOUNTY.

Behind the Tewksbury Public Library, the focus was twofold. The first area was set up as a vegetable garden. Direct Support Professional Angela Fiset, leaning on her own experience and expertise, created garden beds to enable the growth of a number of vegetables that individuals could take home to share with their families. The vegetables have even been used in cooking lessons for individuals in CBDS programming. The gardening crew cultivated tomatoes, carrots, squash, cucumbers, blueberries, and snap peas. While maintaining the vegetable garden, the Valley crew met a man named John Ryan who runs the Monarch Ranch in Tewksbury. The Monarch Ranch is a nonprofit conservation initiative dedicated to breeding and releasing monarch butterflies, restoring native pollinator habitats, and providing environmental education. John and his team have been incredible in facilitating learning opportunities for our individuals, and have instilled a passion that led to the individuals

wanting to create their own butterfly garden. Angela used a second garden plot behind the Tewksbury Library to do just that.

At the Billerica Housing Authority, Valley has donated both flowers and attention to multiple garden beds on site. Direct Support Professional Christine Joslin supported individuals while tapping into her own passion for horticulture. During the spring and summer, the crew planted marigolds, petunias, zinnias, sunflowers and a number of native grasses.

These gardens have helped to create a welcoming and homey feeling to the people residing in the BHA buildings. Beyond creating the gardens at BHA, Christine also supports Community Gardening crews to establish and maintain plant life within the various Valley Collaborative buildings. Angela and the crew also maintain a vegetable garden outside of the Valley Collaborative Elementary School full of vibrant colors and extensive plant life.

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VALLEY COLLABORATIVE

Adult Services: Cultivating Connection

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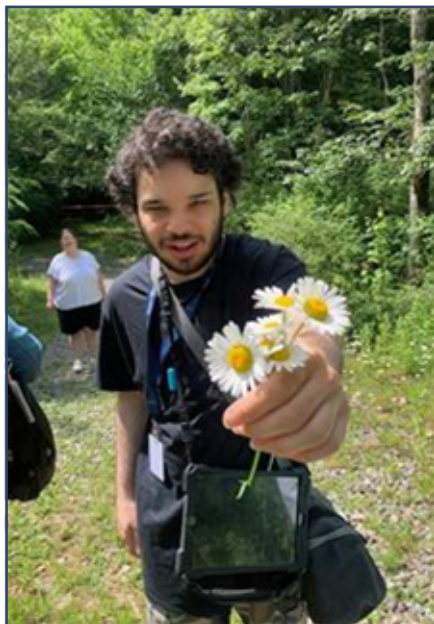
Classrooms, offices, and common spaces throughout the Valley community are green and full of plant life based on the efforts of Angela, Christine, and the Community Gardening crews.

When asked what she likes about the gardens, Julie Anderson responded: “Butterflies! They are pretty!” Julie says she likes gardening because it is something her mom has always done so she has fond memories of doing that with her.

Mike Kempton is also a big fan of the butterflies. “I get to explore the butterfly farm and see how pretty the butterflies are. The Monarch butterflies are yellow and black.”

“I like Community Gardening because it’s fun,” added Erik Rego. “I like to be able to grow plants, especially blueberries and green beans. I’m learning a lot of new things about how to garden different plants.”

TOP: A SELECTION OF VEGETABLES GROWN BY INDIVIDUALS IN VALLEY’S ADULT SERVICES PROGRAM; MIDDLE: NICK BAKER AT THE BILLERICA HOUSING AUTHORITY; BOTTOM: MONARCHS IN VALLEY’S BUTTERFLY GARDEN AT TEWKSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY.



DAMIEN MOJICA GOUVEIA SHOWS OFF SOME FLOWERS.



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Valley Collaborative Board of Directors



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Chairman of the Board,
Executive Committee
Member

Superintendent
Chelmsford Public Schools



Dr. Kerry Clery

Superintendent
Billerica Public Schools



Mr. Steven Stone

Superintendent
Dracut Public Schools



Dr. Geoff Bruno

Superintendent
Groton-Dunstable
Regional School District



Dr. Denise Pigeon

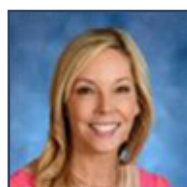
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Member

Superintendent
Nashoba Valley
Technical School District



Mr. Brad Morgan

Superintendent
North Middlesex
Regional School District



**Dr. Nancy
Milligan**

Superintendent
Tewksbury Public Schools



**Mr. Michael
Woodlock**

Superintendent
Tyngsborough Public
Schools



**Dr. Christopher
Chew**

Superintendent
Westford Public Schools

From: [Professional Development](#)
To: [All Valley Collaborative Staff](#)
Subject: RE: September 23, 2026: Early Release PD Offerings
Date: Monday, September 21, 2026 12:53:27 PM

To: Valley Collaborative Employees Working with Students
From: Joia Mercurio, Deputy Director
 Kari Morrin, Director of Human Resources & Title IX Coordinator
 Linda Balfour, Academy Facilitator
Date: September 21, 2026
Re: September 23, 2026 – Early Release Professional Development Day

Valley Collaborative is eager to provide you with high quality professional development on its scheduled professional development early release day: September 23, 2026. Please login to your Vector account and enroll into the offerings that apply to you. For your convenience, they are also listed below. As a reminder, **you will not be able to enroll in a course after its scheduled end time and as such, your participation will not be documented.**

Topic: Building Learner Agency with Feedback and Reflection
Audience: Valley Collaborative Employees Working with Students
Facilitated by: Katie Novak , Educational Consultant, The Novak Group; Nicole Noska, Principal and Nick LeClair, Principal
Location: Valley Middle School, Valley Transitional High School
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Topic: Building Learner Agency with Feedback and Reflection
Audience: Valley Collaborative Employees Working with Students
Facilitated by: Katie Novak, Educational Consultant, The Novak Group and Heather Mackay, Principal
Location: Valley Elementary School
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Topic: Special Education Academy: Module 1: Special Education Classroom Basics, and Supporting Nursing Needs for Students in Special Education

Audience: Out-of-District Settings
 Special Education Assistants (new)
Facilitated by: Virtual/Self-Directed
Location: Valley Program
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Topic: MPY presents: Essential Skills for Speaking Effectively with Students and Colleagues
Audience: Special Education Assistants (returning)
Facilitated by: MPY presenter: Mitch Abblett, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Consultant
Location: Virtual/Self-directed

<https://valleycollaborative-org.zoom.us/j/85715418607?pwd=wvb1EatETjJh3KOWJw2cLNZWQ8b8zE.1>

Time: 1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Topic: MPY presents: The Importance of Adaptive Behavior in Enhancing Self-Sufficiency Skills for Students on the Autism Spectrum

Audience: Special Education Assistants (returning)

Facilitated by: MPY: Celine A. Saulnier, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Founder, Neurodevelopmental Assessment & Consulting Services

Location: Virtual/Self-Directed

<https://valleycollaborative-org.zoom.us/j/82855434124?pwd=RJrRsTQsUbPpqav4dbBHNS6O0g99Fa.1>

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Regards,

Joia Mercurio
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