DATE POSTED:

Town Clerk Use Only

2026 NOV -4 9:33

MEETING NOTICE

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF MGL 30A § 20 Act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency

Marblehead School Committee

Name of Board or Committee

Address: Marblehead High School Library, 2 Humphrey Street, Marblehead, MA 01945

OR

Zoom Conference: https://marbleheadschools-org.zoom.us/j/97886762817?pwd=5hT6kswajICtbJVaC2uYOn1pdiv7fE.1

Meeting ID: 978 8676 2817
Password: 610612
Dial in Phone +1 646 931 3860 US

Thursday	November	5	2026	6:00pm
Day of Week	Month	Date	Year	Time

Agenda or Topics to be discussed listed below (That the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed)

I. Call to Order
   a. Pledge of Allegiance
   b. Commendations
   c. Public Comment
   d. Student Representative

II. District Updates
   a. Superintendent Update
   b. Financial Update
   c. Roof Project Update
   d. District Assessment Update
      i. Brown School MCAS Presentation
      ii. Glover School MCAS Presentation
      iii. Village School MCAS Presentation

III. Consent Action and Agenda Items
   a. Schedule of Bills (vote)
   b. Meeting Minutes: (10/15/26) (vote)
   c. Donations: (vote)

IV. School Committee Communication and Discussion Items

a. Marblehead Public Schools Activity Fees
b. Eveleth School Site Discussion
c. Memorandum of Understanding Quarterly Financial Report Update
d. FY27 School Committee Goals (vote)
e. Policy Updates
    i. Policy IE: Organization of Instruction – RESCIND (vote)
    ii. Policy IHAI: Vocational Educational Program – RESCIND (vote)
    iii. Policy IMA: Teaching Activities/Presentations – RESCIND (vote)
    iv. Policy JKA: Corporal Punishment – RESCIND (vote)
f. Open Meeting Law Complaint, dated October 20, 2026, filed by J. DiPiano (vote)
g. Subcommittee and Liaison Updates

V. Adjournment

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Chairperson: Kate Schmeckpeper
Posted by: Lisa Manning
Date: 11/2/2026

Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

John Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

LisaMarie Ippolito
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Michael Pfifferling
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee

FROM: Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

DATE: November 4, 2026

RE: District Financial Report FY27

- The MPS unexpended/unencumbered balance is $2,709,944 at the end of October in Fiscal Year 2027. This is $1,504,641 less than at the end of September, 2027 and $628,127 less than the same reporting period from last year (October 2025). The year over year comparison is primarily due to not budgeting for the full Special Education OOD Tuition costs in FY27 as we used our FY26 prepaid as an offset to the FY27 Budget.
- The $1.5M difference from September to October reports can be explained as follows:
    - Some of the vacant positions showing in the September report have now been filled and as such, the salary lines are now encumbered. Salary lines do not get encumbered until positions have an actual employee tied to the expense line.
        - Glover School Psychologist
        - District Facilities Director
        - Part-Time Bus Driver
    - The Veterans Middle School Special Education Teacher Line has been manually encumbered. We are still working with Tyler Technologies to identify why this line will not encumber for known salaries. In the September report, we did not manually encumber that line.
    - The FY27 Budget has offsets for 2 teachers to be paid from the Educatious Revolving Account. The September report did not have those 2 educators paid from the Revolving Account. That has been corrected and is reflected in the October 31 report.
    - The Special Education OOD Transportation line had additional encumbrances made to that line. This accounts for $304,960 in unreported expenses from the September to the October reports.
    - The District Facilities Contracted Services and Supplies lines show $111,000 more encumbered / expended from September to October. This is primarily due to the

new Director of Facilities quickly identifying deficiencies in our buildings, and acting to resolve these issues.

  - We have reviewed all salary lines and are still making minor adjustments for encumbrances.

- We continue to work closely with the Special Education Department on OOD tuition and transportation lines as we review move-ins and outplacements (both 45-day evaluations and new full-year placements).
- Items highlighted in Yellow under the "Encumbered" column are manually encumbered as they are difficult to encumber in the Munis System.
- Beginning with the October 31, 2026 report, I have segregated the Salary and Expense lines in each department. This was done to align with how the Town reports salaries, expenses and total expenditures. Knowing that quarterly reports will be given as a condition of the operational override, I felt breaking these out to align with the Town's reports would assist in clarifying expenses. While the School Department is not benefiting from the override in FY27, we will benefit in FY28 and FY29. In doing this breakout, we can see that:
  - 97% of our $39.39M Salary Budget has been expended and/or encumbered (3% remaining).
  - 81% of our 8.23M Expense Budget has been expended and/or encumbered (19% remaining).
  - 94% of our entire $47.62M budget has been expended and/or encumbered (6% remaining).

Attached is the line-by-line report for FY27 expenditures vs budget through October 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,



MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Using Data to Support Every Learner

Office of Teaching and Learning
Marblehead School Committee Presentation
November 5, 2026



District Improvement Plan

Tonight's presentation will highlight our work in the following areas from our District Improvement Plan:

GOAL 1

Curriculum, Instruction and Evaluation

Objective A

To ensure curriculum and instruction are aligned, consistently delivered and continuously improved/enhanced to support the academic and social-emotional well-being of all students.

Objective B

To promote and maintain the District's mission, vision and core values, by reporting disaggregated assessment data to all stakeholders based upon a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS).

GOAL 2

Teacher Quality and Professional Development

Objective A

To provide researched-based instructional strategies across the District that align with DESE standards for highly qualified professional development.

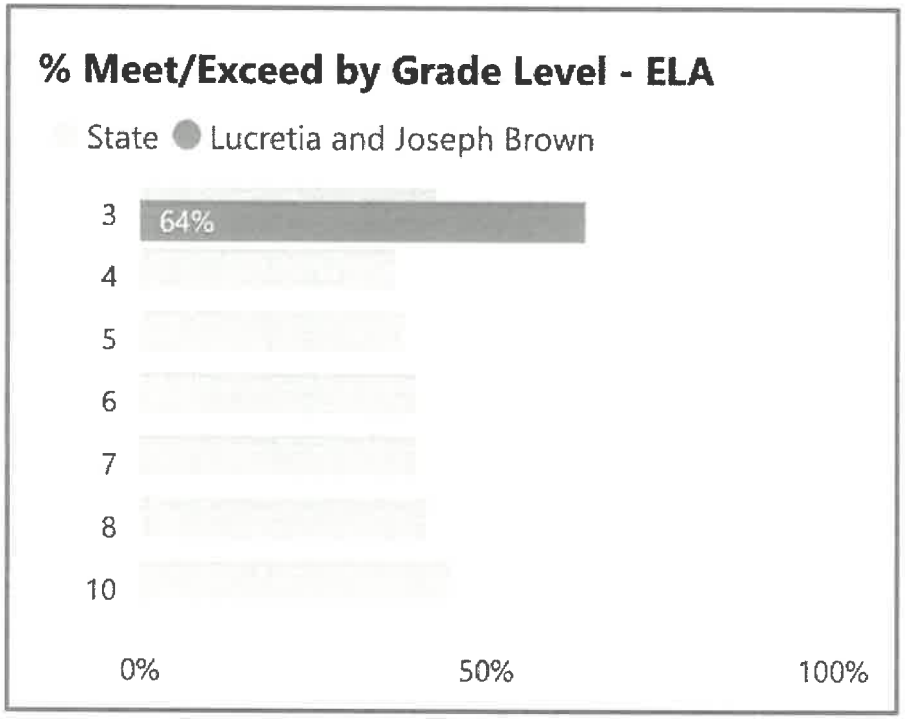
MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

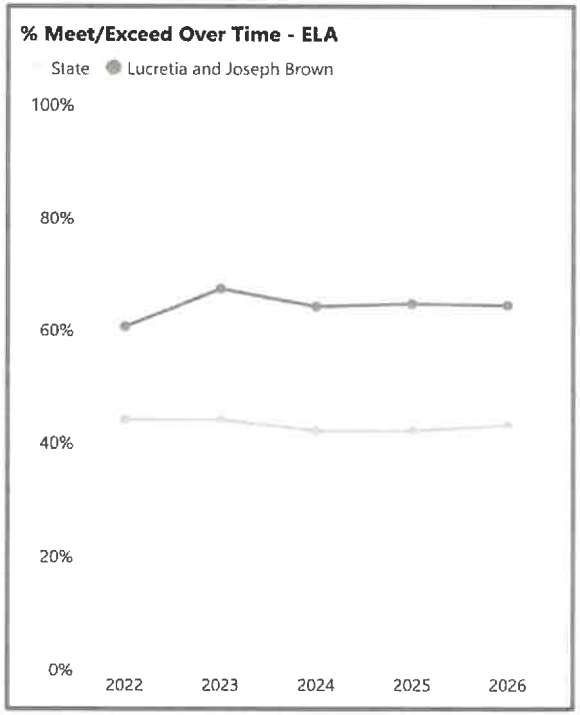
Lucretia and Joseph Brown School

Mary M. Maxfield, Principal

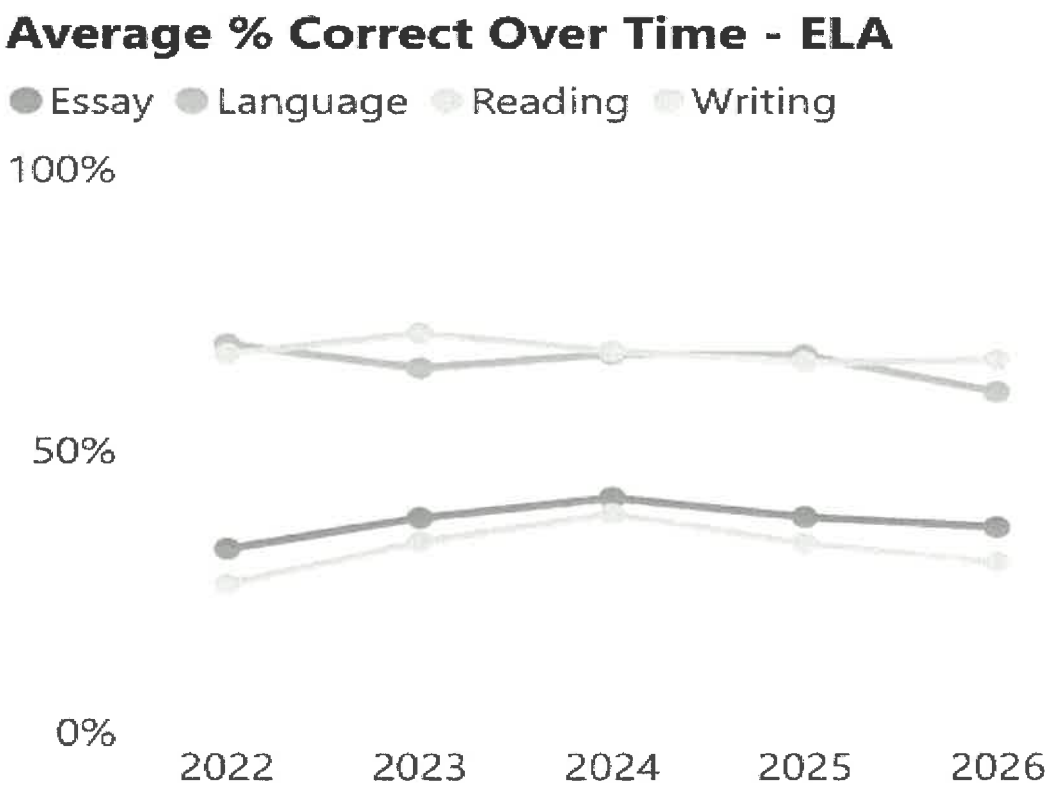
MCAS Presentation 2026

MCAS – ELA 2026



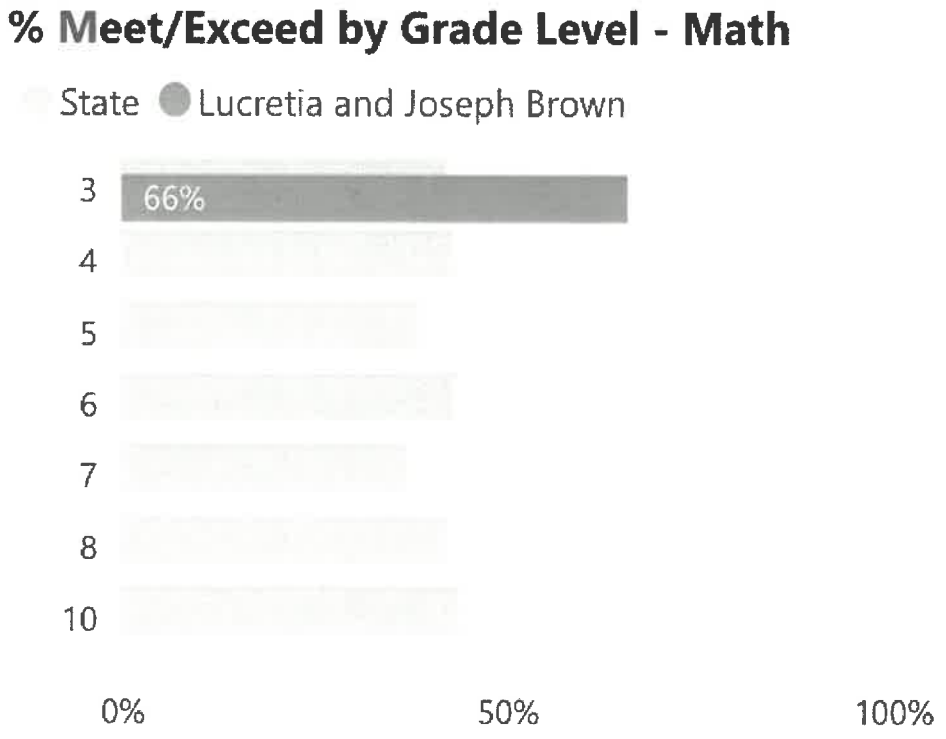


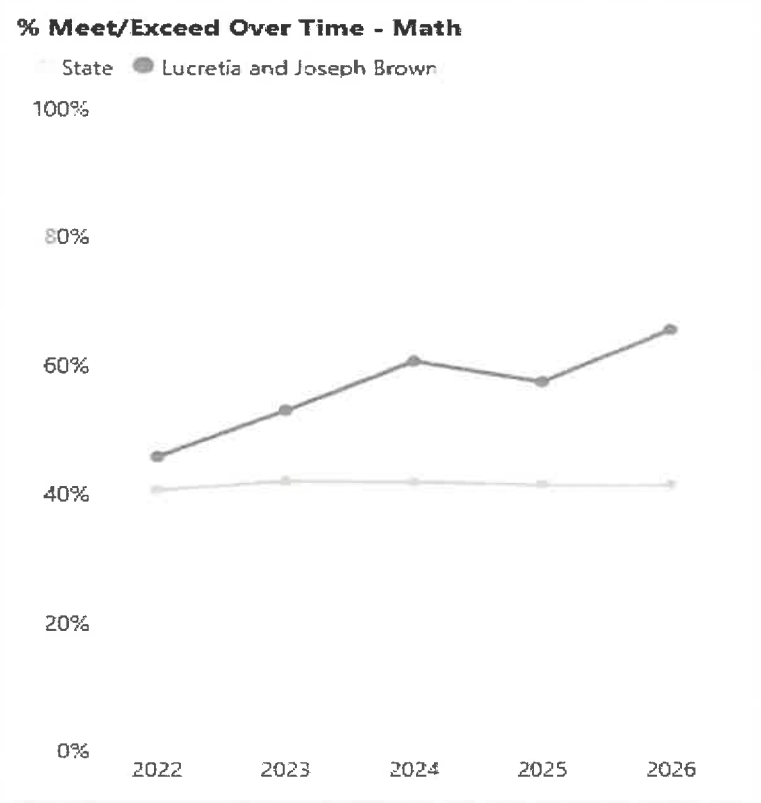
Grade 3 ELA Results Over Time



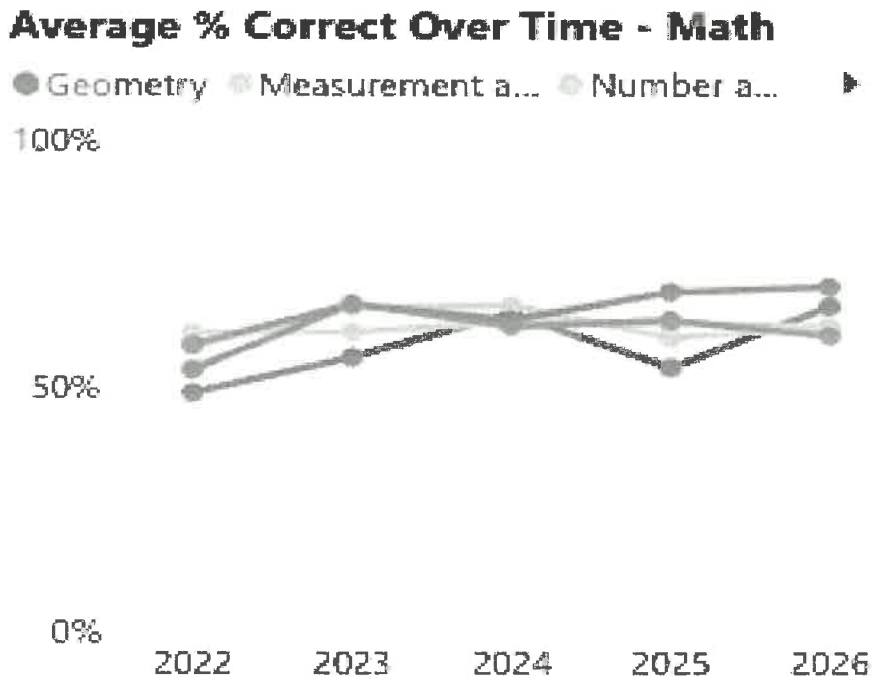
LUCRETIA AND JOSEPH BROWN SCHOOL - MCAS SPRING 2026

MCAS-Math





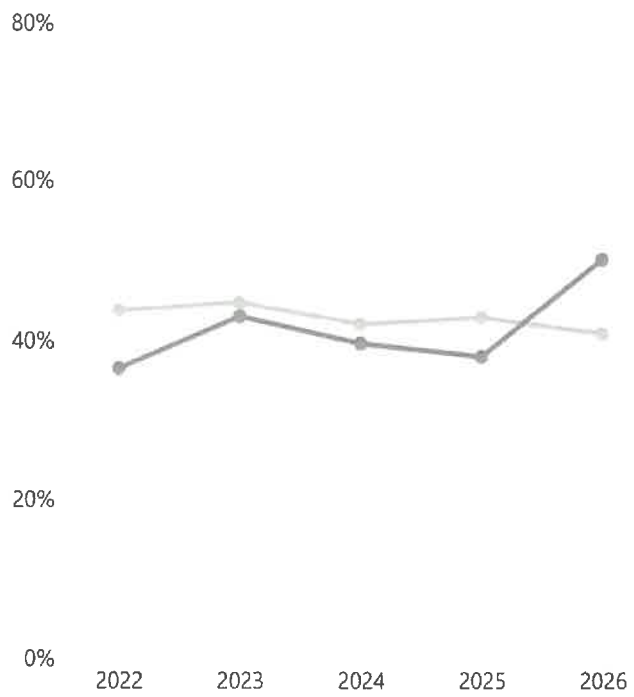
MCAS – Math 2026

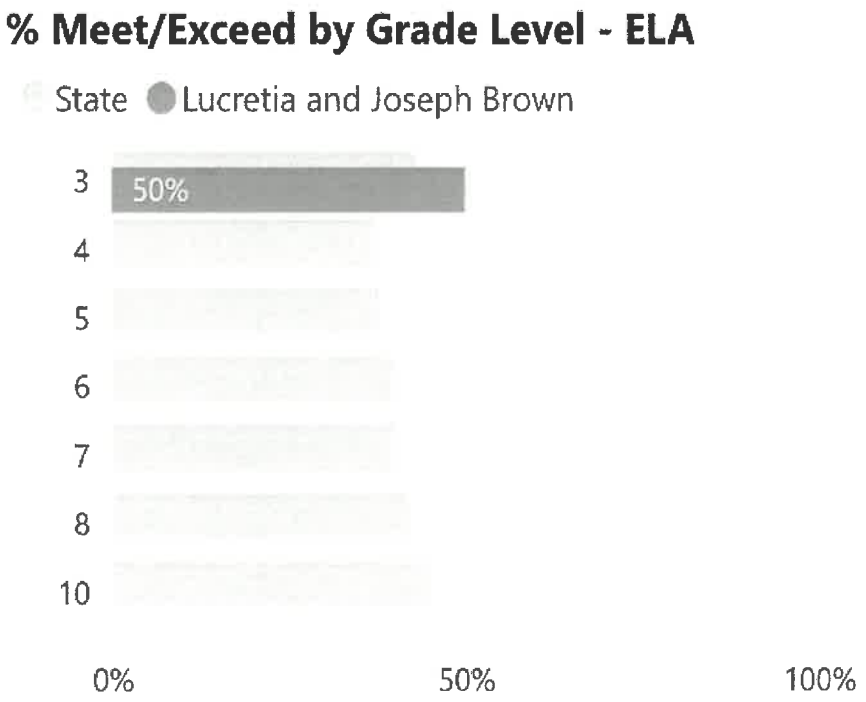


- Geometry
- Measurement and Data
- Number and Operations in Base Ten
- Number and Operations-Fractions
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking

LUCRETIA AND JOSEPH BROWN SCHOOL - MCAS SPRING 2026

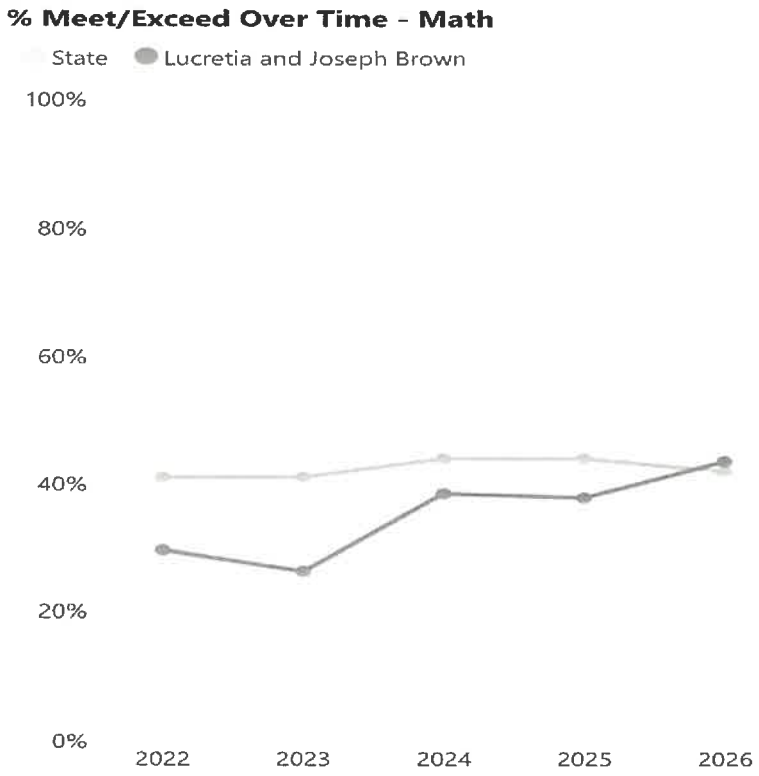
Grade 3 ELA High Needs Results

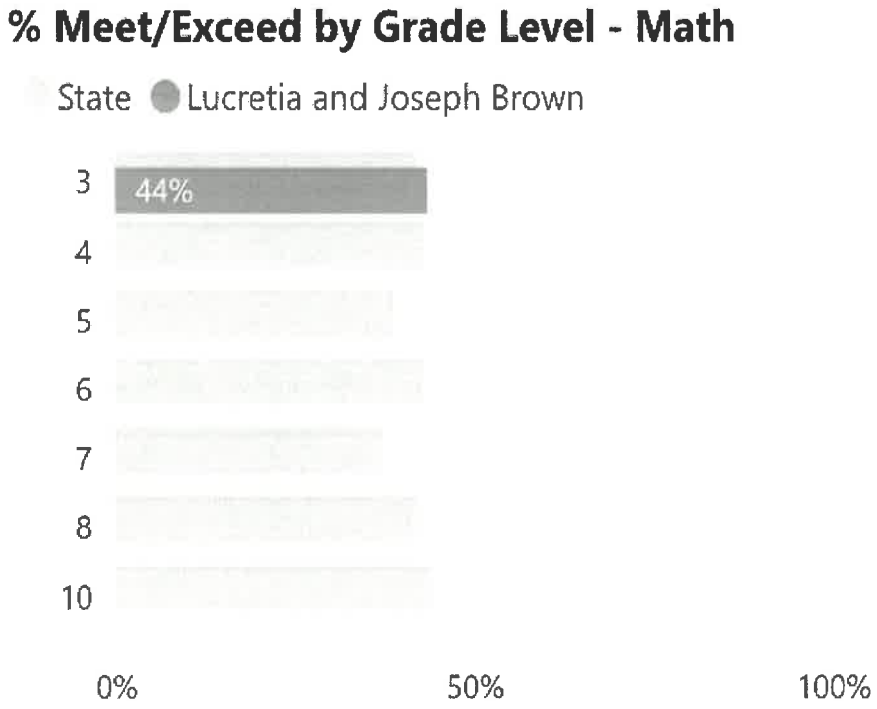




LUCRETIA AND JOSEPH BROWN SCHOOL - MCAS SPRING 2026

Grade 3 MATH High Needs Results





LUCRETIA AND JOSEPH BROWN SCHOOL - MCAS SPRING 2026

Brown Celebrations

ELA

- Maintained strong level of overall proficiency (65%)
- Outperform state average by 23 percentage points (41% vs 64%)
- Significant growth in our High Needs subgroup 38% to 50% proficient
- Strong achievement (74%) in the subcategory of Reading
- Top 18% of 916 Public Elementary Schools

MATH

- Significant growth in overall achievement from 58% proficient to 66%
- Outperform state average by 20 percentage points (44% vs 66%)
- Significant Increase in Geometry Domain (54%-66%)
- Increased Achievement for High Needs (22%) subgroup (Title I efforts included increased teacher coaching and student tutoring efforts -38% to 50%)
- Top 17% of MA Public Elementary Schools

Brown Areas of Growth

ELA-Next steps:

<u>Preliminary Item analysis</u>

- Writing in response to Reading
- 7 Students within 5 points-ELA
- 14 within 10 points

<u>Focus on Interventions</u>

  - Using MCAS rubrics to assess common assessments to calibrate our scoring in PLCs
  - Integrating writing needs into the WIN time for third graders
- Learning Walks with a focus on Student Engagement

Math-Next Steps:

<u>Preliminary Item analysis</u>

- N and O in Fractions and in Base 10
  - Universal Screener for number sense
- Cuspy scores are significant
  - 4 students within 1 point of proficiency
  - 5 students within 5 points

<u>Focus on Interventions</u>

- Unit Test Item Analysis and Interventions
- Job embedded PD for our teachers around appropriate math interventions

Brown Progress

Core Instruction Progress

Tier 1 Core Curricula
Adopted, Horizontally and Vertically Aligned Instruction, and Common Assessments:

- ☑ **ELA -Wit and Wisdom**
- ☑ **Math-Illustrative Math**
- ☑ **Science-Mystery Science**

Ongoing:

- **Team Goals Data-Driven and Aligned**
- **Ongoing Assessment Calibration**

MTSS - SEL

Tier 1-Adopted Horizontally and Vertically Aligned Core Curriculum

- ☑ **Wayfinder**

<u>Next Steps:</u>
Standards Aligned (CASEL) Instruction, Common *Assessments, and system of supports

Align Implementation of Common Tier 1 Supplemental Supports

- **Responsive Classroom**
- **PBIS**

MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

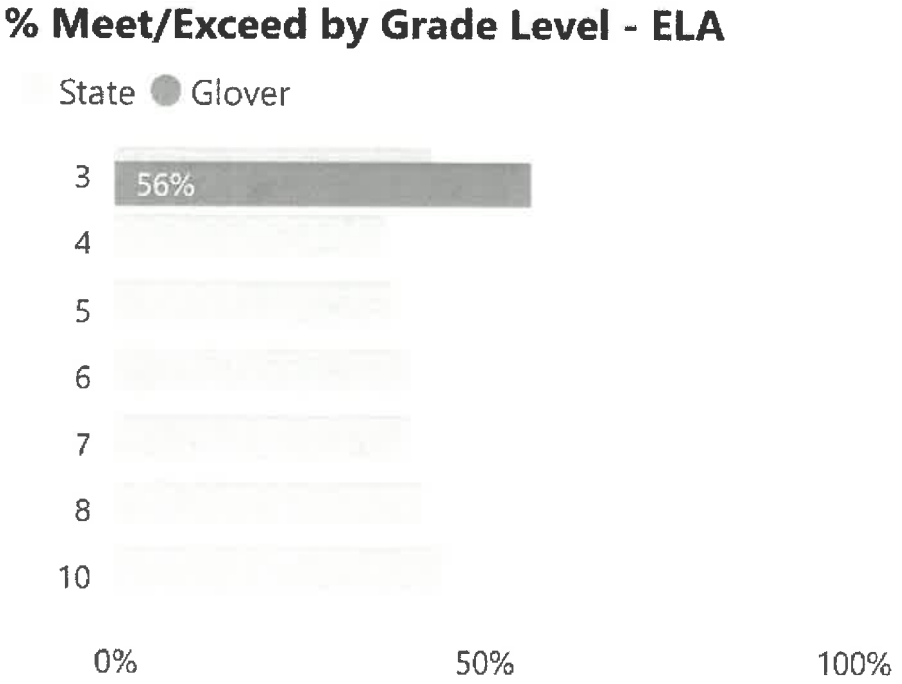
Glover School

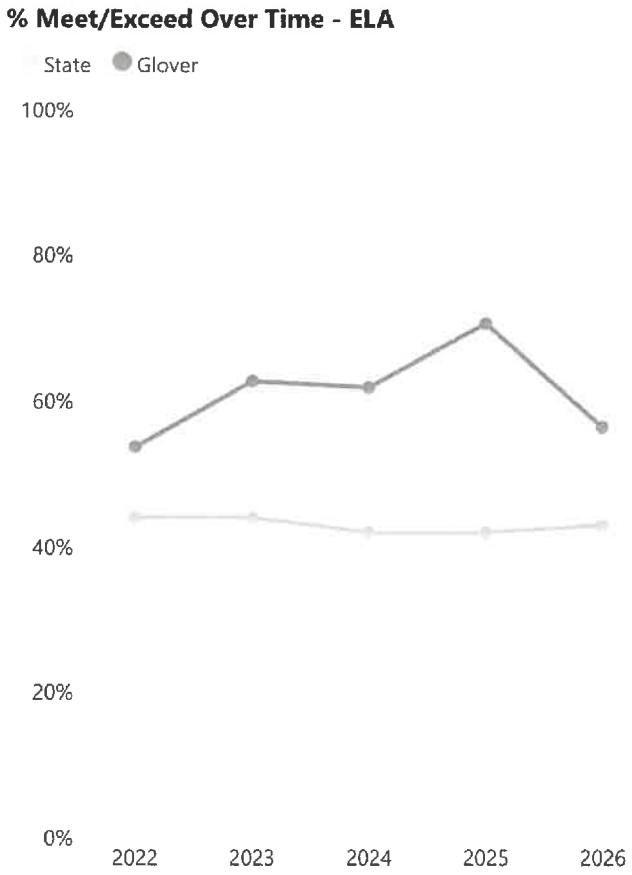
Mary LeBlanc, Principal

MCAS Presentation 2026

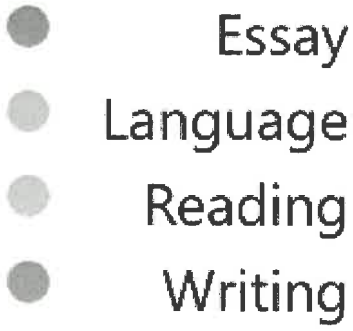
GLOVER SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

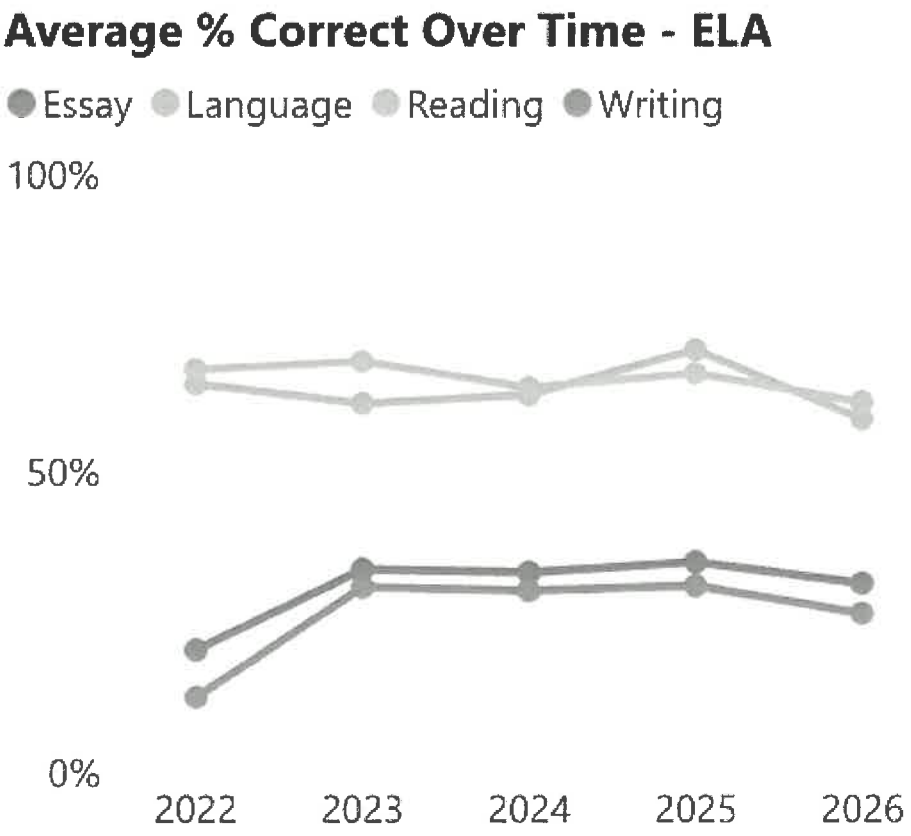
Grade 3 ELA Results





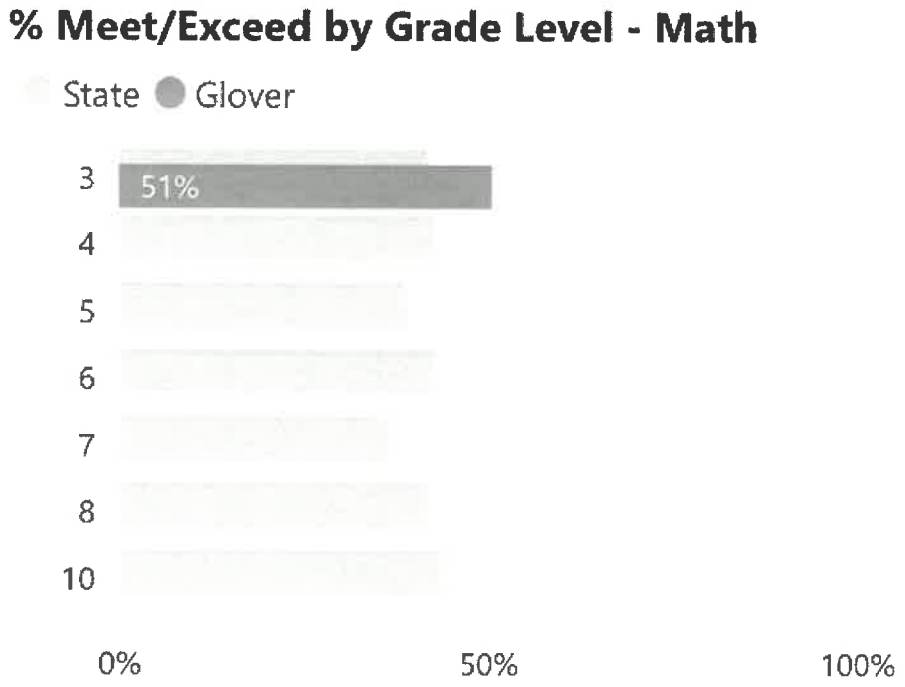
Grade 3 ELA Results Over Time

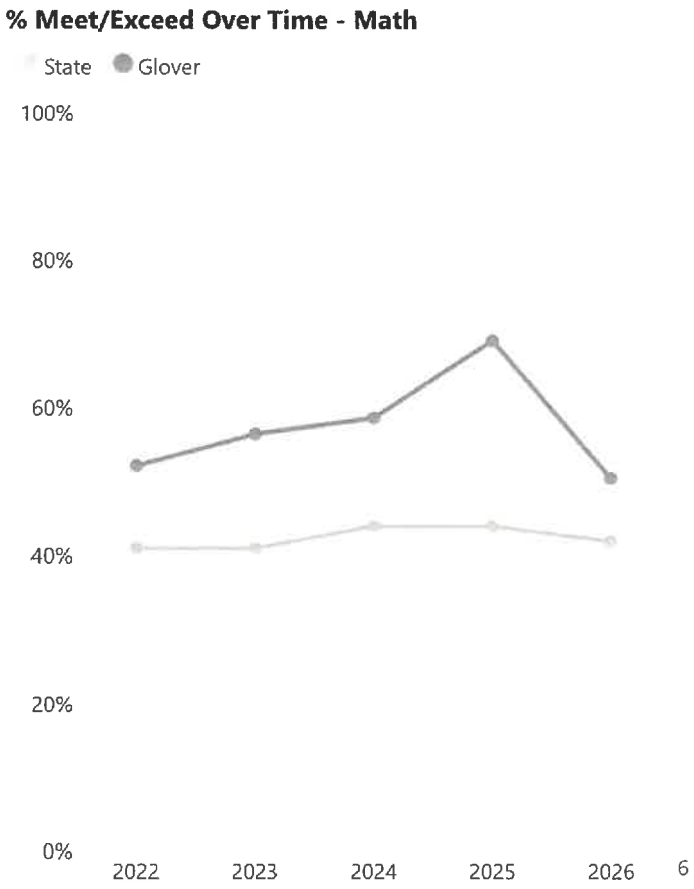




GLOVER SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

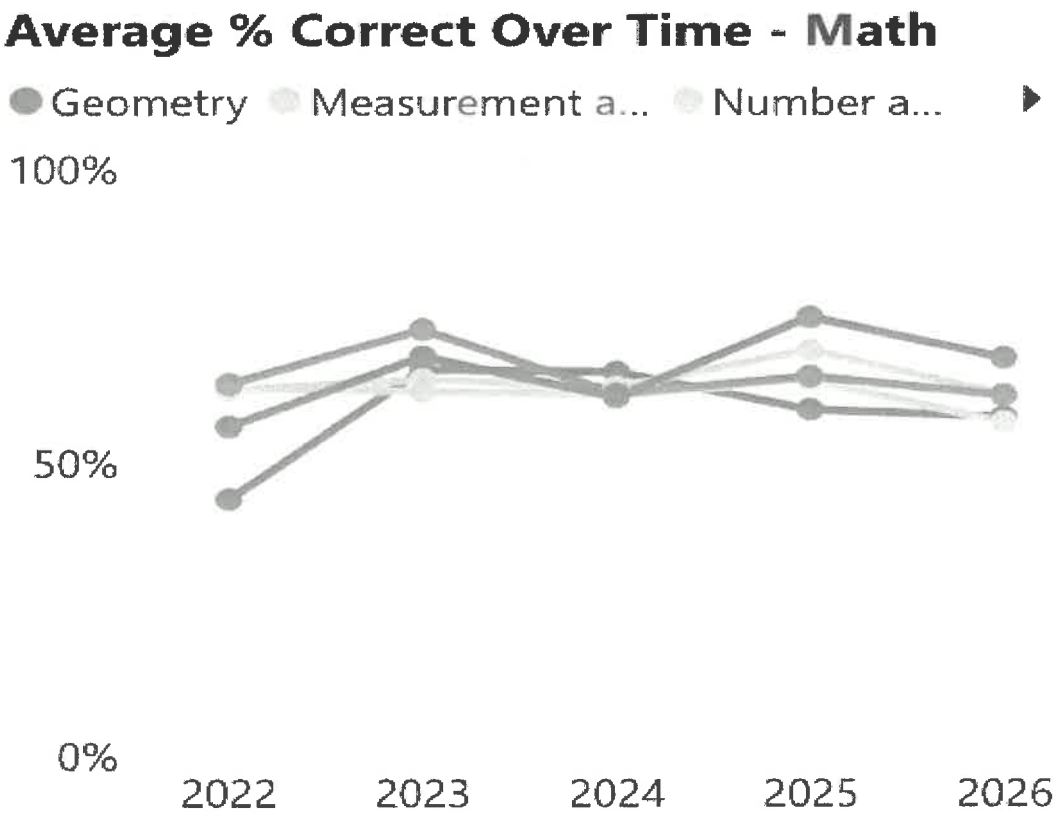
Grade 3 MATH Results





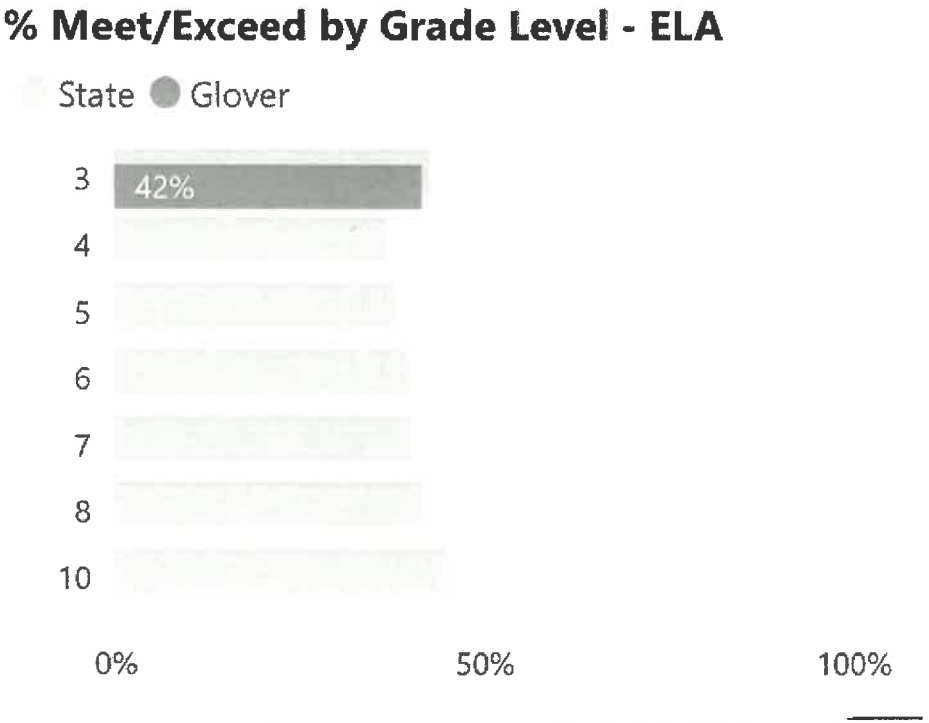
Grade 3 Math Results Over Time

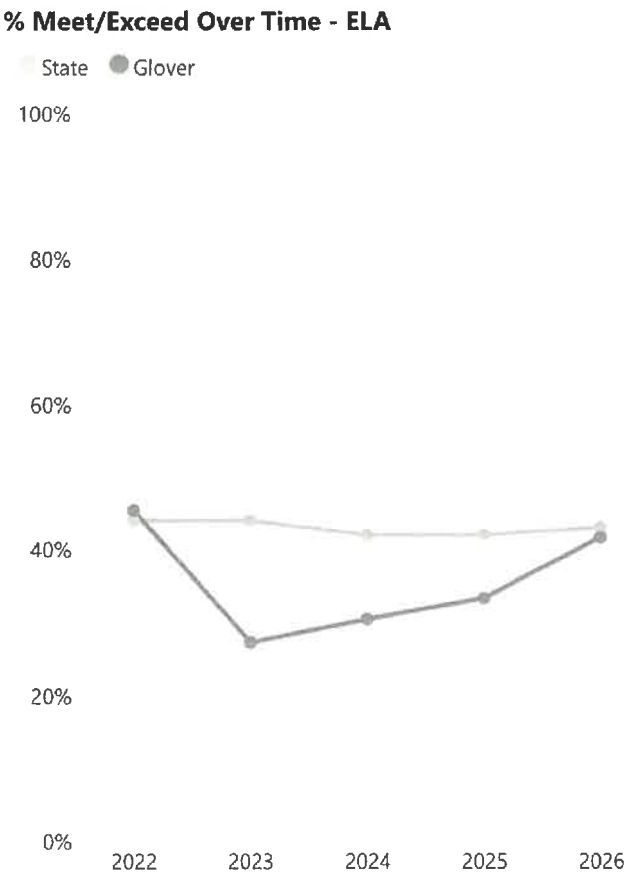
- Geometry
- Measurement and Data
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GLOVER SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

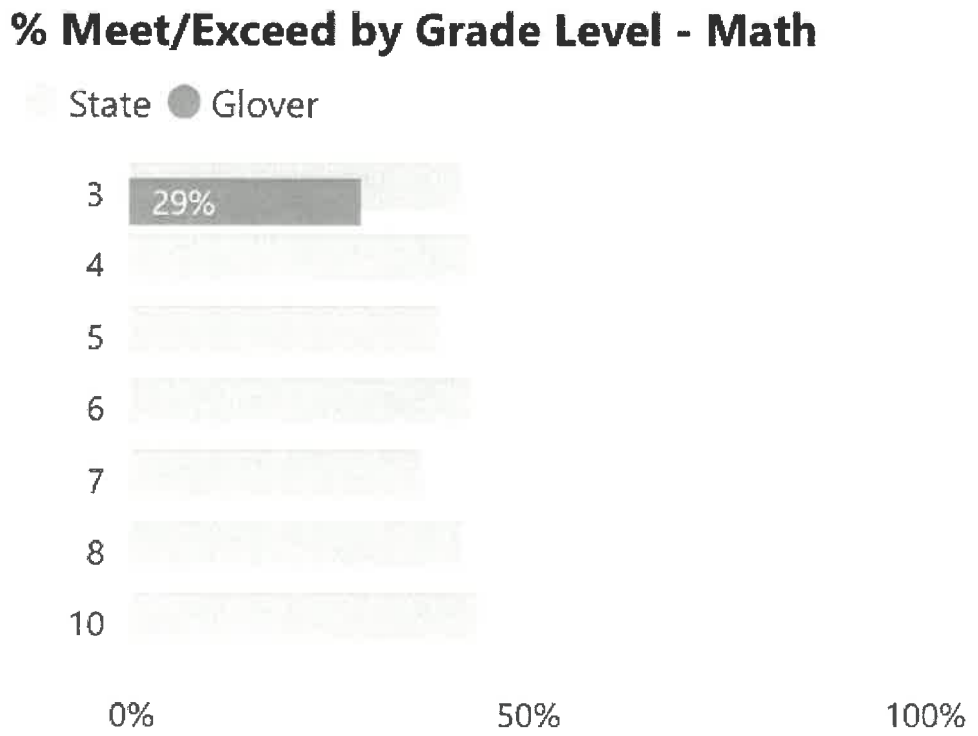
Grade 3 ELA High Needs Results

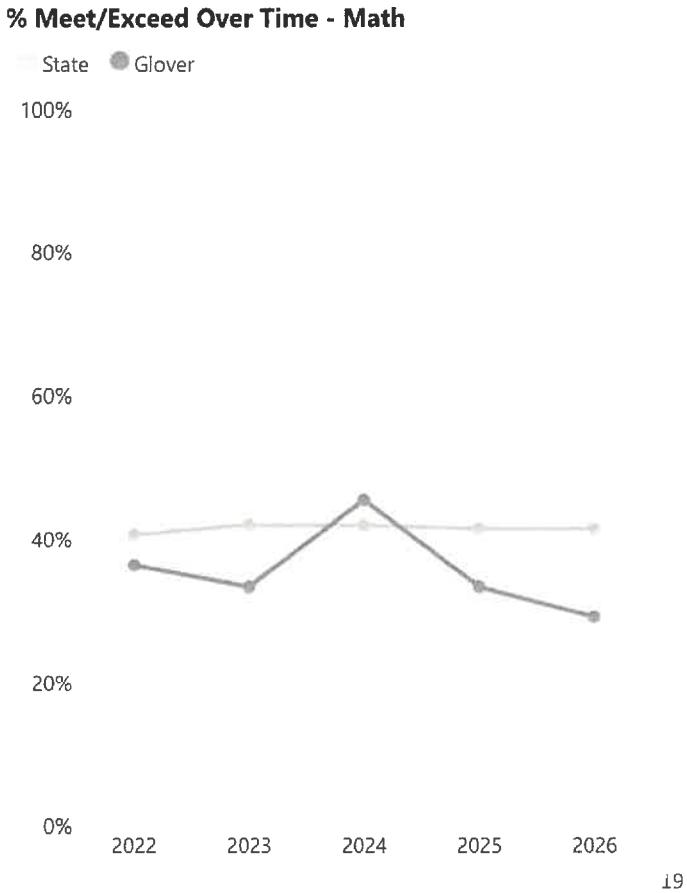




GLOVER SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

Grade 3 MATH High Needs Results





Strengths

ELA:

- We outperformed the state in the reading, language, and essay domains
- 9 of our students were within 5 points of meeting expectations
- We have seen steady increases in performance from 2022 - 2026 for our high needs students

Math:

- We outperformed the state in all math domains
- 10 of our students were within 5 points of meeting expectations
- We have improved Geometry by 14 percentage points since 2022

Glover Areas of Growth

ELA:

Writing:

- In PLCs teachers and coaches are paying particular attention to writing instruction this school year to provide students with appropriate feedback and interventions. This includes grammar and syntax.

Reading:

- Teacher teams are looking at comprehension data and providing students with opportunities to build on comprehension strategies.

Math:

Building systems for Math Interventions and monitoring growth

- Piloting a universal Math Screener that pinpoints students needs for tier 2/3 interventions
- Job embedded PD for our teachers around appropriate math interventions
- Adopting "Do the Math" for students that require pull-out math instruction

Glover Progress

Core Instruction Progress:

- Year 4 for Wit & Wisdom ELA curriculum and year 6 of Illustrative Math curriculum.
- Year 2 of a new Science Program focused on fostering active, inquiry-based learning that builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

MTSS Progress:

- Year 3 with DIBELS benchmarking.
- Piloting the Universal Screener for Number Sense at grades K and 1 to provide targeted tier 2/3 interventions.
- Creating MTSS-B and SEL.

MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

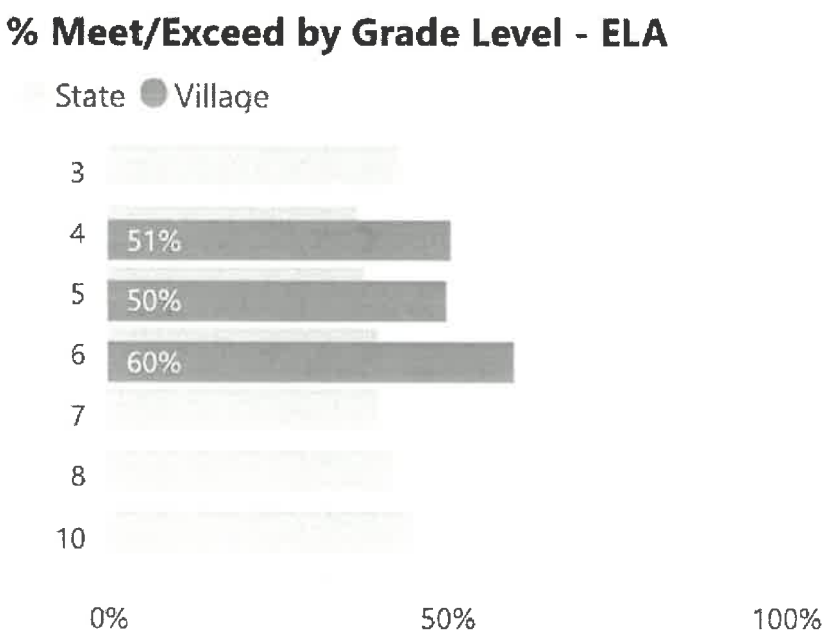
Village School

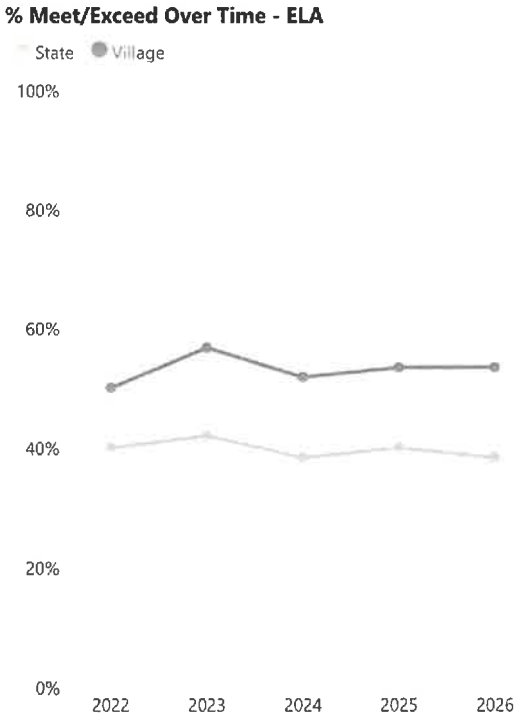
Scott Williams, Principal

MCAS Presentation 2026

VILLAGE SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

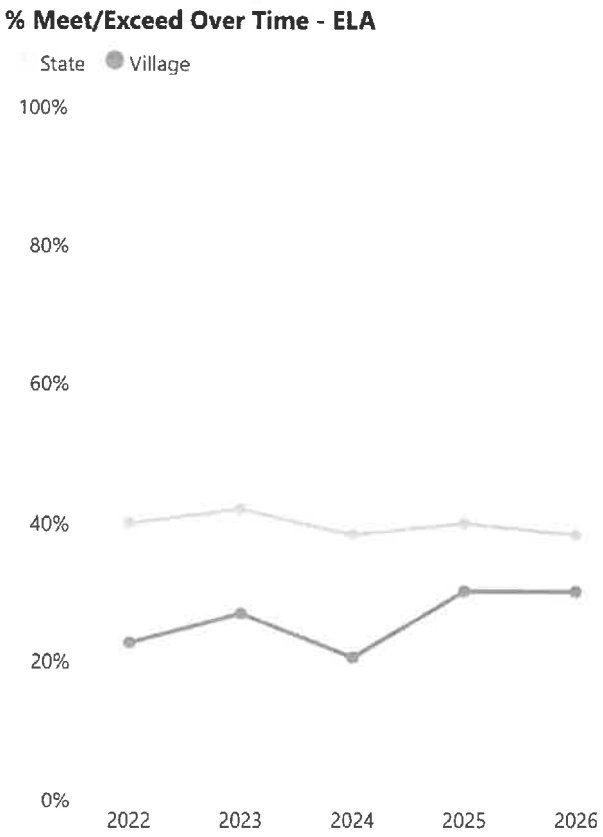
Grades 4-6 ELA 2026

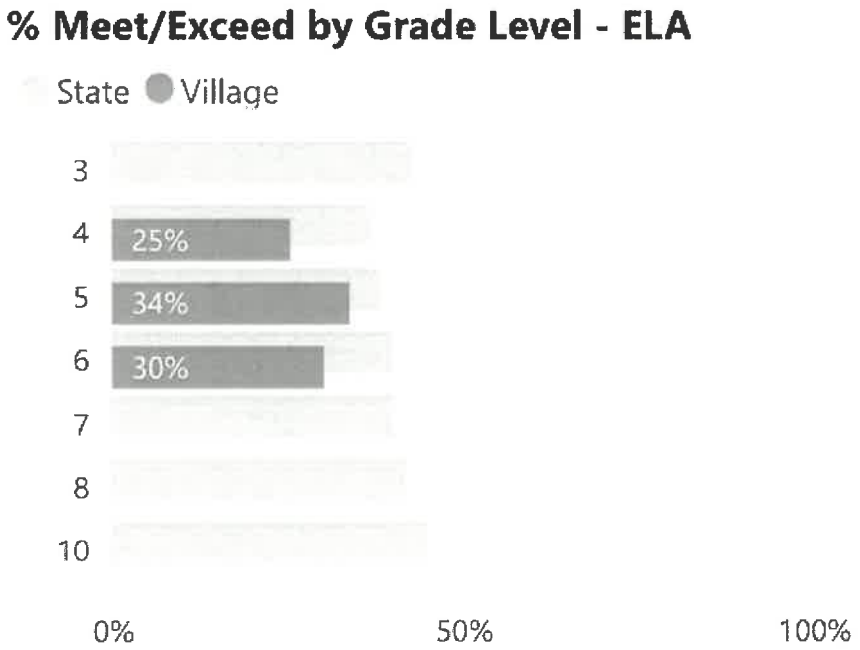




VILLAGE SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

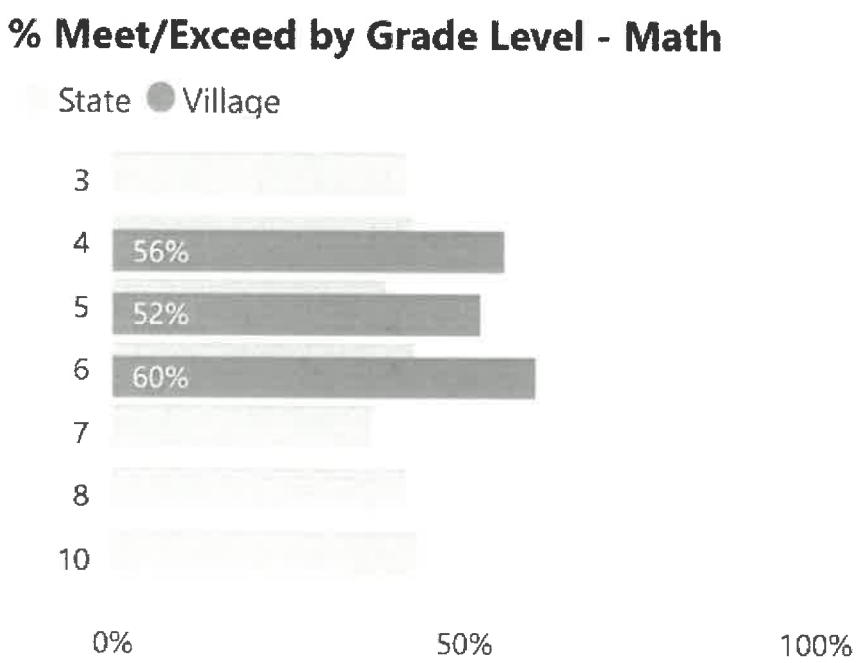
Grade 4-6 ELA High Needs Results

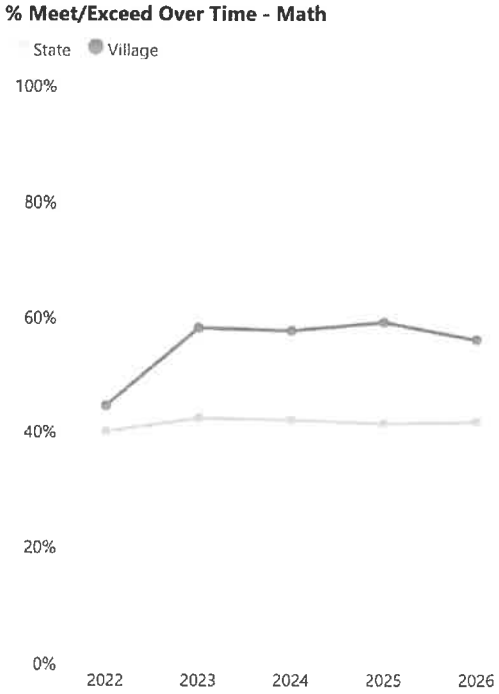




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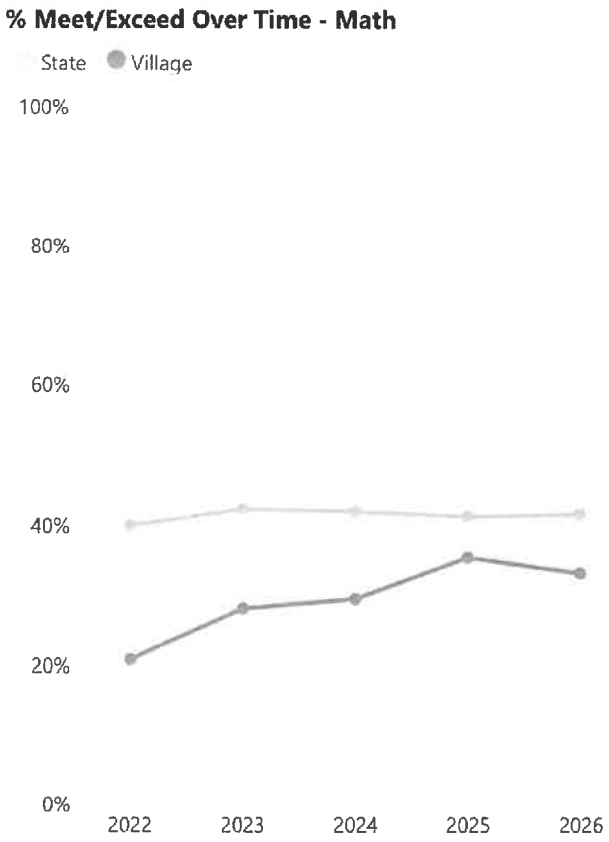
Grades 4-6 Math 2026

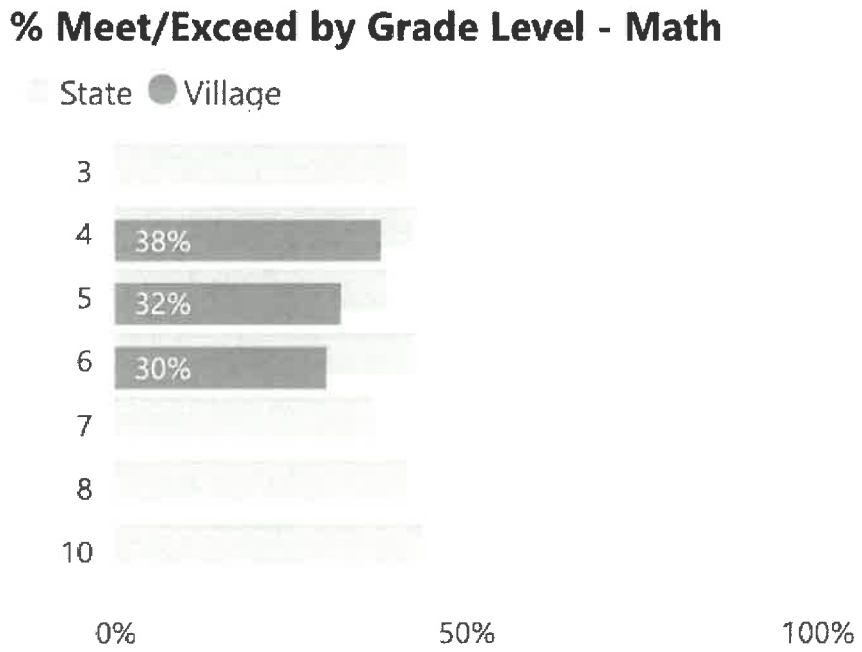




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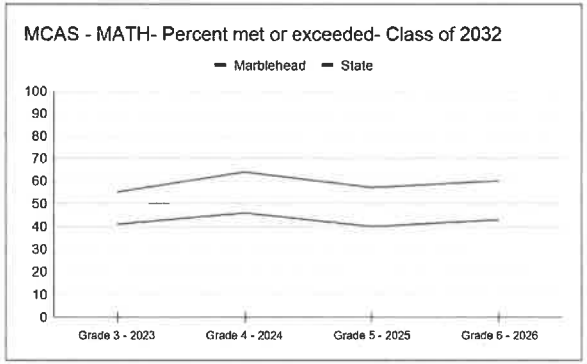
Grade 4-6 Math High Needs Results



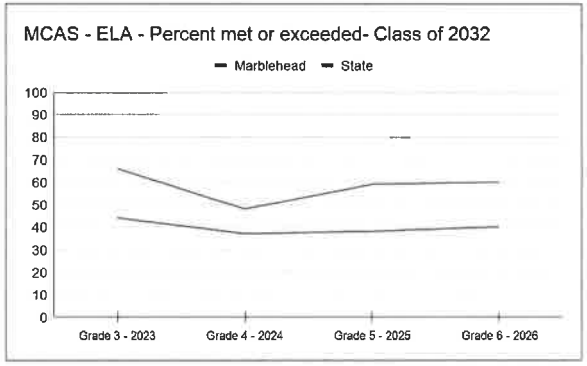


3rd-6th Grade Growth – Math and ELA

MCAS Math Class of 2032	Grade 3 2023	Grade 4 2024	Grade 5 2025	Grade 6 2026
Met and Exceeded	55%	65%	56%	60%
Exceeded	9%	9%	8%	9%
Met	46%	56%	48%	51%
Partially Met	37%	27%	35%	34%
Did Not Meet	8%	8%	8%	6%

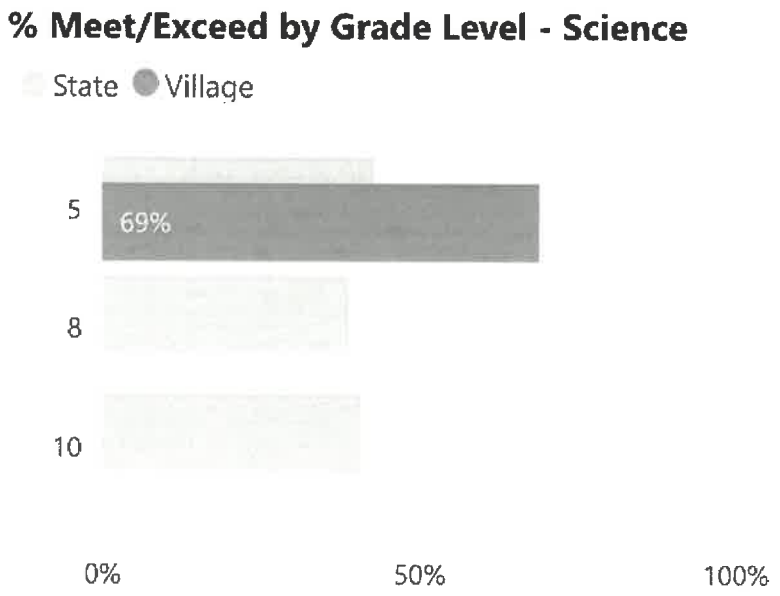


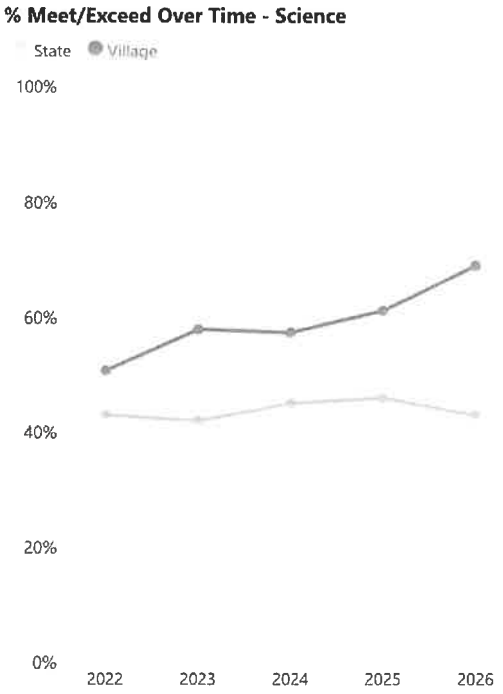
MCAS ELA Class of 2032	Grade 3 2023	Grade 4 2024	Grade 5 2025	Grade 6 2026
Met and Exceeded	66%	48%	59%	60%
Exceeded	9%	3%	6%	9%
Met	57%	45%	53%	51%
Partially Met	28%	42%	38%	29%
Did Not Meet	6%	10%	3%	11%



VILLAGE SCHOOL · MCAS SPRING 2026

MCAS – STE 2026





Village Areas of Growth

Examples of work that is being done during Village School PLCs

4th grade teachers are working on: strengthening students' automaticity of applying strategies when recalling math facts

5th grade Science teachers are working on: continuing work implementing the Inspire Science curriculum in grades 5 & 6.

5th grade ELA teachers are working on: strengthening best practices for writing instruction with a focus on developing strong computation, sentence, and grammar skills.

6th grade math teachers are working on: strengthening students' ability to express mathematical reasoning verbally and in writing.

6th Grade Social Studies teachers are working on: implementing new units of the Investigating History curriculum.

The whole school has united to: create shared reading opportunities through the creation of Marblehead Youth Readers.

Village Teachers are also participating in: a shared reading of *The Digital Delusion* to explore a research-backed look at how EdTech impacts children's brains, cognitive development, and academic scores.

Village Celebrations

School Strength: Intentional work has been happening during PLCs to improve and align instruction which has resulted in increased student learning.

4th Grade Celebration:

ELA Highlight: 11% increase in students meeting writing expectations on MCAS and they increased the state differential by 6%

4th grade teachers worked together during PLC's to strengthen and align instructional practices for paragraph and essay writing.

5th Grade Celebration:

Science Highlight : 5th graders scored in the top 12% of all districts in MA (38th out of 315 districts)

5th Grade teachers focused on implementing a new science program. during PLC's. Time was spent analyzing past practices, incorporating new instructional materials, and creating aligned assessments.

6th Grade Celebrations

ELA Highlight: 6th Grade ELA performance is in the top 20% of all districts in MA, with a specific strength in reading comprehension skills.

6th grade teachers also worked together during PLC's to strengthen and align instructional practices for paragraph and essay writing.

Schoolwide Math Celebration: Continued focus on developing a strong MTSS system and continued work by the Village School teachers, has resulted in only 4% of our students not meeting on MCAS for Math in grades 4-6.

Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

Dr. John Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

LisaMarie Ippolito
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Michael Pfifferling
Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marblehead School Committee
FROM: Michael Pfifferling, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations
DATE: November 5, 2026
RE: Schedule of Bills for Approval

Included in this packet are the following Schedules of Bills for your consideration. The schedules and invoices have been uploaded to the shared drive.

Schedule	Amount
1027S27-CF-FS	$46,085.43
1027S27-DW-MSR	$396,745.90
1027S27-KG-SS	$18,330.96
1027S27-LM-FAC	$49,422.12
1110S27-MSR-NATIONAL GRID	$8,938.12
Total	**$519,522.53**

Suggested Motion:

Motion to approve the identified schedules of bills totaling $519,522.53 as presented

Marblehead School Committee
Chair: Kate Schmeckpeper
Meeting Date, Time & Location: Thursday, October 15th, 2026, 6pm, Marblehead High School Library, 2 Humphrey St., Marblehead, MA 01945
SC Members Present: A. Williams, AM. Jordan, K. Schmeckpeper, H. Gwazda, M. Clucas
SC Members Absent:
Agenda/Materials: Link
Meeting Recording: Link
Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Henry Gwazda

Opening, Tribute to Owen Coyne, and Commendations (00:01:00–00:04:00)

a. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. A tribute was given to Owen Coyne, class of 2027, who passed away unexpectedly earlier in the month, and a moment of silence was held.

- His track and field coach Nolan Ramos was quoted as saying "he is the best of us."
- Community members were encouraged to read tributes from Owen's family and friends.

c. Commendations were offered to Principal Michele Carlson, Director of Counseling Christine Tchaikovsky, Allison House, Assistant Principals Dan Richards and Sean Sweetie, school resource officers, and school counselors for their support.

Public Comment and Student Representative Report (00:04:00–00:05:00)

a. The committee opened public comment, and no one signed up to speak either in person or on Zoom.

- Student representative Alex Murray reported the school is in a pretty good place overall.
- Alex Murray noted there were still ongoing problems with the roof.

Superintendent and District Updates (00:05:00–00:10:00)

a. Superintendent John Robidoux presented the superintendent update, expressing pride in serving the community and acknowledging community support for the Coyne family.

- The Brown School Monster Mash was postponed from Friday to the following Friday, the 23rd, due to weather.
- Glover School will hold its annual trunk-or-treat next Friday.

b. District highlights included school programs and donations.

- Glover received new PTO-donated playground equipment, described as wildly successful; Village School continues the Marblehead Youth Reader Program reading Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss-Bertman, with the author visiting the district, and holds its annual vocabulary parade October 29th.

Enrollment Update (00:10:00–00:34:00)

a. The committee received an enrollment presentation comparing the end of the 2025-26 school year to the start of 2026-27 and to current data as of October 12, supported by enrollment data slides by school, an enrollment by grade level slide, and a total district enrollment narrative slide.

- Marblehead High School ended last year at 613, grew to 778 at the start of the year following 185 graduates, and stood at 768.

b. It was reported that 26 students have left the district since the school year started.

- Of those, 9 went to private school, 11 to public schools in-state, 4 moved out of state or country, and 2 out of district.

c. The committee discussed factors affecting enrollment.

- Kindergarten numbers may rise next year when kindergarten becomes tuition-free.
- Trends were attributed to low birth rates, an aging population, and limited new family housing in Marblehead.

d. Long-term district-wide enrollment projections were reported to remain fairly consistent over the next 8 to 10 years, with a slight increase expected toward the 8-to-10-year mark.

e. Action items identified:

- A committee member requested additional analysis of enrollment patterns between kindergarten and first grade, including whether students leave the district at that transition. Superintendent Robidoux agreed to look into the data.
- A high school open house is being set up in the next few weeks; Essex Tech will present to middle schoolers soon.

District Assessment and MCAS Data Presentation (00:34:00–01:46:00)

a. Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning Julia Ferreira presented a district assessment update and the high school MCAS data, filling in for Principal Michele Carlson, who is recovering.

- The presentation was linked to the District Improvement Plan and the district's multi-tiered systems of support and professional learning communities.
- Elementary leaders will present their MCAS data in two weeks.

b. The committee reviewed the assessment tools used to screen and monitor students.

- Universal screeners include DIBELS, iReady, and IXL; a Universal Number Sense Screener was added for math.
- K-3 reading comprehension ended last year with 87.1% of students at or above grade level across both schools.

c. IXL growth data was reported for grades 4-8, with a target of roughly 100 points of growth per year.

- Grades 4-6 math averaged over 106 points of growth; 8th grade showed 86 points in math and 75 in ELA by January.

d. High school PLC time has been doubled to at least two hours per month, compared with one to two hours weekly at the K-8 level.

e. District-wide MCAS results showed grades 3-8 above the state average in every subject area, with growth in science at grades 5 and 8 and strong 8th grade civics results.

- A new science, technology, and engineering curriculum in its first year was credited with the science gains.

f. Committee members raised concern about a downward trend in high school ELA results, particularly writing and essay scores.

- Ferreira noted the decline began before the 2024 policy change ending MCAS as a graduation requirement, citing percentages of 67, 80, 76, 53, and 49.
- Released student essays will be analyzed by teachers to identify patterns.

g. Student Representative Alex stated that MCAS data may no longer be accurate because many students, including high performers, did not take the test seriously after it stopped being a graduation requirement, and that the Adams Scholarship was not a sufficient incentive.

- Superintendent John Robidoux said student input should inform what incentives or changes could shift that mindset.

h. Ferreira reported that the district was previously classified as needing assistance at the high school level due to attendance and low participation but has since moved out of that status, with only moderate progress toward growth targets overall.

i. Subgroup results under the 2024 Student Opportunities Act plan were reviewed, covering 19 English learners and students with disabilities.

- Special education scale scores were above state averages, with higher averages at Brown and Glover; members asked how those gains would be sustained in later grades.

j. Veterans Middle School Principal Matthew LeVangie reported growth across ELA, math, science, and civics.

- 7th grade ELA 59% and 8th grade 71% meeting or exceeding; math 64% and 74%, an increase of 16 points in 8th grade.
- Science was 62% (+14) and civics 66% (+8); IEP student growth rose in both 7th and 8th grade.

k. The committee identified several follow-up items.

- Ferreira will investigate benchmarking other districts' IXL and assessment data, and will look into biology MCAS performance by course level.
- High school educators will use the November 3rd PD day for MCAS work and Wayfinder training; Ferreira will return with an updated presentation on MCAS trends and additional metrics.

Consent Agenda and Action Items (01:46:00–01:48:00)

a. The committee took up the consent agenda and action items, consisting of three items presented for a single vote.

- The identified schedule of bills totaled $644,354.19.
- Also included were meeting minutes from October 1st, 2026 and October 8th, 2026, and a donation of playground equipment from the Glover PTO.

b. During discussion, two edits to the October minutes were requested and accepted.

- Because the minutes were drawn from a YouTube recording that started late, a note was added that the meeting was called to order at 6 PM.
- A link to the Metco video referenced in the minutes was added, as the minutes discussed it without providing a link.

c. A motion was made by Al Williams and seconded by Henry Gwazda to approve the schedule of bills totaling $644,354.19, the meeting minutes from October 1st and October 8th, 2026, and a donation of playground equipment from the Glover PTO.

- The motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Formative Evaluation (01:48:00–02:03:00)

a. The committee held an informal round of individual verbal feedback on the superintendent's formative evaluation, going goal by goal.

- Committee members informally discussed progress on the superintendent's goals, with several members describing progress as proficient and suggesting exemplary performance in family and community engagement. No formal evaluation rating was adopted during the discussion.
- Committee member Al Williams requested more quantitative data, such as surveys, to measure the impact of learning walks.

b. Suggestions were offered on broadening the measures used for the goals.

- Al Williams suggested academic measures beyond MCAS, including ACT, PSAT, and SAT scores.
- Al Williams asked that teacher retention data be followed by improvement plans and feedback from all employees, not only licensed educators.

c. Members praised the superintendent's role in passing the override funding and community engagement work, including anti-discrimination and student safety efforts, and requested continued data-driven updates, particularly on teaching and learning growth trends.

FY Budget Planning Process (02:03:00–02:24:00)

a. Superintendent John Robidoux outlined a proposed FY budget planning roadmap, which the committee broadly agreed to as a framework.

- The process would run roughly seven formal meetings from budget subcommittee review through town meeting.
- The district now knows its available funding, so no pie-in-the-sky or level-funded alternatives were needed.

b. The committee discussed when members not on the budget subcommittee would first see the proposed budget.

- Concern was raised that a January first look was late; agreement was reached to share information earlier if possible.
- A subcommittee member noted she planned to step away for about a month for family leave; the timeline would stay flexible.

c. The committee agreed to involve FinCom earlier than in prior years, building on last year's foundational work.

- Quarterly MOU review meetings with FinCom and the select board were expected to address some concerns in advance.
- Members noted this year would not require the level of rebuilding work done last year.

d. Members asked that budget presentations include storytelling and context behind the numbers, not just spreadsheet figures.

- Robidoux noted the district was not facing a scenario such as cutting $4.7 million from the budget.
- Action items: finalize allocations with Michael Pfifferling and Kristin Morello before Pfifferling leaves; schedule the first budget subcommittee meeting the week of November 9th; and ask how many students use pay-to-ride transportation.

MASC Conference Delegate (02:24:00–02:26:00)

a. The committee considered whether to appoint a delegate for the MASC conference coming up in early November, an item it had not previously taken up.

- Superintendent John Robidoux explained the committee typically votes one member as delegate to speak on behalf of the committee regarding conference resolutions.
- He noted the resolutions document, usually about four pages, is normally sent ahead of time but that he had not seen it.

b. The committee discussed the process and ultimately declined to name a delegate.

- It was noted that reviewing the resolutions in advance of the conference is customary practice.
- No member volunteered to serve as delegate, and the Chair indicated a consensus not to appoint one.

Subcommittee and Liaison Reports (02:26:00–02:29:00)

a. The Communications Subcommittee reported on a newsletter planned for release the following week.

- The newsletter will cover a student services update, student safety and well-being, and other stories, but not goals.
- Timing depends on principals' schedules; a committee member will get in touch about when it should go out.

b. The committee discussed whether to include messaging about the recent tragedy in the newsletter.

- It was agreed to share the statement made at the beginning of the meeting as a newsletter update, as school committee business.
- The statement will be sent for inclusion in the newsletter.

c. A SEPAC liaison update was given.

- There has been difficulty connecting with representatives, and SEPAC has not met since September.

Correspondence and Closing (02:29:00–02:31:00)

a. The committee reviewed correspondence received.

- Emails from other school committees expressing condolences regarding Owen were included in the packet.
- Outreach from area superintendents was described as significant and heartening.

b. The committee discussed ongoing support for those affected by the loss.



- Continued support was noted as needed for students, staff at the high school, and the family.
- A conversation was held about additional support for high school staff; siblings at other schools may need continued support.

c. A motion was made by Henry Gwazda and seconded by Melissa Clucas to adjourn.

- The motion passed 5-0.

d. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

MARBLEHEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS · 2026–27

User fees for student clubs and activities

What families pay this school year, how it changed, and where to get help

Figures from the district's approved 2026–27 fee schedule (FY27)

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

One flat fee covers unlimited clubs

HIGH SCHOOL

$300

Per student, unlimited. Covers high school clubs and activities.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

$300

Per student, unlimited. Covers middle school clubs and activities.

ELEMENTARY

$300

Per student, unlimited. Covers elementary school clubs and activities.

Source: MPS 2026–27 User Fees and Tuition schedule (FY27, approved). Fees for individual clubs, drama or music are not listed separately.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Cost of payment for contractual activity and club stipends and expenses

HIGH SCHOOL

$128,979

Per student, unlimited. Covers high school clubs and activities

MIDDLE SCHOOL

$47,026

Per student, unlimited. Covers middle school clubs and activities.

ELEMENTARY

$37,766

Per student, unlimited. Covers elementary school clubs and activities.

Total of $213,771 required to pay for clubs and activities

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Revenue received to pay stipends and expenses

HIGH SCHOOL

$23,175

High school clubs and activities

-$105,804 in collected revenues

MIDDLE SCHOOL

$13,050

Middle school clubs and activities.

-$33,976 in collected revenues

ELEMENTARY

$28,575

Elementary school clubs and activities.

-$9,191 in collected revenues

Total revenue collected to date: $64,800

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Where we currently stand

Total revenue required

$213,771

Revenue received

$64,800

Revenue needed to meet obligations

$148,971

SOURCES

Where these numbers come from

District fee schedule (FY27, approved):
marbleheadschools.org, 2026–27 User Fees

Forms and waiver page: marbleheadschools.org, Forms & User Fees

Marblehead Public Schools

9 Widger Road
Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945
Phone: (781) 639-3140

Dr. John J. Robidoux
Superintendent of Schools

Julia Ferreira
Asst. Superintendent of Teaching & Learning

LisaMarie Ippolito
Asst. Superintendent of Student Services

Michael Pfifferling
Assr.Superintendent of Finance & Operations

MEMORANDUM

To: Marblehead School Committee
From: John J. Robidoux, Superintendent
Re: Eveleth School
Date: November 5, 2026

The Eveleth School, located at 3 Brook Street, is currently under the custody and control of the Marblehead Public Schools (MPS). The town currently uses the building for document scanning and storage, Recreation and Parks uses it to meet some programming needs, and MPS uses it for some storage of items.

When asked last school year to determine whether MPS should retain custody and control for potential use, we began an initial exploration of the cost of a feasibility study. Initial estimates to conduct the study to determine potential uses for the building fell around +/-$250,000.00. In addition, replacing the current non-operative boiler required to heat the building was estimated to cost +/-$140,000.00. Between these two major expenses, and given the town's financial crisis, we decided to forgo the study and replacement of the heating system.

Despite these two major hurdles to opening Eveleth School for school use, we discussed a few potential options. Namely: could the facility be used as an early childhood center, for an 18-22-year-old program for students requiring such programming, or for our school administration offices (perhaps partnering with Rec and Parks for the space)?

Static student enrollment projections have precluded the need for school expansion; space within Marblehead High School has already been identified for the 18- 22-year-old program that will come to fruition in year three of the Proposition 2 ½ Override, and Widger Road is benefiting from some

enhancements during the rehabilitation, so we will likely remain within the current space for the foreseeable future.

Given the financial constraints of re-opening the building for use by staff and students, the district's overall needs, static student enrollment, and the potential usage of the building and grounds by the town, it is my recommendation to the Marblehead School Committee to relinquish control and custody of the Eveleth School, 3 Brook Street to the Town of Marblehead.

TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD

Fiscal Year 2027
First Quarter Update

Quarter ended September 30, 2026

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Override Memorandum of Understanding

The principles behind the document

Ceilings, Not Targets

The annual draw limits are maximums. Override funds provide a stable foundation as we continue to improve operating efficiency, identify cost-savings, and pursue new revenue streams.

Spend with Purpose

We are committed to fiscal discipline. Override funds will be allocated through the annual budget process, supported by analysis, rigorously reviewed by the Finance Committee, and clearly communicated to residents.

Work as One Town

The Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee will continue to collaborate. Chairs will receive quarterly updates from the Town Administrator and Superintendent to ensure a shared understanding of Marblehead's fiscal position.

Transparency

Through regular public reporting, we will keep residents informed about how override funds are being used and Marblehead's overall financial health.

Strengthen Our Financial Foundation

We will work to reduce the Town's reliance on one-time funds, build reserves toward 5% of the operating budget, and continue meeting pension and retiree obligations.

Ease the Burden on Residents

We will actively promote property tax relief, including exemptions, deferrals, and the Senior Tax Work-Off Program.

Read the full MOU: https://marbleheadma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/MOU-Select-Board-SC-FInCom-FY27-29-Override-Framework.pdf

Override Summary

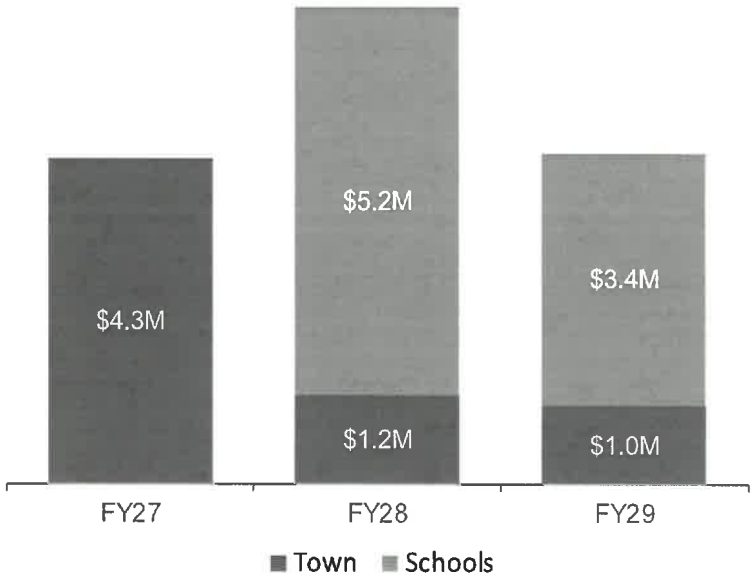
$15.0 million override phased in over FY27–FY29

	FY27	FY28	FY29	Cumulative
Town	$4,296,718	$1,170,782	$1,030,267	$6,497,766
Schools	$0	$5,152,733	$3,349,502	$8,502,234
Total	**$4,296,718**	**$6,323,514**	**$4,379,768**	**$15,000,000**

Town – planned uses	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**	*Details on following slides*
Restored services	✓			
New positions	✓			
Maintenance budgets	✓			
Capital funding	✓			

Schools – planned uses	**FY27**	**FY28**	**FY29**
Contractual salary increases		✓	
Special education out-of-district tuition		✓	
Free full-day kindergarten		✓	
Revolving fund positions returned to General Fund		✓	
School technology leases		✓	✓
Curriculum & professional development		✓	✓
Post-graduate special education program			✓
School building capital fund			✓

Override Allocation by Year



Revised FY27 General Fund Budget

A new FY27 line-item budget was built to incorporate the override

$98,822,778
FY27 Town Meeting Budget

+

$4,296,718
FY27 Override

=

$103,119,496
Revised FY27 Budget

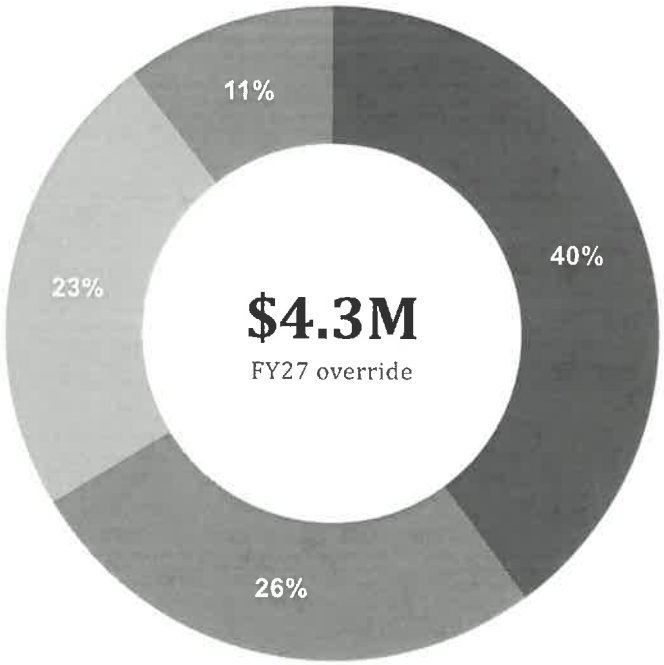
Total General Fund accounts, excluding debt service and state assessments. Does not include Enterprise Funds. Includes $143,238 from Article 19: Collective Bargaining (Fire) approved at Town Meeting.

The trash collection override replaced the annual fee previously included in the Town Meeting budget and therefore did not increase the Revised FY27 Budget.

See Appendix 1 for department-level details of the Revised FY27 Budget.

FY27 Override Spending Breakdown

Where the $4.3 million FY27 override is going



Restored cuts	$1,711,376	40% of total
New positions/services	$1,135,342	26% of total
Capital funding	$1,000,000	23% of total
Maintenance funding	$450,000	11% of total
Total FY27 Override	**$4,296,718**	

See Appendix 2 for more detailed information on restored cuts and new positions/services.

Override-Funded Positions: Hiring Status

Status of new positions as of October 2026

6 of 16
override-funded hires in place



Drafting job description (5) · In process (4) · Candidate selected (1) · Filled (6)

Drafting Job Description

COA – Part-time social worker
Drafting job description; targeted to be filled by January

DPW – GIS position
Job description under development; job advertising expected to begin in December

DPW – Foreman
Drafting job description

Community Dev. – Grant revenue and development coordinator
Finalizing job description

Facilities Maintenance Manager*
Finalizing job description

In Process

Police – 1 Officer
To be hired through hybrid civil service process in January

Fire – 2 Firefighters
Hiring the remaining 2 of 4

Library – Part-time assistant
Interviews in process

Candidate Selected

Finance – IT director
Background check in process

Filled

Fire – 2 Firefighters
Two hired; started 8/6

Police – 1 Officer
In the police academy

DPW – Heavy equipment operator
Position filled

Library – Part-time custodian
Hired in September

Finance – Budget analyst
Duties assumed by Town Accountant for an annual stipend

**Included as part of the $450k maintenance budget. Details in the following slide. See Appendix 2 for details on FY27 budget per position.*

Override-Funded Maintenance & Capital Plans

Planned FY27 uses

Maintenance Budget $450,000 for FY27



1. Facility maintenance funds (Public Buildings Department budget)
   $276,000
2. New Facilities Maintenance Manager (Public Buildings Department budget)
   $112,000
3. Annual rail trail maintenance (DPW budget)
   $50,000
4. Superintendent of Buildings stipend (Public Buildings Department budget)
   $12,000

Capital Funding $1,000,000 for FY27

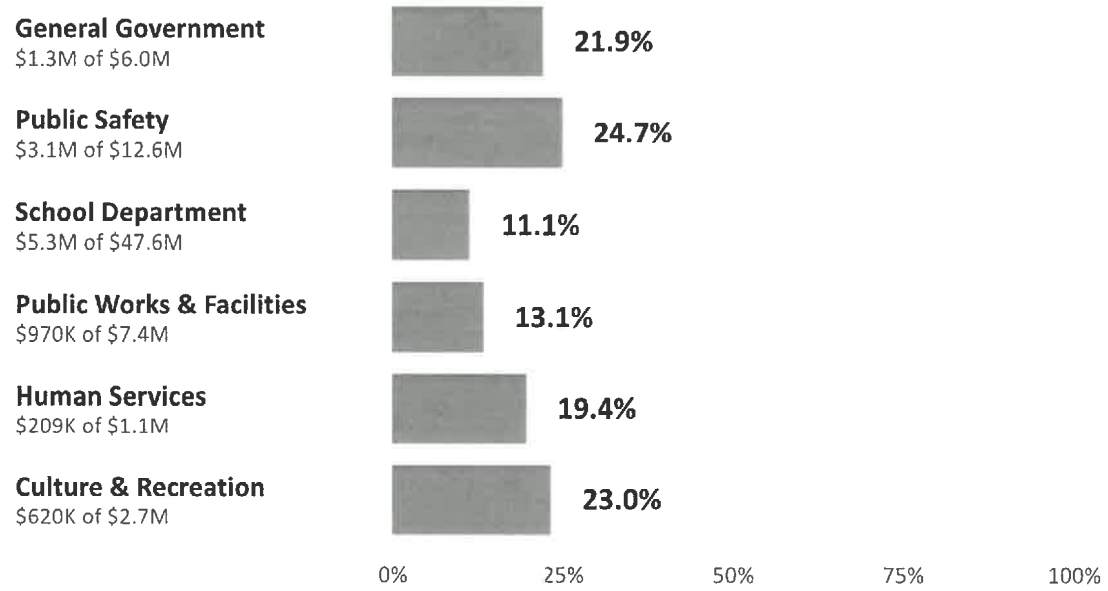


1. Mary Alley alternative bids (conference rooms enhancements, new windows, sprinkler system, removal of bridge to medical building)
2. Police and fire building improvements
3. School improvements, including Veterans and Village gym lighting, Village School field structure refresh, Brown School playground shade, and snow removal equipment

FY27 Q1 Update – Department Spending on Track

Department General Fund spending through September 30, 2026 compared to the annual budget

Percent of FY27 annual budget spent through 9/30/26



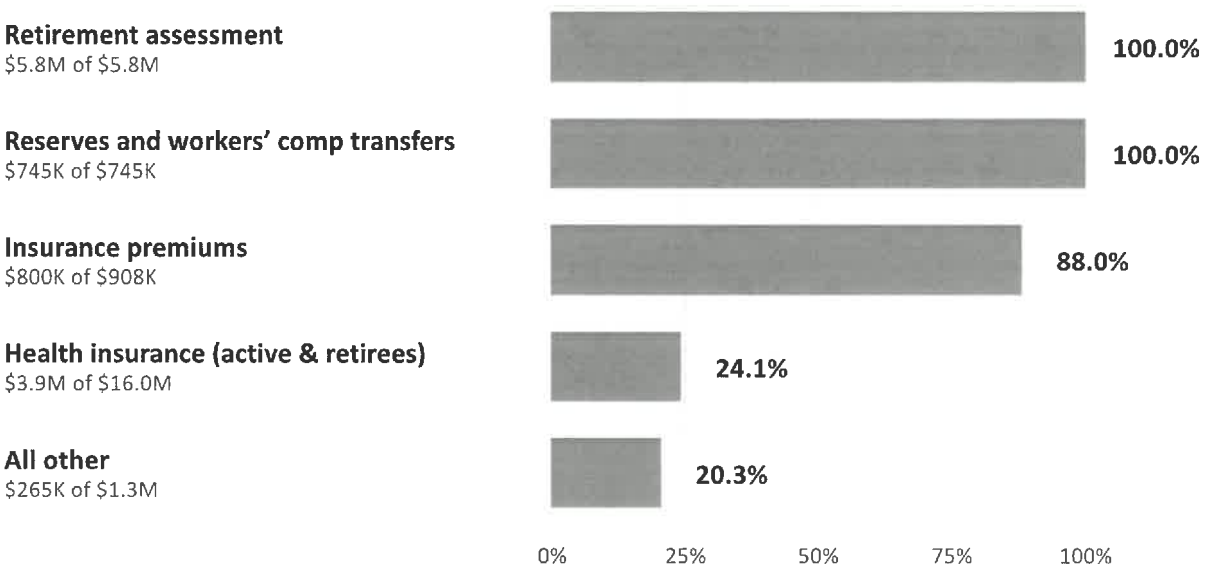
Excludes debt service, capital funding, and Other General Government (see next slide). Preliminary.

Highlights

- Department expenditures for the first quarter are in line with expectations and standard operating seasonality.
- School Department spending is seasonally lower (11.1%) because teacher payroll drops in the summer months. Detailed information on the district is provided during the Superintendent's monthly financial reviews at School Committee meetings.
- Public Works & Facilities is lower (13.1%) due to seasonality consistent with FY26, the new trash contract expenses starting in October, and DPW positions funded by the override in the process of being filled.
- Areas of focus include monitoring Fire Department overtime and injury payroll, improving the cash reconciliation process under the new Treasurer, and filling vacant positions in the Community Development Department.

Other General Government Expenses

Other General Government spending through September 30, 2026 compared to the annual budget



Highlights

- Other General Government spending is $11.5M, or 46.4% of the $24.8M annual budget, in line with expectations.
- The retirement assessment and Stabilization reserve, OPEB reserve, and workers' comp transfers are paid in full at the start of the year.
- Insurance premiums (88%) are largely billed up front for the year.
- Health insurance, the highest cost, is at 24.1% of its annual budget. Health insurance costs are up 11% over the first quarter of last year, in line with expectations.
- All Other includes Medicare, the Medicare reimbursement and penalty, the salary reserve (vacation owed), street lighting, life insurance, flexible spending administration, and unemployment.

Preliminary.

Want More Details? Follow the Money

Accessible from the Town's home page: www.marbleheadma.gov. Click on the "Follow the Money" Quick Link



Welcome to the Town of Marblehead's Open Finance portal. This portal is part of our commitment to delivering financial transparency. It allows users to navigate through highly interactive functionality to gain a better understanding of the budget and expenditures. The site is updated at the end of each business day. It includes information on expenditures, revenue sources, and vendor payments.

Cost Savings, Efficiencies & New Revenue

Preliminary steps to reduce costs and work more efficiently

Leaner leadership

School finance & operations leadership restructured

- With the departure of Superintendent of Finance and Operations Mike Pfifferling in November, his position will be replaced with a Finance Director, Kristin Morello, an internal hire.
- The Finance Director and Facilities Director will now report directly to the Superintendent, removing a layer of senior leadership.

Operating efficiency

Rail Trail maintenance and public trash can collection moves to DPW

- The Department of Public Works will take over maintenance of the Rail Trail from the Building Department and public trash can collection from Recreation and Parks.
- Consolidates the service in one department. This is an efficiency gain more than a cost savings.

Cost savings

Health insurance opt-out incentive

The Town and its Public Employee Committee agreed to a voluntary program that pays employees with other coverage to leave the Town health plan.

	Employee receives	Net savings to Town
Individual	$4,000	~$5,000
Family	$8,000	~$18,000

Per participating employee, per year. Eligible employees must have been on the Town plan for at least two consecutive years.

An ongoing area of focus: Finding savings, efficiencies, and new revenue continues to be a priority. Hiring an experienced Grant Revenue and Development Coordinator, a position funded by the override, will play a key role in generating new grant revenue. The Town and Schools are actively pursuing new opportunities, and we expect to have more to report in future quarterly updates.

Update on Recent Leadership Changes

Town

New Town Administrator

Search in progress

The Select Board will interview finalists and select a new Town Administrator in early November.

New Town Finance Director

Coming soon

Recruitment of a new Finance Director will begin immediately after a contract has been signed with a new Town Administrator.

School



New School Finance Director

Kristin Morello

Takes over as Finance Director in November. She currently serves as the District's Assistant Business Manager, a role she has held for two years.

Leaner senior leadership structure

The Superintendent of Finance and Operations position will be eliminated, with the Finance Director and Facilities Director reporting directly to the Superintendent.

Other MOU Commitments

Implementation of the Senior Property Tax Exemption in FY27

1. **Program updates**
   July – Select Board approved eligibility requirements and set FY27 individual and total exemption amounts.
   September – The Board of Assessors approved the application form.

2. **Where to apply**
   Applications are currently available and are due by 11/30/26. Applications and other program information are available at the Assessor's Office in Mary Alley and online at marbleheadma.gov/assessors-office.

3. **Upcoming information session**
   The COA and Assessors' Office will team up to host a second information session **TOMORROW**, Thursday, 10/29, 12:30–2:30 pm at the Jacobi Community Center.

4. **One-on-one help**
   Application workshops are being planned for November — stay tuned!

More information is available at:
marbleheadma.gov/assessors-office/means-tested-senior-citizen-property-tax-exemption/



Understanding Your Quarterly Tax Bills

Fiscal Year 2027 runs from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

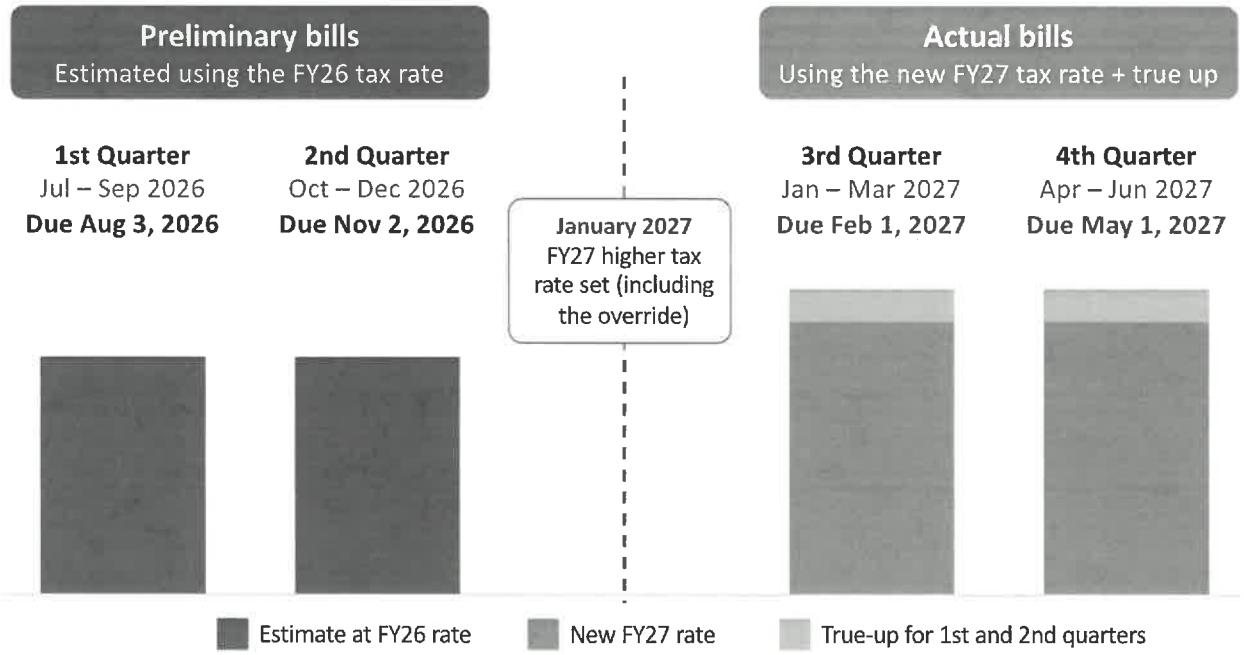


Chart is not to scale. Actual amounts depend on each property's assessed value and the final FY27 tax rate.

What this means for Marblehead residents

- Your first two FY27 bills are estimates based on last year's tax rate.
- Once the FY27 rate is set in January, your 3rd and 4th quarter bills reflect the new rate, which includes the $4.3 million FY27 override and the $2.2 million trash collection override, plus a true-up for the first two quarters.
- **Plan ahead: expect your bills due February 1 and May 1, 2027 to be higher than your first two quarterly bills.**

Appendix 1: Revised FY27 General Fund Budget

By department, including override and transfers

Department	Town Meeting FY27 Budget	FY27 Override	Transfers (1)	Revised FY27 Budget
General Government				
Moderator	100	–	–	100
Select Board	723,176	–	67,000	790,176
Finance Committee	6,375	–	–	6,375
FinCom Reserve	414,000	26,000	(67,000)	373,000
Finance Department	1,778,805	346,648	–	2,125,453
Assessor	388,003	–	–	388,003
Town Counsel	278,000	–	–	278,000
Parking Clerk	8,400	–	–	8,400
Town Clerk	201,877	66,125	–	268,002
Elections and Registrations	132,200	–	–	132,200
Planning Board	1,775	–	–	1,775
Public Buildings	178,671	522,554	–	701,225
Human Resources	293,480	21,000	–	314,480
Community Development & Planning	203,682	377,975	–	581,657
Total General Government	**4,608,544**	**1,360,302**	**–**	**5,968,846**
Public Safety				
Police Department	5,216,914	198,446	–	5,415,360
Fire Department (2)	6,160,205	296,000	–	6,456,205
Building Inspections	633,330	43,189	–	676,519
Sealer of Weights & Measures	2,100	–	–	2,100
Animal Inspector	2,400	–	–	2,400
Total Public Safety	**12,014,949**	**537,635**	**–**	**12,552,584**
School Department	**47,620,287**	**–**	**–**	**47,620,287**
Public Works and Facilities				
Department of Public Works	2,369,771	468,594	–	2,838,365
Snow Removal	105,000	–	–	105,000
Waste Department	1,790,344	–	–	1,790,344
Curbside Collection	2,186,516	–	–	2,186,516
Cemetery	410,539	58,392	–	468,931
Total Public Works & Facilities	**6,862,170**	**526,986**	**–**	**7,389,156**

Department	Town Meeting FY27 Budget	FY27 Override	Transfers (1)	Revised FY27 Budget
Human Services				
Health Department	339,320	60,000	–	399,320
Council on Aging	387,377	136,171	–	523,548
Veterans Department	154,872	–	–	154,872
Total Human Services	**881,569**	**196,171**	**–**	**1,077,740**
Culture and Recreation				
Abbot Library	857,633	738,157	–	1,595,790
Recreation and Parks	1,003,034	85,395	–	1,088,429
Memorial and Veterans Day	9,500	–	–	9,500
Total Culture and Recreation	**1,870,167**	**823,552**	**–**	**2,693,719**
Other General Government				
Street Lighting	60,000	–	–	60,000
Contributory Retirement Fund	5,843,360	–	–	5,843,360
Medicare	277,629	–	–	277,629
Transfer to Workers Comp/111F	300,338	97,662	–	398,000
Training	–	–	–	–
Health Insurance Transfer	13,348,148	–	–	13,348,148
Medicare Penalty	7,000	–	–	7,000
Hlth-Reim Medicare	731,000	–	–	731,000
Medex Insurance Transfer	2,668,600	–	–	2,668,600
Life Insurance	70,000	–	–	70,000
Insurance Premiums	908,309	–	–	908,309
Salary Reserve - Vacation Owed	145,000	–	–	145,000
Flex Admin Charge	8,500	–	–	8,500
Transfer to Stabilization Fund	–	250,000	–	250,000
Transfer to OPEB Trust	–	96,771	–	96,771
Unemployment comp salaries	597,208	(592,361)	–	4,847
Total Other General Government	**24,965,092**	**(147,928)**	**–**	**24,817,164**
Capital Funding	**–**	**1,000,000**	**–**	**1,000,000**
Total General Fund Accounts	**98,822,778**	**4,296,718**	**–**	**103,119,496**

Total General Fund accounts. Excludes enterprise funds, debt service and state assessments.

(1) Transfers approved August 2026 by the Select Board and Finance Committee to fund the Town Administrator retirement payout ($41,000) and search expenses with the Collins Center ($26,000).

(2) Article 19 of 2026 Town Meeting allocated $143,238 from Free Cash to fund the fire department union contract.

Appendix 2: FY27 Override Details

FY27 budget

Restored Positions / Services Funded by the Override	FY27 Budget
Building Inspections software support and maintenance	$43,189
Cemetery laborer	$58,392
Community Development salaries	$307,975
Council on Aging salaries	$76,171
Department of Public Works salaries and materials	$200,594
Finance senior clerk, training, computer equipment and HR expenses	$147,648
Library salaries and materials	$699,779
Police student resource officer	$67,482
Public Buildings 2 custodians	$122,554
Recreation and Parks groundskeeper	$43,395
Town Clerk special clerk	$66,125
OPEB, workers' comp, Stabilization and FinCom reserves	$470,433
Reduced unemployment	($592,361)
Total restored positions/services	**$1,711,376**

New Positions / Services Funded by the Override	FY27 Budget
COA - Part-time social worker	$45,000
COA maintenance	$15,000
Community Development - Grant Writer	$70,000
DPW - GIS position	$70,000
DPW - Heavy equipment operator	$74,000
DPW - Foreman	$74,000
Finance - IT director	$150,000
Finance - Budget analyst	$70,000
Fire - 4 firefighters	$296,000
Police - 2 officers	$130,964
Library - Part-time custodian, part-time assistant	$38,378
Mental health counseling	$60,000
Rec & Park budget for utilities and park maintenance	$42,000
Total new positions/services	**$1,135,342**

Governance Dashboard 2026-2027

Vision

The vision of the Marblehead School Committee is to use relevant, timely, understandable and trend data to inform governance decisions, monitor progress toward district goals, and communicate district performance to the community. This vision intends to advance and promote success for students and help the community better understand the district and how students are doing through meaningful and clear data.

Why

We want a consistent, governance-appropriate way to look at district data without duplicating the administration's job of collecting, analyzing, and managing operational data. The purpose is to give the Committee a simple, repeatable way to see whether the district is moving toward the priorities it's adopted.

Goals

1. The Marblehead School Committee will define the governance dashboard. The Committee will work with the Superintendent to pick a limited set of high-value indicators, their sources, appropriate comparisons (e.g. other districts; historical data, trends), and a reporting cadence. The School Committee will select measures that track trends and progress toward adopted goals, not just isolated data points.

Complete by end of December, 2026.

2. The Marblehead School Committee will review the governance dashboard quarterly.

Quarterly reviews will start in January, 2027.

3. The Marblehead School Committee will communicate findings. After major reviews, the Committee will give the community concise and accessible information on the significant trends, progress, areas needing attention, and the limits of the metrics the Committee is using.

Communications will start shortly after the January, 2027 quarterly review.

File: IE

ORGANIZATION OF INSTRUCTION

The District offers a diversified educational program compatible with the needs of the community and state standards.

The organizational plan is designed to facilitate the philosophy of educating every student, each to his/her fullest potential.

The structure will consist of four levels -- Primary/Elementary, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary levels.

The Primary/Elementary level includes schools with kindergarten through grade three. The Elementary level includes grades four through six. The Middle level consists of a school for grades seven and eight. The Secondary level consists of a school with grades nine, ten, eleven, and twelve.

Special education services are integrated across each grade level in all schools.

The organization is designed to meet the standards established within the Curriculum Frameworks as required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Time and Learning regulations, and to serve the needs of all students.

LEGAL REFS: 603 CMR 27.00

SOURCE: MASC/Marblehead

File: IHAI

VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The School Committee recognizes that students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 should:

1. Be afforded the opportunity to be informed about the world of work.
2. Be aware of the many vocations available to them.
3. Develop a respect for the dignity of work.
4. Be allowed the opportunity to develop an understanding regarding the technical, consumer, occupational, recreational and cultural aspects of industry and technology; they should also be afforded the opportunity to develop skills related to such aspects through creative problem solving experiences.

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:37K; 71:38A through 71:38F; 74:1 et seq.
603 CMR 4.00

File: IMA

TEACHING ACTIVITIES/PRESENTATIONS

It is the desire of the School Committee that the best available strategies for bringing about learning be utilized in the District's schools. The instructional staff shall be expected to keep abreast of new and promising instructional ideas and practices developed in schools throughout the nation and to apply those which have potential for improving the learning program in the District's schools.

An educational climate shall be established which shall be conducive to rational thought, inquiry, and respect for the dignity of the individual. This educational climate will assist students in learning how to think rather than what to think and shall provide students the opportunity to identify, express, and defend their opinions without penalty or fear of reprisal or ridicule.

Nothing in this policy shall limit a parent/guardian's right to file a complaint to challenge the use of teaching activity or presentation.

SOURCE: MASC/Marblehead

File: JKA

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

State law provides that:

> The power of the School Committee or of any teacher or other employee or agent of the Committee to maintain discipline on school property shall not include the right to inflict corporal punishment upon any student.

Established by law

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 71:37G

SOURCE: MASC/Marblehead

OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
Boston, MA 02108

Your Contact Information:

First Name: John Last Name: DiPiano

Address: [redacted]

City: Marblehead State: MA Zip Code: 01945

Phone Number: [redacted] Ext.

Email: [redacted]

Organization or Media Affiliation (if any):

Are you filing the complaint in your capacity as an individual, representative of an organization, or media?
(For statistical purposes only)

☒ Individual ☐ Organization ☐ Media

Public Body that is the subject of this complaint:

☒ City/Town ☐ County ☐ Regional/District ☐ State

Name of Public Body (including city/town, county or region, if applicable): Administrator, School Superintendent, Select Board, School Committee, Finance Committee

Specific person(s), if any, you allege committed the violation: Thatcher Keezer, John Robidoux, Dan Fox, Kate Shmeckpeper, Molly Teets

Date of alleged violation: 10/19/2026

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Note: This text field has a maximum of 3000 characters.

See attached statement incorporated by reference herein

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

Note: This text field has a maximum of 500 characters.

See attached statement incorporated by reference herein.

Review, sign, and submit your complaint

I. Disclosure of Your Complaint.

Public Record. Under most circumstances, your complaint, and any documents submitted with your complaint, is considered a public record and will be available to any member of the public upon request.

Publication to Website. As part of the Open Data Initiative, the AGO will publish to its website certain information regarding your complaint, including your name and the name of the public body. The AGO will not publish your contact information.

II. Consulting With a Private Attorney.

The AGO cannot give you legal advice and is not able to be your private attorney, but represents the public interest. If you have any questions concerning your individual legal rights or responsibilities you should contact a private attorney.

III. Submit Your Complaint to the Public Body.

The complaint must be filed first with the public body. If you have any questions, please contact the Division of Open Government by calling (617) 963-2540 or by email to openmeeting@state.ma.us.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the provisions above and certify that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ **Date:** 10/20/2026

For Use By Public Body	*For Use By AGO*
Date Received by Public Body:	*Date Received by AGO:*

Description of alleged violation:

Describe the alleged violation that this complaint is about. If you believe that the alleged violation was intentional, please say so and include the reasons supporting your belief.

Between 04.29.26 – 05.04.26 town officials formed a local town subcommittee (see attached Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU")), p. 4, Par. "C", which is a "public body" subject to the provisions of G.L. c. 30A & 940 CMR 29.00. Said subcommittee was formed with the express, written purpose of conducting a "joint financial review". Present subcommittee members are as follows: Thatcher Keezer, III, Town Administrator, John Robidoux, School Superintendent, Dan Fox, Select Board Chair, Kate Shmeckpeper, Esq. School Committee Chair, Molly Teets, Finance Committee chair. Said subcommittee met in a CLOSED meeting on or about October 19, 2026 to discuss Marblehead's fiscal position, including projected revenues and expenditures for the coming (2027) fiscal year. Said meetings were not noticed in accordance with open meeting law/CMR requirements.

The MOU forming the subcommittee did not specify closed subcommittee sessions. The meeting was mentioned in a local media publication.

Insofar as Dan Fox, who, according to media reports, scheduled the closed subcommittee meeting without prior notice in the public MOU and Attorney Shmeckpeper, who was recently elected to the School Committee on a platform of transparency formed and participated in closed session without notice to the community in accordance with G.L. c. 30A / 940 CMR 29.00 *et seq*, it is my belief that this alleged public meeting law violation was an intentional act to thwart the intent, meaning and requirement of Massachusetts Open Meeting Law provisions.

What action do you want the public body to take in response to your complaint?

1. Each Board or Committee herein implicated should vote and acknowledge the public meeting law violation that has taken place and shall vote that no further closed meetings of the aforementioned subcommittee shall occur.

2. Each person herein identified shall be required to attend MA Public Meeting Law training, at their sole individual expense, if any, and shall not use public funds for said training.

3. Dan Fox and Kate Shmeckpeper shall be voted out of the roles of Chair of their respective committees.

Attached: Media excerpt. 2026 MOU

Marblehead officials will hold their first formal joint financial review later this month, fulfilling a requirement of a memorandum of understanding signed by town and school leaders last spring.

The agreement was reached as officials urged residents to support a three-year, $15 million Proposition 2½ override, which voters approved in May.

Select Board Chair Dan Fox said the review will take place the week of Oct. 19.

"As per the MOU, Joint Financial Review section, the town administrator and superintendent will be reporting to the chairs of the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee," Fox said. That meeting will not be open to the public.

Fox said he plans to present a summary of the financial review a Select Board's Oct. 28 meeting.

TOWN OF MARBLEHEAD
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE FY27 OVERRIDE FRAMEWORK AND FY27-29 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Whereas, the Town of Marblehead seeks to exercise fiscal discipline while continuing to provide quality municipal and educational services and acknowledges that budgetary limitations in each fiscal year may require the Town to prioritize the utilization of available resources to achieve the Town's goals and objectives; and

Whereas, the Town of Marblehead is facing a $7.7 million budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2027 and intends to present a Proposition 2 1/2 general override to voters in the Spring of 2026; and

Whereas, the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee wish to make a public commitment to the residents and taxpayers of the Town of Marblehead regarding the structure and implementation of the proposed override for Fiscal Years 2027-2029;

Now therefore, the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee agree to the following parameters and pledge to work together in Fiscal Years 2027 to 2029 to achieve balanced budgets consistent with this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU").[1]

Definitions

Draw: Increase the tax levy.
Free Cash: The remaining, unrestricted funds from the prior fiscal year as certified by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Bureau of Accounts, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws.
Override: An authorization by Marblehead voters in accordance with M.G.L. c. 59, § 21C (commonly known as Proposition 2 ½) to raise the Town of Marblehead's property tax levy limit.
Stabilization Fund: The Town's fiscal reserve account established under M.G.L. c. 40, § 5B and maintained by the Town as a financial resource to mitigate the impact of revenue shortfalls, unanticipated expenditures, emergencies, and other fiscal uncertainties. The Stabilization Fund may be appropriated only by a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting.
Town of Marblehead: When used in this MOU, "Town" or "Town of Marblehead" refers to all combined departments, including both municipal and school departments.

[1] While current boards and committees cannot bind their successors, we expect that future boards and committees will honor and respect this public pledge of fiscal management consistent with the parameters set forth in this MOU.

Override Structure and Reporting

A. The Town will seek a Proposition 2 ½ general override for operating costs (the "Override") in the Spring of 2026. It will be presented to voters as a multi-tier Override, with each tier covering Fiscal Years 2027-2029.
   a. The Town will separately propose a Proposition 2 ½ override in the Spring of 2026 to fund the cost of curbside trash collection. That override request is not addressed by this MOU.

B. If the Override is approved by voters, no further Proposition 2 ½ general overrides will be sought until at least FY2030, regardless of which tier is successful.

C. The tiers will be structured and utilized as follows:

   a. Tier 1: Restore will ask voters to approve an Override that increases the Town's levy capacity by $9,000,000.
      i. In FY27, the Town will Draw no more than $1,269,564 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $1,269,564 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $0 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.
      ii. In FY28, the Town will Draw no more than $5,014,899 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $718,849 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $4,296,050 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.
      iii. In FY29, the Town will Draw no more than $2,715,537 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $811,587 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $1,903,950 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.

   b. Tier 2: Stabilize will ask voters to approve an Override that increases the Town's levy capacity by $12,000,000.
      i. In FY27, the Town will Draw no more than $2,805,236 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $2,805,236 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $0 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.
      ii. In FY28, the Town will Draw no more than $5,987,063 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $1,009,991 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $4,977,072 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.
      iii. In FY29, the Town will Draw no more than $3,207,701 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $1,005,324 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $2,202,377 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.

   c. Tier 3: Invest will ask voters to approve an Override that increases the Town's levy capacity by $15,000,000.

i. In FY27, the Town will Draw no more than $4,296,718 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $4,296,718 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $0 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.
ii. In FY28, the Town will Draw no more than $6,323,515 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $1,170,782 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $5,152,733 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.
iii. In FY29, the Town will Draw no more than $4,379,767 from Override funds. In particular, no more than $1,030,267 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the municipal budget and no more than $3,349,500 will be Drawn from Override funds to cover expenses in the school budget.

D. Beginning in January 2027, the Town Administrator's State of the Town Address shall include specific reporting regarding Override funds. At a minimum, that reporting shall include:
   a. A summary of all funds Drawn from the Override through the close of the prior fiscal year and the expenses to which those funds were allocated;
   b. A summary of the unutilized levy capacity through the close of the prior fiscal year;
   c. A summary of all Override funds budgeted for use in the current fiscal year's budget and the expenses to which those funds are allocated; and
   d. A summary of the anticipated unutilized levy capacity at the close of the current fiscal year.

E. Beginning in January 2027, the Superintendent shall annually report at a School Committee meeting:
   a. A summary of all funds Drawn from the Override through the close of the prior fiscal year for school budget expenses and the expenses to which those funds were allocated; and
   b. A summary of all Override funds budgeted for use in the current fiscal year's school budget and the expenses to which those funds are allocated.

Available Revenue Forecasting

A. Revenue Forecast. The funds requested in the Override are based on the FY27-29 Revenue Forecast attached here to as Exhibit A ("Revenue Forecast"). Net unrestricted revenue excluding any funds levied through the Override will be allocated as follows for budgeting purposes: 62% allocated to the School Budget; 38% allocated to the Municipal Budget. This formula will apply through the creation of the FY29 budget, regardless of the accuracy of the Revenue Forecast. Prior to the preparation of the FY2030 budget, the Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee will review and evaluate the effectiveness of this method of revenue allocation.

B. Revenue Assumptions. The Revenue Forecast includes certain assumptions regarding revenue and expenditure growth. Variability in those projections will be addressed as follows:

a. *Free Cash*: The Revenue Forecast assumes the policy of decreasing the reliance on Free Cash in the operating budget by allocating $1 million less in Free Cash to the budget on an annual basis.
   i. In the event certified Free Cash exceeds the forecasted amount, the overage will be allocated as follows: (a) $1 million will be held in unrestricted reserves; (b) $1 million will be allocated to the Stabilization Fund; (c) up to $2 million will be allocated for capital expenditures; and (d) Free Cash in excess of $4 million over the forecasted amount will be used to offset other liabilities, such as OPEB and Pension obligations.
   ii. In the event certified Free Cash comes in below the forecasted amount, there will be no change to the Override Draw for the applicable fiscal year and the Town will abide by the limits agreed to in the Override Structure and Reporting section of this MOU.
b. *Active Employee Health Insurance*: The Revenue Forecast assumes a 7% annual increase in Active Employee Health Insurance costs.
   i. In the event budgeted Active Employee Health Insurance costs exceed a 7% annual increase in any given fiscal year, there will be no change to the Override Draw for the applicable fiscal year and the Town will abide by the limits agreed to in the Override Structure and Reporting section of this MOU.
   ii. In the event budgeted Active Employee Health Insurance costs are below a 7% annual increase in any given fiscal year, those additional funds will be allocated to the Stabilization Fund.
c. *Retiree Health Insurance*: The Revenue Forecast assumes a 5% annual increase in Retiree Health Insurance costs.
   i. In the event budgeted Retiree Health Insurance costs exceed a 5% annual increase in any given fiscal year, there will be no change to the Override Draw for the applicable fiscal year and the Town will abide by the limits agreed to in the Override Structure and Reporting Section of this MOU.
   ii. In the event budgeted Retiree Health Insurance costs are below a 5% annual increase in any given fiscal year, those additional funds will be allocated to the Stabilization Fund.

C. Joint Financial Review. Beginning in FY27, the Town Administrator and Superintendent will report at least quarterly to the Chairs of the Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee regarding the Town's fiscal position, including projected revenues and expenditures for the coming fiscal year.

Other Commitments to Taxpayers

A. Minimize Impact on Taxpayers.
   a. The Town will engage in public outreach to maximize participation in property tax relief programs, including various tax exemptions, tax deferral options and the Senior Tax Work-Off Program.
   b. If approved by the Massachusetts Legislature, the Town will implement the new Means-Tested Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption for FY27 and work directly with the Council on Aging to educate eligible residents.

c. The Town will actively pursue new revenue sources and identify ways to increase current revenue sources.
d. The Town will continue to seek efficiencies in all areas of the municipal and school budgets to find opportunities for cost savings and cost sharing across departments.

B. Maintain and Improve the Town's Financial Position.
   a. The Town will work to build the balance in the Stabilization Fund to 5% of the Town's operating budget and maintain that balance once reached per the Select Board Reserve Fund policy.
   b. The Town will continue making annual contributions towards its Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits obligations consistent with or greater than past levels of contribution.

C. Extraordinary Circumstances. In the event of extraordinary and unforeseen external circumstances, such as a major natural disaster, public health emergency, or significant economic crisis, the terms of this MOU may be subject to review at the request of all three signature boards. Invoking this clause requires a favorable supermajority vote of each of the signature boards.

If the Override Fails

A. If the Override is not approved by voters, the Town will implement staffing and service reductions as of July 1, 2026, consistent with the balanced budget approved by the 2026 Town Meeting.

B. The Town will continue to allocate unrestricted revenue as follows for budgeting purposes: 62% allocated to the School Budget; 38% allocated to the Municipal Budget. This formula will apply for future years until replaced by a subsequent agreement of the Select Board, School Committee and Finance Committee.

C. The remainder of this MOU will not apply, and the Town will need to reevaluate its approach to service provision.

Implementation

The Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee shall each vote to approve and adhere to this Memorandum of Understanding as presented and authorize the respective chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board or Committee.

Proposed Votes

A. That the Select Board of the Town of Marblehead hereby votes to (1) approve and adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the FY27 Override Framework and FY27-29 Financial Management Plan dated April 7, 2026 attached hereto; (2) authorize the Chair of the Select Board to execute such MOU; and (3) authorize the Town Administrator to manage the implementation of said MOU on behalf of the Select Board in accordance with its terms.

B. That the School Committee of the Town of Marblehead hereby votes to (1) approve and adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the FY27 Override Framework and FY27-29 Financial Management Plan dated April 7, 2026 attached hereto; (2) authorize the Chair of the School Committee to execute such MOU; and (3) authorize the Superintendent to manage the implementation of said MOU on behalf of the School Committee in accordance with its terms.

C. That the Finance Committee of the Town of Marblehead hereby votes to (1) approve and adhere to the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the FY27 Override Framework and FY27-29 Financial Management Plan dated April 7, 2026 attached hereto; and (2) authorize the Chair of the Finance Committee to execute such MOU

Dan Fox, Chair of the Select Board — Date: 4/29/26

Al Williams, Chair of the School Committee — Date: 4/30/26

Alec Goolsby, Chair of the Finance Committee — Date: 5/4/26

Thatcher W. Kezer III, Town Administrator — Date: 4/29/2026

John Robidoux, Superintendent — Date: 4/30/26