



Northbridge Public Schools

Northbridge School Committee

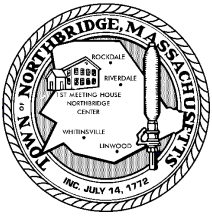
87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Tuesday, April 11, 2017 6:30 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order (6:30 PM)
- II. Attendance
- III. Motion to Meet in Executive Session Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 21(a) for the Following Purpose:
 - a. Purpose (2) to Conduct Collective Bargaining with the Non-Union Personnel
- IV. Regular Session Call to Order (7:00 PM)
- V. Attendance
- VI. Pledge of Allegiance
- VII. Statement of Audio and Video Recording
- VIII. Statement of Mission
- IX. Public Comment (7:05)
- X. Student Representative Report (7:10)
- XI. Consent Agenda (7:15)
 - a. School Committee Minutes from March 22, 2017
 - b. School Committee Minutes from March 28, 2017
 - c. Warrant 37-40s 3/30/17 \$169,332.47
- XII. Action (7:20)
 - a. School Committee Self-Evaluation
- II. Discussion (7:25)
 - a. School Choice 2017-2018
 - b. Price for School Lunch 2017-2018
 - c. FY18 Operational Budget
 - d. School Building Committee Update
 - e. Administrative Update

- III. Informational
 - a. Northbridge Community Cleanup
 - b. Flyers from Commissioner Chester's Community Education Forum
- XIII. School Committee Individual Comments (8:00)
- XIV. Adjournment



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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 22, 2017 7:00 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (7:00)

II. Attendance

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Present
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Business Manager Melissa Walker and Student Representative Connor Nowlan.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

V. Statement of Mission

VI. Public Comment:

None.

VII. Student Representative Report

Joseph Canoy, a senior at NHS, was accepted into the United States Air Force Academy, this is the first time in Northbridge history that we have had someone get into the AFA.

A few weeks ago, our DECA program competed at States, and we had a few people win and will be competing at Nationals. One of our DECA Seniors won a scholarship.

We recently received a \$110K Competitive Grant. The HS received this grant (one of 10 HS and colleges to win) to improve the Biology lab.

The Cheerleading team competed at States for the first time in 17 years.

Last Friday, was Mr. NHS. There was a great turnout and everyone involved had a lot of fun.

A few weeks ago, we had our Science Fair, and there were many great projects and inventions. We had a few people move onto SWCL where I heard we had some do well.

Student Council recently went on their Hyannis MASC trip where they participated in many workshops and gained ideas on what Student Councils can bring back to their high schools.

This week, 10th graders are taking the ELA MCAS, and this Friday is the John and Abigail Adams breakfast.

Spring sports have started this week, and we hope the weather warms up so they can get outside sooner.

VIII. Consent Agenda

- a. School Committee Regular Meeting Minutes from 7:00PM on February 28, 2017
- b. Warrant 37-36s 03/02/17 \$395,202.40

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Joseph Strazzulla. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes

Joseph Strazzulla Yes

Kate Tracy Yes

Randi Zanca Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.

IX. Discussion:

a. Line Item Transfers

Michael LeBrasseur stated that line item transfers are fairly routine, as things evolve throughout the year; some expenses come in higher than what we projected, and some come in lower.

Available funds have been identified in the heating line item to cover the additional funds needed in the legal line items. This will be an action item on 3/28/17.

b. FY18 Budget

Michael LeBrasseur stated that the committee will be updating the Board of Selectmen on Monday night. The committee discussed the budget and different avenues that they could take in order to obtain the funds needed.

c. Review of School Committee Goals

Michael LeBrasseur stated that they had set three goals the last school year. The goals were to secure the requested budget to meet the needs of our students, demonstrate student achievement with the resources available, and execute capital maintenance and building project(s).

d. MSBA Statements of Interest for 2017

Catherine Stickney stated that we have received our annual invitations to complete our statements of interests (SOI's) from the MSBA. Historically, we have put in our statement of interests for NES, Balmer and Middle School to hold our place in the queue. In consulting with the MSBA, we were informed that we do not need to fill out or submit SOI's for NES or the Middle School as they are included in the feasibility study.

X. School Committee Individual Comments

Joseph Strazzulla- Stated that he heard good things in regards to the Celebration of Learning.

XI. Adjournment 7:57

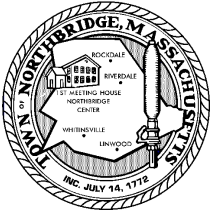
The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting at 7:57pm. The motion was seconded Joseph Strazzulla. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Yes
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

4 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 4-0.



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Michael LeBrasseur, Chairperson, mlebrasseur@nps.org, Joseph Strazzulla, Vice-Chairperson,
Michael Clements, Kate Tracy, Randi Zanca

Northbridge Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 28, 2017 6:15 PM Northbridge High School Media Center

I. Call to Order (6:15)

II. Attendance

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney and Business Manager Melissa Walker

III. Reconvene in Open Session (7:00)

IV. Attendance

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Present
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Kate Tracy	Present
Randi Zanca	Present

Also in attendance were Superintendent Catherine Stickney, Business Manager Melissa Walker and Student Representative Connor Nowlan.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Statement of Audio and Video Recording

VII. Statement of Mission

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or homelessness in its educational programs, services, activities, or employment.

VIII. Recognition

Catherine Stickney and Amy McKinstry recognized the 2017 Abigail Adams Scholars. Thirty-six seniors received this recognition.

IX. Presentation

Carissa Letendre, a participant in the Blackstone Valley Youth Leadership Academy, presented a project that she is working on. Carissa shared with us her goal to have wheelchair accessible swings put in at both of the elementary schools.

Representative Muradian, Senator Moore, and Senator Fattman spoke to the committee in regards to the FY18 State Budget.

X. Public Comment

Jill Redding- NTA President, spoke to the committee in regards to the FY18 school budget. Jill shared concerns of the teachers regarding the budget and positions.

XI. Superintendent's Report

It has been a very busy time as spring has arrived!

Our students are working diligently to enter into the final stretch this year. Students began working on sample tests for MCAS online this week. Today we practiced having our two largest classes - all fourth graders and all eighth graders online testing simultaneously. The technology staff all pitched in to be sure that devices were ready and protocols were followed. Despite being a practice session, the students took this very seriously. Thank you to all administrators and staff members for such solid preparation for this event. Grade 10 students completed their ELA testing last week. This testing is not yet available online.

We have had very successful student trips for DECA, NASA, and Student Council groups. Academically and in the community, our students continue to be recognized for their achievements.

Our Character Assemblies and School-wide celebrations at NES and Balmer this week gave us a chance to celebrate students as they demonstrate core values and social growth, as included in our strategic plan. As we strive for academic excellence, we want to support our students as growing members of our community.

Next week, we will welcome 10 students from China. They will be staying with families in the community and shadowing students for the week. They will be accompanied by a teacher, who is also very eager to learn more about the American school systems.

We have many upcoming spring events - the MS Band Concert, the MS Chorus Concert, the HS Spring Concert, and the Evening of the Arts. Spring sports practices are underway.

We are beginning our transition planning for the 2017-2018 school year. Dates are being arranged for grade 8 visits to the high school to learn more about the Career Academies. I will also be coordinating Superintendent Coffees with each principal so we can tour buildings and answer questions for parents of students who may be advancing to a new building next year.

Springtime is exciting and filled with many distractions. However, we have two and a half months left, and we are committed to continuing to focus on teaching and learning.

I. Consent Agenda

- a. Warrant 37-38s 03/16/17 \$212,857.45

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements

Absent

Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

II. Action items

a. Line Item Transfers

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the line transfer of \$21,000.00 from the Heat, All Buildings line item into the Negotiations- Legal Services line item and a transfer of \$23,000.00 from the Heat, All buildings line item into the Special Education Attorney line item. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0

b. FY18 Budget

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to approve the FY18 level service budget in the amount of \$27,152,325.00. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca. The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements	Absent
Mike LeBrasseur	Yes
Joseph Strazzulla	Absent
Kate Tracy	Yes
Randi Zanca	Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to withdraw Article 4 from the town warrant and to not pursue an override of any kind this year. The motion was seconded by Randi Zanca.

The vote was taken by roll call vote and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements Absent

Mike LeBrasseur Yes

Joseph Strazzulla Absent

Kate Tracy Yes

Randi Zanca Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0

III. Discussion:

a. School Committee Self-Evaluation

Michael LeBrasseur stated that he included the template for the self-evaluation in the packet.

Mike asked the committee if they would like to continue doing the self-evaluation and if so, in the same format? The committee will vote on April 11th.

IV. School Committee Individual Comments

Michael LeBrasseur- Thank you again to the Legislatures, the Board of Selectman, and Town Manager. We had good conversation with them, and they were supportive. Good luck tomorrow at the Finance Committee, and we thank them for their support as well.

V. Adjournment 8:35

The motion was made by Kate Tracy to adjourn the meeting to meet in executive session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws chapter 30A section 21 (a) for the following purposes:

- a. Regarding Grievance Hearing with AFL-CIO, STATE COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 1709, Unit C- Custodial, Not to reconvene in Open Session
- b. Purpose (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, specifically to deliberate and determine a response to the NTA Jones grievance.

The motion was seconded Randi Zanca. A vote was taken by roll call and the following votes were recorded:

Michael Clements Absent

Mike LeBrasseur Yes

Joseph Strazzulla Absent

Kate Tracy Yes

Randi Zanca Yes

3 members having voted in the affirmative

0 members having voted in the negative

The motion was accepted with a roll call vote of 3-0.

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[Edit this form](#)

Northbridge School Committee Self Evaluation

Governance

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
1. The committee's policies are clear and up-to-date.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The committee has adopted a mission statement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. The committee regularly evaluates its progress relative to the goals and objectives that have been adopted.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. The committee refrains from involvement in the administration of the school system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. The committee members take part in educational workshops and conferences to help them make informed decisions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Governance Comments

Operations

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
7. Roles of committee officers are defined in committee policy and understood by all members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. New members receive introductory training and	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
orientation when they join the committee.					
9. Procedures and protocols for committee operations are published and understood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Operations Comments

Member Relations

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
11. Members treat each other with courtesy and respect.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
12. All members are encouraged to voice opinions and take positions on issues.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
13. Members respect the will of the majority and support decisions once they are made.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
14. Members share pertinent information with each other to prevent surprises and promote informed decision making.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
15. Members "do their homework" and come prepared to make decisions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
16. Members understand the role of the individual as part of the whole group.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. Member Relations Comments

Committee/Superintendent Relations

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
18. The committee regularly evaluates the superintendent using a mutually agreed-upon process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
19. The types and frequency of communications are agreed to in advance.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
20. The superintendent is accessible to committee members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
21. Committee members contact the superintendent when seeking information.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
22. The superintendent informs the committee of major personnel decisions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
23. The superintendent and committee treat each other with mutual respect and professionalism.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
24. Both the committee and the superintendent operate on a "no-surprises" model.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

25. Committee/Superintendent Relations Comments

Strategic Planning and Fiscal Management

5 Strongly Agree 4 Agree 3 Disagree 2 Strongly Disagree 1 Don't Know

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
26. A long term, strategic plan exists and is regularly reviewed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
27. All constituencies of the school district are involved in the strategic planning process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
28. The budget process is documented and published.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
29. Budgets are developed based on needs, from the "bottom-up."	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
30. The committee, as a group, presents and advocates the budget to the community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
31. The committee receives regular reports with budget and financial status for the school system.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

32. Strategic planning and Fiscal Management Comments

Community Relations

	5 Strongly Agree	4 Agree	3 Disagree	2 Strongly Disagree	1 Don't Know
33. The committee has a public relations plan for the school system	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
34. The committee encourages the inclusion of community members in as much decision making as possible.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
35. The committee works cooperatively with other branches of municipal government.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
36. The school system regularly reports its own progress and	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5 Strongly Agree 4 Agree 3 Disagree 2 Strongly Disagree 1 Don't Know

accomplishments.

37. Community Relations Comments

Conduct of Meetings

5 Strongly Agree 4 Agree 3 Disagree 2 Strongly Disagree 1 Don't Know

38. Committee members receive sufficient information far enough in advance to prepare for meetings.

39. Public input is welcomed, and is done according to an established policy.

40. Full and sufficient debate is allowed.

41. Discussion is focused on issues, not personalities.

42. The physical setting is conducive to productive discussion and decision making.

43. Meetings are frequent enough to prevent overcrowded agendas.

44. Conduct of Meetings Comments

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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY
(ACTION ITEM)**

**Agenda Item
For School Committee Meeting of
April 11, 2017**

SUBJECT: Approving the Acceptance of School Choice Students for the 2017-2018 School Year

Person(s) preparing Agenda Item: Catherine Stickney

Listing of Attachments (supporting documentation): None

BACKGROUND: This is the annual action item to approve the district to accept School Choice students for the 2017-2018 school year.

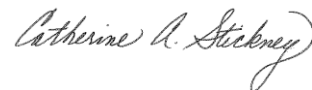
STATUS: The district is currently accepting School Choice at every grade except for grade 3 due to enrollment.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATION: By accepting School Choice students, we can generate revenue for the town by accepting students who are interested in attending Northbridge Public Schools and partaking in the strong programs we have to offer.

RECOMMENDATION: The Superintendent recommends that the School Committee move to accept School Choice students for the 2017-2018 school year.

A recommendation for grade closure may follow closer to the start of the 2017-2018 school year.

Recommended by the Superintendent:



It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to be discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, age or disability in its education programs, services, activities, or employment practices



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

DATE: December 15, 2016

MEMO CODE: SP 11-2017

SUBJECT: Paid Lunch Equity: School Year 2017-2018 Calculations and Tool

TO: Regional Directors
Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions

State Directors
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Regulations at 7 CFR 210.14(e) require school food authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program to ensure sufficient funds are provided to the nonprofit school food service account for meals served to students not eligible for free or reduced price meals. There are two ways to meet this requirement: either through the prices charged for “paid” meals or through other non-Federal sources provided to the nonprofit school food service account.

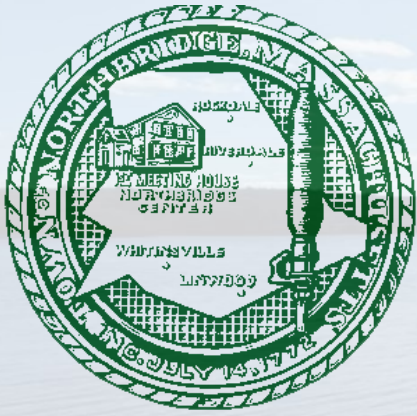
This memorandum provides guidance on the calculations SFAs must make in order to ensure they are in compliance with these requirements for School Year (SY) 2017-18. In addition, attached is the SY 2017-18 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) Tool to assist SFAs as they make these required calculations.



SY 2017-18 Paid Lunch Equity Calculations

For SY 2017-18, SFAs which, on a weighted average, charged less than **\$2.86** for paid lunches in SY 2016-17 are required to adjust their weighted average lunch price or add non-Federal funds to the non-profit school food service account. The amount per meal increase will be calculated using 2 percent rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (2.64 percent), totaling **4.64** percent.

SFAs are reminded that they must use their unrounded adjusted average paid lunch price requirement from SY 2016-17 when calculating the weighted average lunch price increase for SY 2017-18. For example, if the unrounded SY 2016-17 requirement was \$2.28 but the SFA opted to round down to \$2.25, the calculation of the SY 2017-18 requirement is based on the \$2.28 unrounded SY 2016-17 requirement.



Northbridge Community Cleanup

Friday, April 21 · Noon—5 p.m.

Saturday, April 22 · 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

*Meet at Whitin Community Center's Whitin Park
60 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA*

Whitinsville · Linwood · Rockdale · Riverdale · Northbridge Center
Blackstone River · Mumford River · West River

Show Your Pride for Northbridge!

Join local businesses, community groups
and residents in a town-wide cleanup event
to help beautify Northbridge.



Photo by Chris Bilodeau



Volunteers can serve in the National Park Service's Volunteers-in-Parks program for the day and receive the use of safety vests, gloves and litter pickers.

Volunteers are encouraged to select a cleanup spot in advance.

For more info, contact Bonnie Combs at bcombs@BlackstoneHeritageCorridor.org,
or call (508) 234-4242.

To register, visit: tinyurl.com/NorthbridgeCleanup17



A message to parents and community stakeholders:

Massachusetts has statewide learning standards that outline what students are expected to know and be able to do in each subject area and grade level. The standards set high expectations for all students – regardless of the school district they live in.

More than 20 years of education reform

The 1993 Massachusetts Education Reform Act introduced learning standards, helped all districts meet baseline funding levels, introduced new requirements for teachers, and created MCAS to measure students' progress on the standards.

From the middle of the pack to #1 in the nation

Since the implementation of education reform, Massachusetts students, who once lagged behind other states, are now leading the nation in academic achievement. Massachusetts students are also competitive on a global scale.

Yet while Massachusetts students perform well overall, some students are not achieving at a level that prepares them for success after high school. The state's education leaders

understand that preparing our students for the 21st century requires frequent re-examination of and improvements to our standards and assessments.

Teachers use standards and tests to help guide their instruction

Learning standards are not classroom curriculum, so while the state sets what students need to know and be able to do in each grade level, many decisions are made

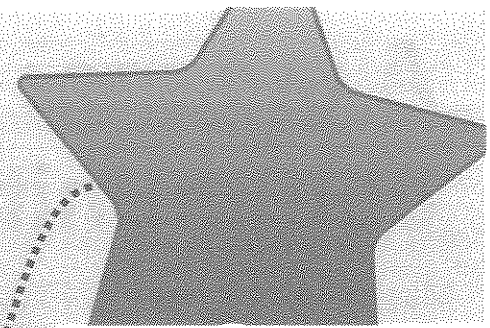
at the local level. Curriculum, lesson plans, books, materials and other resources are all selected locally, sometimes at the district level, and sometimes, as in the case of specific materials, by individual teachers. (Although some states have mandated curricula and textbooks, that is not true in Massachusetts.)



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION

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Step by step,
**schools use
state standards
and testing to
improve teaching
and learning**



4. Testing

State assessments help educators, parents, and policymakers determine where students are mastering the material and where they need additional help.

3. Instruction

Teachers provide instruction that helps students learn and retain information so that they build on their knowledge each year.

2. Curriculum

At the local level, school districts choose curriculum and assemble materials – text books, lesson plans, assignments, and other resources – to help students meet the learning standards.

1. Standards

The state, working with Massachusetts educators, establishes learning standards that describe what a student should know and be able to do at each grade level.

#1

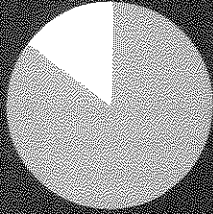
4th and 8th graders placed first in the nation on a national test of reading and math for over a decade

10th Grade Proficiency Gaps Closing

by 18 percentage points between white and African American students

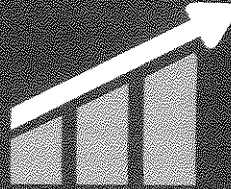
by 21 percentage points between white and Hispanic students

Based on 10th grade MCAS ELA, 2006-2016



87%

87% of the 2015 graduation cohort graduated on time



9 YEARS

Graduation rate has increased for 9 consecutive years



The goal of the Massachusetts public K-12 education system is to prepare all students for success after high school. Massachusetts has identified five core strategies to accelerate the pace of school improvement towards this goal.

Core Strategies

1

Strengthen standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment



2

Promote educator development



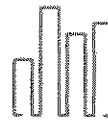
3

Turn around the lowest performing districts and schools



4

Use technology and data to support teaching and learning



5

Support social-emotional learning, health, and safety



SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

Understanding the Commonwealth's strategic plan for education

Massachusetts wants all students to enjoy success after high school. Students will be college and career ready, prepared for civic life, demonstrate skills and abilities necessary to successfully complete credit-bearing college courses, participate in certificate or work-place training programs, enter economically viable career pathways, and engage as active and responsible citizens in our democracy. In pursuit of these student outcomes, we will:



Strengthen standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessments

The Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks are designed to increase academic aspirations and raise expectations for learning. By setting and measuring high expectations, deepening professional learning for educators, and supporting child-first instruction, ESE aims to support Massachusetts educators in implementing robust instruction that is aligned to our state's strong standards. ESE is developing a statewide next generation assessment aligned to those standards and designed to provide districts with feedback on student progress in attaining the standards.



Promote educator development

ESE aims to ensure that all students have access to highly skilled educators by supporting a cycle of continuous improvement and identifying opportunities to develop and retain highly effective educators. The Commonwealth's approach to educator development involves setting high standards for educators, evaluating educators based on those standards, and providing targeted professional development. ESE is also deeply engaged in strengthening the educator workforce by implementing more rigorous educator preparation program review standards, implementing performance assessments at the pre-service stage for administrators and teachers, and facilitating continuous improvement with educator preparation programs and the districts they serve.



Support social-emotional learning, health, and safety

Research and experience demonstrate that preparing all students for success (in school, the workplace, civic life, and more) includes attending to their social-emotional and health development. Furthermore, academic and social-emotional competencies are mutually reinforcing. Key levers in this work include safe and supportive school climate and culture, and effective family engagement. ESE is committed to building out supports and policies in partnership with practitioners in the field and other state agencies to advance this work in the Commonwealth, both in and out of school. It is our goal to promote systems and strategies that foster safe, positive, healthy and inclusive learning environments and address students' varied needs in order to improve educational outcomes for all students.



Turn around the lowest performing districts and schools

The state's lowest performing schools require additional resources and evidence-based interventions to support their rapid improvement. Our mission is to turn around underperforming schools and districts by supporting sustained improvement, so that all students have access to high-quality, culturally relevant learning opportunities that prepare them for successful futures. We know that if we can support our lowest performing schools in establishing a community of practice through leadership, shared responsibility, and professional collaboration; employing intentional practices for improving instruction; providing student-specific supports and instruction to all students; and providing appropriate social, emotional, and behavioral supports in order to create a safe, orderly, and respectful learning environment for students and teachers, then schools will achieve meaningful improvements in student learning, so that students are prepared for success after high school.



Use technology and data to support teaching and learning

The agency aims to promote effective data use in classrooms by equipping educators with useful reports and providing support on their use. Our initiatives seek to improve data infrastructure and promote a culture of effective data and technology use in districts and schools. The following core beliefs guide our work: technology represents a powerful tool for facilitating student engagement and higher-level learning at scale; technological savvy has become increasingly essential for students as they enter college and the workforce; empowering educators and leadership teams with data and instructional tools will enhance targeted decision-making and improve student outcomes.