

Report of the

Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee

Mark Healey, Chair (Dover)

Angie Johnson, Vice Chair (Sherborn)

Kate Potter, Secretary (Sherborn)

Toa Ashk (Sherborn)

Colleen Burt (Dover)

Kevin Crotty (Dover)

The mission of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Committee (DSRSC) is to ensure that our nationally recognized, high-performing school system continues to provide innovative teaching and learning experiences that inspire and support all students on their individual educational journeys. Dover and Sherborn members of the DSRSC are elected by Dover and Sherborn citizens, respectively, on a rotating basis of one member each year for a three-year term.

Enrollment

As of **October 2024**, enrollment in the Dover-Sherborn Regional School District (the District) was **1,079** students.

District Strategic Plan

Superintendent Elizabeth McCoy had used her entry plan data to develop and propose a five-year Strategic Plan in **spring 2023**. The Plan, adopted in September 2023, prioritizes for both rigor and innovative practices to prepare students for an ever-evolving world and aims to challenge and support every student, fostering a growth mindset through comprehensive programs and a welcoming environment. Educator development is championed through collaboration and professional growth opportunities, as well as family and community partnerships to realize a shared vision. In addition to direct and “whole child” student support in pursuit of academic and extracurricular excellence for all, the Plan commits to evaluating and optimizing facilities to ensure the safety and sustainability of learning spaces, always seeking to provide a dynamic educational environment.

The clear vision, mission, and goals of the Strategic Plan will ensure sound and actionable progress in the coming years.

Academic Outcomes

The District remains one of the leaders in the Commonwealth in terms of academic outcomes for our students. Next Generation MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) testing results **for 2024** were as follows:

- **English Language Arts:** **Eighty-six percent** of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average **57%**).
- **Mathematics:** **Eighty-eight percent** of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average **48%**).
- **Science and Technology/Engineering:** **Eighty-eight percent** of sophomores met or exceeded expectations (state average **49%**).

In 2024, **246** students took AP (Advanced Placement) courses in **15** subjects. In testing, **96%** of the student scores were **3** or above, qualifying those students to earn equivalent college credit at most institutions.

Sixty-nine percent of the class of 2024 took the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), with mean test scores of 650 for Evidence-based Reading and Writing and 659 for Math.

In addition to its focus on strong academic outcomes, the District remains firmly committed to ensuring the social-emotional wellness of its students and continues its work with “Challenge Success” (www.challengesuccess.org), which has encouraged our schools to consider the whole child in their definition of success.

Leadership and Faculty

During the 2023–24 school year, we were fortunate to have Superintendent McCoy and Assistant Superintendent Denton Conklin continue to lead the District. With their leadership renewed into the current (2024–25) academic year, they will continue to build relationships and drive programming.

Additionally, Ann Dever-Keegan, previous Dover-Sherborn High School (DSHS) Assistant Principal, was officially appointed as Principal of Dover-Sherborn Middle School (DSMS) on July 1. Timothy O’Mara, former DSHS guidance counselor, was officially hired as the Assistant Principal of DSHS. Superintendent McCoy and Principal Smith continue to work hard to support the new leaders and strengthen the Regional Schools’ collaborative leadership for grades 6–12. Retirements at the District in 2024 included: John Hickey, Lindsay Li, Audrey Moran, Kimberly Phelan, and Leanne Wilkie. We wish each of these dedicated professionals all the best in their retirement and thank them for their many years of dedicated service to our students and community.

Finance

The DSRSC thanks the citizens of Dover and Sherborn for their continued generous support of the schools. The District’s Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget is \$28,877,195, an increase of \$904,655 (3.23%) over the FY24 budget. Operating expenditures include salaries and benefits, including other post-employment benefits (\$24,260,945); buildings, grounds, and utilities (\$1,352,250); debt service (\$724,200); transportation (\$1,068,000), and other expenditures (\$1,471,800). State aid covers \$3,360,433 of these operating expenses. Revenues of \$359,675 from student activity fees (\$45–\$75 per student), parking fees (\$300 per permit), and athletic fees (\$335 per sport, with a cap of \$1,340 per family), along with \$275,000 from other revenue sources also help offset costs. Remaining expenditures are funded generously through local taxes. The District’s Excess and Deficiency (E&D) account submitted for certification as of June 30, 2024, is \$796,185. This account operates under Massachusetts General Laws in a manner similar to a town’s Free Cash.

The DSRSC is grateful for the incredible support it received in both time and money from the Dover-Sherborn Boosters, the Friends of the Performing Arts (FoPA), the Dover-Sherborn High School PTO, Dover-Sherborn Middle School POSITIVE, the Alan Thayer Mudge Memorial Fund, and the broader community. These groups continued to generously support us in 2024, and their contributions are critical to maintaining our excellent programs.

Contractual Agreements

The Educators’ Agreement (Agreement), effective through August 2026, fairly and sustainably accommodates the educational standards we expect for our students while providing support for the high-quality services expected from our educators. At the same time, it acknowledges the constraints affecting town, state, and federal budgets. We are grateful for the continued cooperation between the Town and District leadership and the Dover-Sherborn Education Association (DSEA), and we believe the Agreement achieves its three fundamental goals of supporting our students effectively, creating fair working conditions for our employees, and

ensuring sustainable costs for our taxpayers. All other DSEA contracts are also effective through the end of FY26.

Facilities

Our buildings and grounds represent a major educational investment by Dover and Sherborn for now and the future. To protect this investment, the DSRSC has a Long-Range Capital Maintenance and Improvement Plan for the physical assets of the district-wide campus. The DSRSC works with the finance committees and select boards of both towns to determine how to best fund upcoming capital expenses required to maintain the facilities and equipment coming off warranty from the 2005 construction and renovation project. The main capital project completed in summer 2024 was the replacement of the high school bleachers and press box. The new structure is ADA compliant and was partially funded through generous gifts from the Alan Thayer Mudge Memorial Fund, Dover-Sherborn Boosters, and Dover-Sherborn Cable Television.

Looking forward, we anticipate the need to update the turf field and track (including the fencing and lighting), as well as continue work on replacing HVAC equipment for all three buildings on the Region's campus that are well over 20 years old. We continue to work cooperatively with sustainability groups from both towns and to investigate funding opportunities available through the State's Green Communities Designation & Grant Program. This program supports communities in achieving environmental goals through energy efficiencies and reducing life-cycle costs in buildings and construction.

Membership

In 2024, Dover resident Kevin Crotty joined the DSRSC for a three-year term, replacing Margaret Charron who had served a seven-year term. Sherborn resident Toa Ashk joined the DSRSC for a three-year term, replacing Judi Miller who had served a six-year term. The DSRSC is thankful for their service.

Visit www.doversherborn.org to keep up with changes, school events, or to contact our staff or school committees.