

Report of the **Chickering Elementary School**

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Introduction

Chickering School continues to be a high-performing elementary school, where our students learn, laugh, care, grow, and make a difference. We welcome children from Dover and Boston who are enrolled in the METCO program. Teachers and Administration staff have identified the “9 Best Practices” of teaching and learning, working **throughout 2024** to define, refine, and bring into practice strategies that maximize student learning and engagement.

Enrollment and Staffing

As of **October 1, 2024**, total enrollment stayed consistent with **492** students, compared with 498 students the previous year. We have three sections in kindergarten, four sections in first, second, and fourth grade, five sections in third and fifth grade, as well as two integrated preschool classes. We appreciate the generous support of the Dover School Committee, which allows our class sizes to remain within the policy range of 17 to 22 pupils per class section. Looking ahead to **fall 2025**, we anticipate that enrollment and classroom numbers will remain steady.

Despite retirement and maternity leaves occurring at the start of the school year, we were fortunate to have a complete staff of both regular and special education teachers.

Curriculum and Professional Development

Our School Improvement Plan for **2024–25** includes three areas: Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), Math Curriculum and Instruction, and Community Communication.

In 2024, our MTSS program focused on refining English Language Arts and Math assessments, and piloting math intervention for Tier 2 instruction. After completing our pilot programs in **spring 2024**, we implemented Reveal Math as the new math curriculum the following fall. Teachers and Special Educators participated in professional development over the summer and continued to hone their instruction as the year progressed.

Our goal for communicating with our school community is to be clear, consistent, relevant, and accessible. The District has launched a new interactive application, ParentSquare, for all families from preschool to grade 12, for whom communication from all four Dover-Sherborn schools can be found in one place.

At Chickering, we strive to maintain the academic excellence and rigor of our curriculum while pursuing continuous improvement through curricular research and exploration. We support the District’s Strategic Plan and have deepened our commitment to “create, foster, and implement culturally responsive practices to inform, educate, and improve our school community.”

Teachers are trained to bring culture and inclusion into the curriculum, and the school and classroom libraries offer literature representing a broad range of people. Professional development continues in this vein as we interpret and implement the recommendations from the district-wide equity audit.

Special Education

The Special Education Department works with students, families, and staff to provide a broad range of services that allow children access to the curriculum through modified instruction and materials, and in a supportive environment that meets students' needs. Special education and general education teachers collaborate to achieve the most effective planning and programming for students with complex needs, so that the school can better serve all children while maintaining an inclusive environment.

We provide the following services and programs: assessment for Dover children younger than age five, programming options in the integrated preschool, counseling for social/emotional well-being, behavioral supports, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. These services are further supported by a state and federally mandated Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), a parent-volunteer organization that works with all the schools in the Dover-Sherborn regional school system.

School Advisory Council

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a state-mandated committee of teachers, parents, and a community representative. It assists the school with the development of the School Improvement Plan and serves in an advisory capacity to the Principal. The SAC works collaboratively to identify the educational needs of school and to facilitate communication between the school and community.

During the 2024–25 school year, the SAC will continue reviewing our communication strategies, our MTSS system, and plan for the next School Improvement Plan.

PTO

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is made up of parents/guardians, co-chairs, and a board that oversees fundraising, spending, and program development. We also have a PTO teacher liaison. The PTO alternates its yearly fundraising efforts between an auction and a check-writing campaign, with funds primarily supporting curriculum enrichment. We are grateful for the generous support of the Dover community, which enables us to provide teacher grants and a richer educational environment for our students.

Conclusion

Education remains a top priority in Dover. Our students are a part of a thoughtful and engaged learning community that offers them an exceptional “whole child” educational experience, delivered by highly skilled and dedicated staff. The curriculum is designed to be inclusive, foster curiosity, and create a lifelong love of learning. We hold steadfast to our commitment to continual growth and improvement, and to making a difference in the lives of children.