

Many thanks in advance for retaining boilerplate language that has not changed in the past year. For example, your “Special Education,” Special Advisory Council,” “PTO,” and “Conclusion” sections do not need to be rewritten.

All reports are formatted and copyedited to comport with our house style so as to ensure a cohesive *Dover Town Report*. Therefore, please preserve established margins, line-spacing, paragraph indents, font choices and applications (including the use of italics and bolding), and headings and subheads, all of which provide important layout cues for our designer. Please also retain the treatment of professional titles, organizations, programs, publications, acronyms, numerals/ordinals, dates, year ranges, general references, etc. This will save you time and prevent errors.

Please contact Mary Kalamaras at mkalamaras@doverma.gov or 301-535-4566 with any report prep questions. Thank you for your assistance and partnership in publishing a great town report!

Report of the **Chickering Elementary School**

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Introduction

The 2022–23 school year resumed with normal classroom routines and structures, school assemblies and curriculum enrichment programs. Our continuing “mask optional” stance honors individual choice for masks. As 2023-2024 continues, students are provided with an academically enriched learning experience, coupled with a comprehensive Fine Arts experience, PK-5. Our FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School) serves as a model program across the state.

Enrollment and Staffing

As of October 1, 2023, total enrollment stayed nearly steady with 498 students, compared to 510 students in the previous year. We have four sections each at kindergarten and grades 1, 3, and 5; and five sections each for grades 2 and 4. We have two preschool classes. We are grateful for the generous support of the Dover School Committee, which allows our class sizes to remain within the policy range of 17–22 pupils per class section. As we look ahead to fall 2024, we anticipate our enrollment and number of classrooms will remain steady.

With retirement and maternity leaves as the school year began, we were fortunate to have complete regular and special education teacher staffing.

Curriculum and Professional Development

Our School Improvement plan includes three areas: MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support), communication and curriculum.

Our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) program continues to mature as we develop strong Tier 1 supports within each classroom, based on student needs. At Tier 2,

a greater level of support, students are identified by common assessments and teacher recommendation. We provide reading, math and social/emotional interventions in small groups across all grade levels.

Our goal for communication is to be clear, consistent, relevant and accessible for all. The district launched a new website where families can find all information about the school including registration, Family newsletters and policies.

As a school we seek to maintain academic excellence and rigor while maintaining a mindset for continuous improvement, research and exploration of curriculum. This year includes curriculum pilots in Math and SEL (Social Emotional Learning).

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 and maintain 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 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.

In 2023–24, the SAC is reviewing our communication strategies and MTSS system to understand and support the process.

PTO

The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is made up of parents/guardians, with co-chairs, and a board that oversees fundraising, spending, and program development. We also have a teacher liaison to the organization. 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 an exceptional “whole child” educational experience for them, 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.