

Education

Sudbury Public Schools

Superintendent's Report

In the 2022-2023 school year, SPS continued to face the effects of the global CoronaVirus pandemic. The school district opened school in-person and operationally modeling schooling pre-pandemic. The District, similar to other cities and towns in the Commonwealth, experienced greater student needs both in the areas of behavioral and mental health and academically. The District recognized these needs and shifted funding to target those needs. The district continued to enhance its teaching and learning capacities through annual goals and professional development. Those goals help us to remain focused on working together to provide a high-quality educational experience for all students in a safe and caring environment despite the challenges of the pandemic. Several specific achievements were the completion of the Loring playground, enhancements to the summer program to provide opportunities to learn skills that have been missed or underdeveloped, 8th-grade Civics trip to Washington D.C., a capstone project for 8th-graders in Civics, a new elective for 7th-grade students engage in challenging mathematics, and significant capital improvements.

SPS Vision

We are committed to excellence in educating students to be knowledgeable, creative, independent thinkers who are caring, collaborative members of the school and wider communities.

SPS Theory of Action

If SPS provides differentiated high-quality instruction that is aligned with the Massachusetts learning standards for every student, maintains a safe school environment, uses data to inform instruction, and supports educators through professional development, ongoing feedback, and enhanced leadership in curriculum and instruction, then our students will be challenged and their varied learning needs met, the capacity of educators will grow, and the existing achievement gaps will narrow.

SPS 2022-2023 Goals

Educational Goal #1 - Wellness

Sudbury Public Schools promote the social, emotional, and physical wellness of all students.

- Enhance and maintain district-wide safety protocols: FY23 focus Threat Assessment
- Full implementation of elementary Harmony SEL curriculum
- Investigate and respond to discipline data to ensure an equitable approach to behavior supports and responses
- Review Mental Health referral protocols and practices

- Expand middle school Health and Wellness course
- Expand SPD SRO interface to include an elementary and middle school officer
- Augment Mental Health/Behavioral services
- Disaggregate and respond to social/emotional data to ensure equitable outcomes for all student subgroups

Educational Goal #2 - Innovation

Sudbury Public Schools implement innovative, research-based curriculum and educational practices.

- Review and revise grade 8 Civic Action Project
- Implement initial ELA Curriculum Update recommendations and plan for future phases
- Review and revise scope and sequence for middle school science and identify supporting resources and engaging student learning experiences
- Identify updated middle school social studies materials and develop corresponding instructional sequences
- Implement SEL daily educational practices at the elementary level
- Align mathematical experiences for students with the continued focus on mathematical practices
- Develop sustainable structures to integrate SMILE, SMILE and Explore and ESY

Educational Goal #3 - Meeting the Needs of ALL Learners

Sudbury Public Schools provides learning experiences that aim to engage and challenge at students' individual levels.

- Review and revise assessments for ELA and Mathematics
- Develop structures to warehouse and analyze student outcomes in mathematics
- Finalize Dyslexia Response Plan and implement initial recommendations
- Implement recommendations of Equity Audit
- Develop an ADA compliant Outdoor Wellness Space for ECMS
- Pilot specialized programming for elementary students with learning and emotional needs (i.e. Loring Bridges and Noyes LAB)
- Review and revise middle school support and enrichment courses, including Math Enrichment and Executive Functioning
- Implement revised METCO enrollment practices and identify additional opportunities for family and student engagement
- Develop implementation process for adoption of mandated IEP revision

Managerial Goal #1 - Fiscal Responsibility

Sudbury Public Schools anticipates and plans for fiscal needs with a long term vision.

- Implement online payroll system
- Implement budgetarily responsible E911 system to comply with Kari's Law and Ray Baum's Act
- Execute, Update, and Revise SPS Capital Plan

Managerial Goal #2 - Professional Learning

Sudbury Public Schools employs, develops, and supports high quality personnel.

- Implement Professional Development aligned with District Goals, state and federal mandates, and emerging staff and student needs.
- Targeted Professional Development focused on District's Equity Goals
- Implement diversity recruitment recommendations

As we pursue our strategic goals and objectives we also, like other school systems in the Commonwealth, continue to be challenged to balance educational needs and our desire to be an innovative school system with our fiscal responsibilities. SPS has continued to maintain our strengths and strategically implement improvements through the hard work and dedicated service of our staff members and the unequalled support of a wide range of parent and community organizations. As a district, we continue to pursue structures that meet the needs of students while controlling personnel costs.

The General Fund budget including employee benefits for FY23 is \$50,118,315, which is 3.08% greater than the prior year (FY22) General Fund budget of \$48,619,219. In FY23, Sudbury Public Schools employs 457.33 full time-equivalent employees (FTE's); this compares with 444.9 FTE's in FY22.

Our efforts to make improvements have been enhanced by the unwavering support of our parents, parent organizations (PTOs), as well as generous grants from Sudbury Education Resource Fund (SERF), and The Sudbury Foundation. These groups have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide opportunities for our students and staff that the district's budget could not support. In some cases, core opportunities (e.g. enrichment and creative professional development) have been enhanced by local contributions. We appreciate these partnerships and the generous support of the work of our educators, which has allowed Sudbury Public Schools to continue to be a great place to learn and work.

In the space below, we offer a brief overview of our school district and invite you to visit our website at www.sudbury.k12.ma.us to learn more about SPS. On our website you will find detailed information about our school district including but not limited to individual schools, teaching and learning across the district, news and upcoming events, and the school district budget. For questions, please contact Superintendent Brad Crozier at 978-639-3211.

Student Enrollment

As of January 16, 2023, SPS enrollment in grades pre-K to 8 was 2,580 students. This is an increase in enrollment from 2,551 students in the 2021-2022 school year and a decrease from our highest enrollment of 3,302 students in 2007.

Early Childhood Education

Preschool

The Sudbury Public Schools is home to an Integrated Preschool program at the Noyes School. Residents may apply as tuition preschool students on a “first-come/first-serve” basis beginning in the fall of each year. If interested in a preschool application, one may register from the district website or reach out to early_childhood@sudbury.k12.ma.us or call the Early Childhood Office at: (978) 639-3204.

Our preschool is committed to a developmentally appropriate philosophy that combines a play-based, language model that is enriched by a strong academic curriculum to align with the standards that are well established by the MA State Department of Early Education & Care (EEC) Guidelines for Preschool Learning Experiences. Our preschool team believes in educating the *whole child* by respecting individual needs for social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. This inclusive educational program allows all children to learn from each other while providing a lifelong foundation for respecting human differences.

The Sudbury Preschool Program prioritizes multiple learning modalities and methodologies. Each week, preschool classes attend an educational music class and a physical education/gross motor class. Social-emotional learning is the priority, while all classrooms teach literacy skills inclusively and naturally. Artistic development is deliberately planned with curriculum integration on thematic units, and science and math standards are incorporated with each unit of study. Outdoor learning opportunities are celebrated daily, as preschoolers play outside to practice social, gross motor, and language skills with peers. In addition, there is a lunch bunch/social skills group, and some students attend full-day programming.

Each class is staffed with a Masters's level teacher and two teacher assistants/tutors depending upon student needs. Speech and language, occupational, applied behavior analysis, and physical therapists interact with all classrooms. The professional staff includes a school psychologist, social worker, and guidance counselor, with regular consultation from a vision and mobility specialist. The preschool program regularly offers community “developmental screenings,” where families can meet with professionals to discuss their children's developmental milestones. The preschool team is highly experienced in both general and special education practices. This integrated early childhood program is an enriching learning environment for all students.

Kindergarten

The Sudbury Public Schools provides full-day kindergarten to all students free of charge. Kindergarten registration begins in February for children who turn age five on or before September 1st for enrollment for 2023-2024. Each year the district hosts a “Kickoff to K” evening event in January for parents and guardians to learn more about the Sudbury Kindergarten Program and ask questions. In the late spring, a ‘Kindergarten Orientation’ event is held, and this is when families and children are invited to visit their specific neighborhood school. The registration process begins with an online form accessible from the district’s “Registration” tab as of February 1st. Families will need to provide proof of residency for each child who enters the school system, even if there are older siblings who are

currently enrolled. In addition, forms to address health concerns and parent information must be completed. If you have questions about the kindergarten program or your child's readiness, please reach out to early_childhood@sudbury.k12.ma.us or call the Early Childhood Office at: (978) 639-3204.

Teaching and Learning/Curriculum

District curriculum is aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Clearly communicating with families about students' learning is a priority for the District. Resources supporting families' understanding and engagement with the various curricular areas can be found at <http://www.sudbury.k12.ma.us/>, under the Teaching & Learning tab.

English Language Arts: ELA Curriculum Standards emphasize multicultural literature and writing about reading. In Sudbury, the elementary English Language Arts curriculum is organized as a series of genre units in which students receive important, common instruction in different genres, as well as in the writing types and styles that match each genre. Reading and writing instruction follows the workshop model. Students receive direct instruction on key skills, strategies and understandings during a mini-lesson. Guided practice in the form of small group instruction, independent or partner work or centers is structured to meet individuals specific literacy needs. Challenge libraries including complex texts aligned to the various genre units serve as a resource for teachers differentiating for advanced learners. At the middle school level, instructional units utilizing differentiated text sets provide for consistency of theme and topical study, while also allowing students to read in texts that provide the optimal level of challenge.

A Response to Intervention (RTI) framework has been initiated in our schools, which periodically assesses student's literacy skills. Literacy support for elementary students is provided using research-based methodologies.

History & Social Studies: The K-8 Social Studies program is designed to help students become informed in four main areas: geography, history, economics, and civics and government. The Massachusetts History and Social Science Standards define the "the primary purpose of a history and social science education is to prepare students to have the knowledge and skills to become thoughtful and active participants in a democratic society and a complex world." Grade 8 students participate in a Civics Action Project and travel to Washington DC for an extended exploration of national landmarks and government.

Mathematics: The Mathematics Curriculum Standards place emphasis on the mathematical practices and the development of a mathematical mindset that allows for flexibility, persistence, and application. Bridges in Mathematics, 2nd edition, is the core K-5 Mathematics program. DEMOS is the core grade 6-8 Mathematics program. The core middle school curriculum is supplemented in grade eight with Algebra I and Number Theory offerings and in grade seven with Mathematics Challenge and Support.

Science, Technology and Engineering [STE]: The Sudbury Public Schools Science and Engineering curriculum provides students in grades K-8 the valuable opportunity to investigate science and engineering with a hands-on, inquiry approach. The 2016 Science & Technology/Engineering Framework serves as a guide for student learning in science and engineering content and practices. The

Science Steering Committee, which consists of educators and representative(s), serves in an advisory capacity in setting science and engineering goals for the district. The Science Curriculum Coordinator and Science Coach assist teachers with professional development, curriculum development, and coaching in the classroom. The district is integrating the 5E Instructional Model (Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate) into the science curriculum to help students develop a deep understanding of content and practices.

Digital Literacy and Computer Science: Massachusetts learning standards call for the integration of technology in all content areas as well as standards specific to the Computer Sciences and Digital Literacy.

Kindergarten and first grade students use devices for learning activities that support the content. Through repetition and established routines, students gain independence with the devices while learning to problem solve and navigate online. Students grade 2-8 participate in a 1:1 Chromebook program. These devices are used by students to produce work, collaborate with others, and support workflow. Google Classroom and Schoology, our online learning management systems, are used by students, educators, support staff, and parents to facilitate home/school communication. The district has invested in online subscriptions to support student learning.

Unified Arts: Art, Music, and World Language are critical components of Sudbury's Unified Arts curriculum in elementary and middle school grades. Spanish instruction is provided to all elementary students in grades 1 through 5. Middle school students elect either French or Spanish and proceed with their study of a world language in grades 6 through 8. Elementary band and chorus, as well as middle school band, orchestra, and chorus, are quality elective programs in our schools. Students participate in visual arts in grades 1 through 8.

Health and Wellness: The District School Health and Wellness Program helps students learn concepts and develop skills that support healthy lifestyles through wellness education that occurs across the curriculum and in their daily interactions with adults and peers. The school-based program requires coordination of key stakeholders including teachers, administrators, counselors, psychologists, nurses, student support staff, community-based health and safety professionals, and parents. Wellness education in Sudbury Public Schools focuses on school climate and culture; social and emotional learning; health, wellness, and safety; and family engagement.

Each year, district and school-based teams develop action plans to promote safe learning environments by implementing sustainable systems and practices to support all students. Annually, the students in grades 3 - 8 complete the Connectedness Survey which provides valuable data on school climate and safety and informs decisions related to school and district programming. The District Anti-Bullying Program and Policy provides a structure for addressing unsafe peer-to-peer behaviors.

The comprehensive social-emotional learning (SEL) program is founded on research and best practices identified by the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning. The program includes evidence-based curricula for students in PreK through eighth grade. Educators annually assess students' social-emotional skills using the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment. Educators target instruction

and monitor student progress using social-emotional competency reports generated from the assessments.

Effective district policies and implementing evidence-based curricula and best practices in grades PreK - 8 is at the core of health, wellness, and safety programming. The substance use prevention program includes staff training, the use of evidence-based curricula, problem identification, and referral services. Additionally, per Mass. Gen. Laws c. 71, s. 96, a verbal screening tool is used annually to screen seventh-graders for substance use risk. Parents and guardians are notified prior to the screening with the right to opt out of the screening with written notice. Sudbury Public Schools work collaboratively with the Town of Sudbury public safety departments. The school resource officers collaborate with the district on safety measures and teach the Students Thinking and Acting Responsibly in Sudbury (STARS) curriculum, which addresses digital safety and substance abuse prevention. A SAFE educator from the Sudbury Fire Department teaches students in PreK through 5th grade about fire safety and injury prevention. Additionally, the School Wellness Policy and Guidelines serve to guide practices surrounding the food services program, and curricular activities and celebrations that incorporate food.

The initiatives and programs described above, as well as other district, school, and curricular-based activities promote student learning and well-being through effective partnerships with families.

Student Assessment

As part of the Education Reform Act of 1993, the State Board of Education instituted a system of student assessments which culminates in a must-pass assessment in Grade 10 in order to graduate from high school. SPS students in grades 3-8 take MCAS in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Additionally students in grades 5 and 7 take MCAS in Science, Technology and Engineering.

English Learners are assessed each winter using the ACCESS assessment. This assessment measures student learning in the four language domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing. Results are used to help families and educators understand students' current level of English language proficiency, and serves as one of the measures used to determine whether students are prepared to exit English language support programs.

State assessments are designed to help identify those students who need improvement in various subject areas and to provide information on those specific areas on which to focus improvement efforts. Other ways in which students are assessed include teacher-created assessments, projects, and students' in-class work products. There are extensive local assessments in literacy skills (reading, writing, speaking, and listening) at all elementary grades. Data gathered on literacy skills at several key points during the school year enable teachers working together in school-based data teams to better design instruction to meet individual student's needs. In addition, work to develop common assessments across the district in all disciplines to support collaboration and coherence is in its second year.

The Schools

The Education Reform Act of 1993 established School Councils at all schools in the Commonwealth. Each School Council is co-chaired by the building principal with membership that includes parents, teachers and community

members. The Council assists the principal in identifying educational needs of the students, reviewing the annual school budget, and formulating a School Improvement Plan (SIP). The Council and the principal are responsible for the adoption of educational goals for the school and formulation of a plan to advance such goals and improve student performance.

Sudbury has a tradition that welcomes parent involvement in our schools. Parents are active supporters of many of our programs and countless activities within individual classrooms. Each of our schools has an active parent organization that provides a formal way for parents to be involved in Sudbury's schools.

As of 1/20/23

School	Grades Served	Enrollment	Administration
Ephraim Curtis Middle School	6 - 8	850	Jeff Mela, Principal Angela Menke, Assistant Principal Brian Menna, Assistant Principal
Josiah Haynes Elementary School	K - 5	372	Nadine Ekstrom, Interim Principal Lisa Williams, Assistant Principal
Israel Loring Elementary School	K - 5	434	Sara Harvey, Principal David Gaita, Assistant Principal
General John Nixon Elementary School	K - 5	331	Susan Woods, Principal Lisa Williams, Assistant Principal
Peter Noyes Elementary School	PK - 5	593	Annette Doyle, Principal Kristin Moffat, Assistant Principal

The Sudbury Education Resource Fund (SERF)

The Sudbury Education Resource Fund (SERF) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that awards education-related grants three times yearly to the Sudbury K-12 public schools. SERF coordinates a bank of resources and expertise, providing grants for educational pursuits, curriculum support, student enrichment, and professional development. Since its establishment in 1991, SERF has granted over \$777,800 to Sudbury's schools. Current grants support the arts, engineering and mathematics initiatives, and social-emotional learning. Membership in SERF is open to all individuals interested in contributing their time and energy. SERF continues to be an extremely valuable resource for enriching all aspects of the educational experience of students in Sudbury Public Schools. Further information regarding SERF can be found at: info@serfsudbury.org.

METCO Program

The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) was created 55 years ago by urban and suburban educational collaborators who believed that all children should have access to quality education in suburban school

districts. In this program, Boston resident students receive placements in participating suburban districts, supported by state grant funding. The Sudbury K-8 system enrolled its first forty students in the METCO program on January 27, 1975 in the five Sudbury elementary schools. Currently, this grant-funded program supports up to 70 students annually. The 2019-2020 academic year marked the first time Sudbury Public Schools METCO Program enrolled kindergarteners due to a policy change by the Sudbury School Committee. Six new kindergarten students joined the Sudbury METCO Program and the class of 2032. For the second year, the Sudbury METCO Program enrolled kindergarten students to join the class of 2033. Students completing grade 8, and any other student(s) leaving the Sudbury METCO Program, are replaced with the number of new elementary students needed to maintain enrollment for the next academic year.

Leslie Smart is the METCO Director for SPS K-8. She began her tenure in September 2022. The METCO Program Coordinator for the Ephraim Curtis Middle School provides direct services to students from Boston during the school day and communication with parents and teachers, as well as being a liaison between the middle school students, faculty, staff and families and the METCO Director.

Sudbury Public School students who reside in Boston participate in a variety of activities offered by Sudbury Public Schools. Sudbury METCO parent meetings are held in Boston several times per year; including an annual School Committee meeting. The meetings provide families from Boston an opportunity to discuss issues that are relevant to their children's academic progress and social-emotional well-being.

Special Education

The Sudbury Public Schools strives to offer the highest quality programming that will allow our students to participate in their neighborhood schools. Students' educational opportunities vary from full inclusion programs to specialized classrooms to support a host of learning needs and styles. Programming is available beginning at age 3 and ending at age 14 when students advance to Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School.

For the last several years, the district has focused on inclusionary practices that permit students with disabilities to have access to the general curriculum and school community. While the law states that all communities must place students in the least restrictive environment, the district recognizes the positive opportunities that result when students with disabilities participate in the general education classroom and when the curriculum has a universal design of learning for equitable access. All schools strive to establish inclusionary opportunities for students, and enriched educational experiences for all students are a priority.

The district continues to focus on the development of district-wide tiered systems of support to meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students. A tiered system of support is defined as a data-driven, prevention-based framework for improving learning outcomes for every student through a layered continuum of evidence-based practices and systems. The district created a district-wide team, including consulting experts, to examine data and identify areas of social, emotional, and behavioral needs impacting school safety or access to education. The systems of support are continuously being updated and adjusted.

The Sudbury Public Schools strive to be inclusive and child-centered environments where individual learning needs are met. The classroom is the best location for students to be nurtured in order to develop into able learners. The

multiplicity of programs in the schools offers a spectrum of learning options in order to provide for the varied needs and learning styles of our special education students. The preschool program, at the Peter Noyes School, supports students with and without disabilities from age 3 until the transition to Kindergarten. Every elementary school hosts a learning center model with one or more specialized programs. Program strands at the elementary level continue to the middle school. Programs support students with significant learning or social and emotional challenges. The success of the programs can be attributed to the excellent teachers who continue to build their repertoire of skills. These programs allow more students to remain in their neighborhood schools, enhancing the Sudbury Public Schools for all students.

Professional Development

The Sudbury Public Schools embody a culture that is highly supportive of professional development as a key strategy for maintaining excellence in teaching. Two full-days for professional development workshops, in-service workshops throughout the year, ongoing support for conference attendance, and professional learning communities (PLCs) are some of the strategies used in growing the capacity of SPS educators. New teachers to Sudbury schools participate in a multi-day program customized to enhance their understanding of Sudbury's learning expectations and resources. Veteran teachers assume the role of mentors for newer teachers, forming professional relationships that benefit both new and veteran teachers. Sudbury educators are committed to attending a 30-hour course in IDEAS (Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students), a program that explores racial identity development and promotes international vision within our curriculum. Additionally, Sudbury teachers assigned an EL (English Learner) student continue to engage in a rigorous 3 credit program of studies in order to earn the SEI (Sheltered English Immersion) Endorsement required by the state.

The Sudbury Public Schools implement an Improved Learning for All (ILAP) plan. ILAP is a professional growth model that utilizes early-release days approximately twice per month, enabling educators to attend carefully planned work sessions. ILAP days foster collaborative group activities within and across schools, grade levels, and disciplines to help accomplish district-wide and school goals. The District professional development days have focused on Social Emotional Learning and Supports and Equity.

Personnel

Retirees: The following SPS team members retired during the past year – Annemarie Andrews, Reyne Booth, Kathleen Carney, Anne Chabot, Janet Demarest and Lisa Nigrelli.

Years of Service Awards: On Opening Day in August of 2022 we had the honor and pleasure to acknowledge the following SPS team members: Steven Donaldson completed 40 years of service; Sean Maguire and Meg Shelley completed 30 years of service; Tracy Berry and Linda Gallagher completed 20 years of service and Jo-Ann Schuster, Heidi Strauss and Stephanie Williams completed their 10th year of service to the students and schools of Sudbury.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad J. Crozier, Superintendent

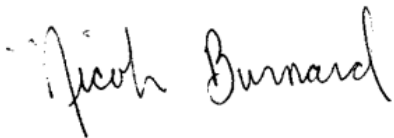
SUDBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Silvia Nersessian, Chairperson

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Meredith Gerson, Vice Chairperson

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Nicole Burnard

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Mandy Sim

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sarah Troiano'.

Sarah Troiano