

Agenda School Committee Meeting 6.10.24

Mission Statement

The mission of the Gardner Public School System is to prepare, in collaboration with parents, students who are ready upon graduation for the challenges of college and career without remediation. This will be done in a safe, caring, just and equitable environment. Our Core Values are Academic Excellence, Creativity, Respect and Responsibility.

Notice: The listing of agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chairman which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the Chair as to the number, placement, and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the Chair forthwith. All documents and exhibits used or referenced at the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Recording Secretary, as they become part of the meeting minutes.

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, June 10, 2024, 6:30 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall, Gardner, MA 01440

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- A. **Call to Order**
- B. **Open Time for General Public**
- C. **Recognitions by the Superintendent – 4th Grade Student Council 2023-2024**
- D. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Minutes: May 13, 2024
 - b. Warrant # 24-44, dated May 2, 2024. in the amount of \$500,548.03
 - c. Warrant # 24-47, dated May 23, 2024, in the amount of \$571,367.12
 - d. Warrant # 24-48, dated May 30, 2024, in the amount of \$464,921.87
 - e. Warrant # 24-49, dated June 6, 2024, in the amount of \$570,907.97
 - f. Donations -
- E. **Subcommittee Report**
 - Finance Subcommittee
 - Policy Subcommittee
- F. **Student Advisory Board – Zayvian Rowe-Class**

Agenda School Committee Meeting 6.10.24

G. Discussion Items:

New Business

Item #3623 First Reading of Policies (Information)

IJOA – Field Trips

IMGA - Service Animals in Schools (for adoption)

JI – Student Rights and Responsibilities

JICFA – Hazing/ Prohibition of Hazing

JICFA-E –Hazing

JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited

JIE – Pregnant Students

Item #3624 2024-2025 School Calendar (Vote Required)

Item #3625 Superintendent Evaluation (Vote Required)

Item #3626 College & Career Readiness Coordinator (Information)

Item #3627 Curriculum Coordinator Update (Information)

Item #3628 Director of School Health Services (Presentation)

Item #3629 Grants Administrator Update (Presentation)

Item #3630 Special Education Update (Information)

Item #3631 SEPAC Update (Information)

H. Communications

I. Final Comments of School Committee

J. Executive Session

K. Adjournment

Briefing
School Committee Meeting 6.10.2024

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BRIEFING

REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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 - Finance Subcommittee
 - Policy Subcommittee
- F. **Student Advisory Board-** Zayvian Rowe-Class
- G. **Discussion Items:**
 - New Business**
 - Item #3623 First Reading of Policies (Information)**
 - IJOA** – Field Trips
 - IMGA** - Service Animals in Schools (for adoption)
 - JI** – Student Rights and Responsibilities
 - JICFA** – Hazing/ Prohibition of Hazing
 - JICFA-E** –Hazing
 - JICH** – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited
 - JIE** – Pregnant Students
 - Item #3624** 2024-2025 School Calendar (**Vote Required**)
 - Item# 3625** Superintendent Evaluation (**Vote Required**)
 - Item #3626** College & Career Readiness Coordinator (**Information**)

Briefing

School Committee Meeting 6.10.2024

Item #3627 Curriculum Coordinator Update (**Information**)

Item #3628 Director of School Health Services (**Presentation**)

Item #3629 Grants Administrator Update (**Presentation**)

Item #3630 Special Education Update (**Information**)

Item #3631 SEPAC Update (**Information**)

H. **Communications**

I. **Final Comments of School Committee**

J. **Executive Session**

K. **Adjournment**

Gardner School Committee

City Council Chambers, 95 Pleasant Street, Gardner, Massachusetts

Regular Meeting – May 13, 2024

Members present: Mayor Michael Nicholson, Chairperson
Rachel Cormier
Anne Hurst
Shannon Leighton
Jennifer Pelavin
Robert Swartz

Member absent: John LaFreniere

School Personnel Present: Dr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent
Terri Hillman, Recording Secretary
Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer
Mark Hawke, Director of Finance and Operations
Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Melissa Paine, College & Career Readiness Program Coordinator
Earl Martin, Principal, Gardner Elementary School

Absent: Zayvian Rowe-Cross, Student Representative

Call to Order

Mayor Nicholson, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The meeting opened with a roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was broadcast live on Channel 8 (Gardner Educational Television Station).

Open Time for the General Public

No one from the General Public was present.

Recognitions by Superintendent

Dr. Pellegrino and Earl Martin, Principal of the Gardner Elementary School, recognized members of the GES MTSS Team for their Outstanding Leadership. They worked very hard and worked well together. The outcome is showing. Dr. Pellegrino and Mr. Martin are very proud of them. Many of the team members were present to receive their certificates.

Mayor Nicholson declared a recess at 6:36 pm to allow for a photo opportunity. The meeting resumed at 6:38 pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Swartz moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented:

- Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting April 8, 2024
- Accept Grant Funds on list dated May 13, 2024, in the amount of \$55,085.00
- Ratification of the following Warrants as recommended by the Finance Subcommittee:
 - Warrant #24-40 dated 04/04/24 in the amount of \$472,217.44
 - Warrant #24-41 dated 04/11/24 in the amount of \$356,114.86
 - Warrant #24-42 dated 04/18/24 in the amount of \$181,238.53
 - Warrant #24-43 dated 04/25/24 in the amount of \$320,472.50

Seconded by Mrs. Ward-Leighton.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Nicholson, Chairperson, abstained from voting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Subcommittee

Mr. Swartz, Chairperson of the Facilities Subcommittee, reported that the Subcommittee met on May 2, 2024. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Summer 2024 Facilities Projects List was reviewed and estimated costs and contractor names have been identified on several projects. The projects are moving forward.

Maintenance, repairs and new equipment for GHS, GMS and GES were discussed. Pictures of the rehab of the GHS (Landry) Auditorium were presented.

Finance Subcommittee

Mrs. Pelavin reported that the Finance Subcommittee met on May 2, 2024. Minutes of the meeting were presented.

The Subcommittee reviewed the Expense Report. Mr. Hawke, Director of Finance and Operations, assured the Subcommittee that adequate funds remain to cover any negative balances in accounts. Some of them were due to a timing issue with MUNIS. A spending and hiring freeze is in effect.

He presented the Revolving Accounts Analysis which shows all accounts doing well with positive balances.

Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee

Mrs. Pelavin, Chair of the Superintendent’s Evaluation Subcommittee, distributed minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2024.

The Evaluation process was discussed with Dr. Pellegrino regarding his current goals and the evidence he would provide the full School Committee in order to complete his evaluation. He explained that the system of developing his goals is incorporated into the district goals. He provided a PowerPoint presentation to show his and the district's progress toward the goals.

The Subcommittee discussed the presentation and decided the information provided covered what was needed to complete the evaluation and recommended that Dr. Pellegrino distribute the information to the full Committee by mid-May.

Student Advisory Board

Zayvian Rowe-Cross was not present this evening. There was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3616 –Second Reading of Policies and Removal

Mrs. Hurst moved that the Gardner School Committee vote to accept the following policies for a second reading as recommended by the Policy Subcommittee:

- **IMG** - **Animals in School**
- **JF** - **School Admissions**
- **JFBC** - **School Tuition Policy**
- **JH** - **Student Absences and Excuses**

Seconded by Mrs. Cormier.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Mrs. Hurst moved that the Gardner Public School Committee vote to remove the following policies as MASC has found them to be redundant or unnecessary and should be removed from the Policy Manual:

- **IHBG-R** – **Home Education Guidelines**
- **IJOAA** - **Field Trips/Not School Sponsored**

Seconded by Mr. Swartz.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

Item #3617 – College & Career Readiness Coordinator

Melissa Paine, College & Career Readiness Program Coordinator, presented a Program Update to the Committee. Currently the Early College students are wrapping up the semester and completing their final exams. End of the year data and student progress will be shared next month when final grades are closed and transcripts received from MWCC. Recruitment for the 24-25 ECA cohort has started.

Ms. Paine reported on the Summer Internship Program and Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement. She had the opportunity to participate in a focus group with the Department of Higher Education regarding college and career readiness and access across the State.

Item #3618 – Curriculum Coordinator’s Update

The Curriculum Coordinator’s Report was included in the members’ packets. Dr. Goguen, Chief Academic Officer, was present this evening

Item #3619 – ELL Coordinator’s Update.

The ELL Coordinator's Update was included in the member's packets. Dr. Lori Simpson was not present this evening.

Item #3620 - Grants Administrator’s Update

The Grants Administrator's Report was included in the members' packets. Ms. Courtney Dunn, Grants, Communications & Compliance Manager, was not present this evening.

Item #3621 – Special Education Update

Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, presented information on the Special Education Program. The District experienced a 10% increase in the number of students with disabilities requiring special education services at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. This increase impacted the Special Education Budget across all areas.

Ms. Tasha Gamble started her new position as Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services. Her efforts will focus specifically on special education programs and services supporting administrators and teams, professional development needs, and compliance.

Item #3622– SEPAC Report

On April 25, 2024, the SEPAC hosted an informational meeting and presentation conducted by the Special Education Department on the implementation of the NEW IEP which will be fully implemented in September of the 2024-2025 school year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Pellegrino thanked the Central Office Team for all their hard work and the Principals, Administrators, and the Teachers for going above and beyond for the students. The Prom was a phenomenal success, and the students had a great, great time.

FINAL COMMENTS

Mrs. Ward-Leighton thanked everyone for their presentations and wished the teachers “Happy Teachers;’ Week”.

Mrs. Hurst thanked everyone in the district for doing a phenomenal job. May is Mental Health Month and she provided information on this topic.

Mrs. Pelavin thanked everyone for the information presented. The recent Basket Extravaganza was the most successful one ever held - many tickets sold.

Mr. Swartz thanked Ms. Paine and Dr. Simpson for their presentations.

Mrs. Cormier appreciates the wonderful support being given to young students.

Mayor Nicholson reminded everyone of the upcoming Spring Concert and Memorial Day Parade.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Swartz moved to adjourn.

Seconded by Mrs. Pelavin.

Vote – so voted.

Mayor Nicholson abstained from voting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm

**Rachel Cormier
Secretary**

T. Hillman, Recording Secretary

**GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SYNOPSIS OF WARRANT**

WARRANT #: 24-44

WARRANT DATE 05/02/24

Location	Office & Gen Supplies	Curriculum	Athletics	IT	Activities	Utilities	Facilities	TOTAL
High School		\$55.00					\$28,788.07	\$28,843.07
Middle School							\$21,690.23	\$21,690.23
Gardner Elementary School							\$37,169.03	\$37,169.03
GALT								\$0.00
Sub-Total	\$0.00	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$87,647.33	\$87,702.33

Location	Office Supplies	Transport.	IT	Curriculum	Legal	Tuition	Prof. Services	Prof Serv.	Facilities	Carry over	TOTAL
Special Education		\$84,382.50				\$21,673.34	\$8,132.76				\$114,188.60
Administration			\$26,933.72						#####		\$50,189.11
Sub-Total	\$0.00	\$84,382.50	\$26,933.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$21,673.34	\$8,132.76	\$0.00	#####	\$0.00	\$164,377.71

Revolving	\$172,084.40
Grants	\$60,437.18
Student Activity Acct	\$15,946.41
Bond	
Sub-Total	\$248,467.99

GRAND TOTAL	\$500,548.03
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**GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SYNOPSIS OF WARRANT**

WARRANT #: 24-47

WARRANT DATE 05/23/24

Location	Office & Gen Supplies	Curriculum	Athletics	IT	Prof Dev	Utilities	Facilities	TOTAL
High School	\$1,301.32	\$3,781.47	\$2,256.00	\$4,726.89	\$800.00	\$13,920.03	\$3,750.27	\$30,535.98
Middle School	\$2,419.17	\$205.05		\$1,668.05		\$6,507.08	\$1,671.27	\$12,470.62
Gardner Elementary School	-\$178.02			\$3,097.34		\$5,794.05	\$5,208.28	\$13,921.65
GALT		\$395.61						\$395.61
Sub-Total	\$3,542.47	\$3,986.52	\$2,256.00	\$9,492.28	\$800.00	\$26,221.16	\$10,629.82	\$57,323.86

Location	Office Supplies	Transport.	IT	Legal / Adver	Tuition	Prof. Dev	Utilities	Prof Serv.	Facilities	Carry over	TOTAL
Special Education			\$1,142.07		\$94,834.52			\$18,263.65			\$114,240.24
Administration	\$746.95	\$80,100.00	\$33,159.57	\$1,031.08		\$2,192.00	\$8,727.28		\$3,027.31	\$11,873.43	\$140,857.62
Sub-Total	\$746.95	\$80,100.00	\$34,301.64	\$1,031.08	\$94,834.52	\$2,192.00	\$8,727.28	\$18,263.65	\$3,027.31	\$11,873.43	\$255,097.86

Revolving	\$2,029.35
Grants	\$251,988.55
Student Activity Acct.	\$4,927.50
Bond	
Sub-Total	\$258,945.40

GRAND TOTAL	\$571,367.12
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**GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SYNOPSIS OF WARRANT**

WARRANT #: 24-48

WARRANT DATE 05/30/24

Location	Office & Gen Supplies	Curriculum	Athletics	IT	Prof Dev	Utilities	Facilities	TOTAL
High School	\$1,219.80	\$2,340.14	\$5,134.50		\$1,425.00		\$2,192.72	\$12,312.16
Middle School		\$234.50	\$400.00					\$634.50
Gardner Elementary School							\$2,267.88	\$2,267.88
GALT	\$2,191.55							\$2,191.55
Sub-Total	\$1,219.80	\$2,574.64	\$5,534.50	\$0.00	\$1,425.00	\$0.00	\$4,460.60	\$17,406.09

Location	Office Supplies	Transport.	IT	Legal / Adver	Tuition	Prof. Serv	Utilities	Facilities	Carry over	TOTAL
Special Education	\$163.72	#####		\$6,937.00	\$54,095.07	\$23,713.50				\$212,021.29
Administration	\$1,026.00	\$300.00	\$3,509.23	\$2,500.00				\$489.90	\$29,453.40	\$37,278.53
Sub-Total	\$1,189.72	#####	\$3,509.23	\$9,437.00	\$54,095.07	\$23,713.50	\$0.00	\$489.90	\$29,453.40	\$249,299.82

Revolving	\$918.00
Grants	\$48,812.10
Student Activity Acct.	
Bond	\$148,485.86
Sub-Total	\$198,215.96

GRAND TOTAL	\$464,921.87
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**GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SYNOPSIS OF WARRANT**

WARRANT #: 24-49

WARRANT DATE 06/06/24

Location	Office & Gen Supplies	Curriculum	Athletics	IT	Field Trips	Utilities	Facilities	TOTAL
High School			\$1,262.58	#####	\$3,177.00		\$29,155.14	\$44,344.72
Middle School	\$226.97						\$22,523.53	\$22,750.50
Gardner Elementary School								\$0.00
GALT	\$119.97						\$38,776.62	\$38,896.59
Sub-Total	\$226.97	\$0.00	\$1,262.58	#####	\$3,177.00	\$0.00	\$90,455.29	\$105,991.81

Location	Office Supplies	Prof Dev	IT	Assessment	Tuition	Prof. Serv	Equipment	Facilities	Carry over	TOTAL
Special Education				\$562.26	#####	\$9,708.80				\$188,589.70
Administration	\$18.48	\$1,820.08	\$104,841.98				\$17,711.10	\$5,908.11		\$130,299.75
Sub-Total	\$18.48	\$1,820.08	\$104,841.98	\$562.26	#####	\$9,708.80	\$17,711.10	\$5,908.11	\$0.00	\$318,889.45

Revolving	\$6,333.98
Grants	\$123,677.95
Student Activity Acct.	\$16,014.78
Bond	
Sub-Total	\$146,026.71

GRAND TOTAL	\$570,907.97
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GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy
Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 15, 2024
4:30 PM
Professional Development Room
160 Elm Street, Gardner, MA
01440

In Attendance: Mrs. Anne Hurst, Chair; Mrs. Rachel Cormier, Member;

Absent: Mrs. Shannon Ward-Leighton, Member

Also in Attendance: Dr. Catherine Goguen, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Courtney Dunn, Director of Grants and Communication

Mrs. Hurst called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Hurst to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2024 Policy Meeting. So moved.

The following policies were reviewed and it was determined that no changes were required. Therefore, the policies will be updated as "Reviewed May 2024":

- JIB – Student Involvement in Decision Making
- JIBA – Student Representative to the Gardner School Committee
- JICF – Gang Activity/Secret Societies

The following MASC policies were reviewed and deemed to be redundant to Massachusetts General Law, or not relevant to the District. Therefore they were not recommended to be sent to the full School Committee for adoption:

- JII – Student Complaints and Grievances
- JJ – Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities

Policy IJOA – Field Trips was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen recommended the removal of language regarding out of state trips as the language for overnight trips covers the intent of both situations. A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Hurst to send the policy with the recommended changes to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy IMG A – Service Animals in Schools was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that the District does not currently have this policy. The Subcommittee recommended that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC)

model Policy IMGA be adopted. A motion was made by Mrs. Hurst and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the MASC model policy IMGA to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read for adoption. So moved.

Policy JI – Student Rights and Responsibilities was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen recommended changes of language regarding gender specific terms and including the word guardians when referencing parents. A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Hurst to send the policy with the recommended changes to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy JICFA – Hazing was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen recommended changing the title of the Policy from Hazing to “Prohibition of Hazing” to align with the MASC model Policy JICFA, and updating the source reference. A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Hurst to send the policy with the recommended changes to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy JICFA-E – Hazing was reviewed and discussed. Dr. Goguen stated that the MASC model Policy JICFA-E changed some of the title names and language in alignment with state statutes and recommended that the District also align the title and language. A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Hurst to send the policy with the recommended changes to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy JICH – Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended updating the source reference to the 2021 MASC model policy. A motion was made by Mrs. Cormier and seconded by Mrs. Hurst to send the policy with the recommended changes to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy JIE – Pregnant Students was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended adding language from the MASC model Policy JIE regarding offering counseling and academic supports as well as the source reference to the 2021 MASC model policy. A motion was made by Mrs. Hurst and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to send the policy with the recommended changes to the June full School Committee Meeting for a first read. So moved.

Policy JIH – Searches and Interrogations was reviewed and discussed. The Subcommittee recommended that this policy be tabled to the June Subcommittee agenda for further review and discussion.

The next Policy Subcommittee meeting will occur on Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Central Office Professional Development Room

A motion was made by Mrs. Hurst and seconded by Mrs. Cormier to adjourn the meeting. So moved. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips can bring the school and the community closer together, which can result in real life experiences that enrich the curriculum for students and also bring about better public relations. The School Committee will also encourage field trips as an integral part of the instructional programs in the schools.

The Superintendent will establish regulations to assure that:

1. All students have permission from a parent or guardian for trips.
2. All trips are properly supervised.
3. All safety precautions are observed.
4. All trips contribute substantially to the educational program.
5. All trips allow student access without regard of family ability to pay.

All ~~out-of-state or extended~~ (overnight) trips and excursions, except those required for student participation in tournament competition or contests, must have advance approval of the School Committee. Fundraising activities for such trips will be subject to approval by the appropriate Administrator.

Trip organizers must inform students and parents/guardians, in writing, if the trip is not sponsored by Gardner Public Schools. The School Committee will be notified that the trip is being organized. Trip organizers must also disseminate copies of this policy to parents/guardians of students attending the trip. If the school committee votes approval and the district disseminates information and collects funds, then it would be a school sponsored trip.

The presence of a staff member, or use of school facilities for meetings or trip promotion does not, by itself, constitute school sponsorship. There are many third party trip providers, especially for out of state and out of country trips, who will hire teachers to run their tours or rent facilities.

CROSS REF.: [JJH](#), Policy Relating to Field Trips Involving Late Night or Overnight Travel

SOURCE: MASC October 2016

[Adopted: April 2001]
 [Reviewed: September 2003]
 [Revised: March 2004]
 [Revised: January 2006]
 [Revised: April 2008]
 [Revised: October 2013]
 [Revised: November 2016]
 [Revised: February 2021]
 [Revised: April 2024]

| [Revised: 2024]

SERVICE ANIMALS IN SCHOOLS

The School Committee does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. The District will comply with Massachusetts law concerning the rights of persons with guide or assistance dogs and with federal law and will permit such animals on school premises and on school transportation.

For purposes of this policy, a "service animal includes any dog that has been individually trained to do the work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability." The regulations further state that "a public entity shall make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability if the horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with the disability."

Service animals perform some of the functions and tasks that individuals with disabilities cannot perform themselves. Service animals are not pets. There are several kinds of service animals that assist individuals with disabilities. Examples include, but are not limited to, animals that:

- assist individuals who are blind or have severe sight impairments as "seeing eye dogs" or "guide dogs;"
- alert individuals with hearing impairments to sounds;
- pull wheelchairs or carry and pick-up items for individuals with mobility impairments;
- assist mobility-impaired individuals with balance.

The District shall not assume or take custody or control of, or responsibility for, any service animal or the care or feeding thereof. The owner or person having custody and control of the animal shall be liable for any damage to persons, premises, property, or facilities caused by the service animal, including, but not limited to, clean up, stain removal, etc.

If, in the opinion of the School Principal or authorized designee, any service animal is not in the control of its handler, or if it is not housebroken, the service animal may be excluded from the school or program. The service animal can also be excluded if it presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school. The parent or guardian of the student having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the service animal from District premises immediately upon notification by the School Principal.

If any student or staff member assigned to the classroom in which a service animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the animal, the person having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by the Building Principal or designee and an alternative plan will be developed with appropriate District staff. Such plan could include the reassignment of the person having custody and control of the animal to a different classroom. This will also apply if an individual on school transportation suffers an allergic reaction. In this case, an alternate plan will be developed in coordination with appropriate school, District, and transportation staff and will include the involvement of the parents/guardian of the student.

When a student will be accompanied by a service animal at school or in other District facilities on a regular basis, such staff member or such student's parent or guardian, as well as the animal's

owner and any other person who will have custody and control of the animal will be required to sign a document stating that they have read and understood the foregoing.

The Superintendent of Schools or their designee shall be responsible for developing procedures to accommodate a student's use of an assistance animal in District facilities and on school transportation vehicles.

LEGAL REF.: 28 CFR, Part 35

SOURCE: MASC 2023

| [\[Adopt: 2024\]](#)

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The School Committee has the responsibility to afford students the rights that are theirs by virtue of guarantees offered under the federal and state constitutions and statutes. In connection with rights there are responsibilities that must be assumed by students.

Among these rights and responsibilities are the following:

1. Civil rights – including the rights to equal educational opportunity and freedom from discrimination; the responsibility not to discriminate against others.
2. The right to attend free public schools; the responsibility to attend school regularly and to observe school rules essential for permitting others to learn at school.
3. The right to due process of law with respect to suspension, expulsion, and decisions the student believes injure ~~his~~their rights.
4. The right to free inquiry and expression provided that such right shall not cause any disruption or disorder within the school.
5. The right to privacy, which includes privacy with respect to the student's school records.

It is the School Committee's belief that as part of the educational process students should be made aware of their legal rights and of the legal authority of the school committee to make, and delegate authority to its staff to make, rules regarding the orderly operation of the schools.

Students have the right to know the standards of behavior that are expected of them, and the consequences of misbehavior.

The rights and responsibilities of students, including standards of conduct, will be made available to students and their parents/guardians through handbooks distributed annually.

[Reference: M.G.L. 71:37H; 71:82 through 71:86]

[Adopted: March 1999]

[Revised: May 2003]

[Reviewed: October 2019]

[Revised: 2024]

PROHIBITION OF HAZING

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the School Committee hereby deems that no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student while on or off school property, or at a school sponsored event regardless of the location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any person while on school property.

Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the Principal including the time, date, location, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the District are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.

Any student who is present at a hazing has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student and could involve suspension from school for up to three days.

Any student who participates in the hazing of another student or other person may, upon the approval of the Principal, be suspended from school for up to ten (10) school days.

Any student determined by the Principal to be the organizer of a hazing activity may be recommended for expulsion from school but will receive no less disciplinary action than that of a participant.

In all cases relating to hazing, students will receive procedural due process.

SOURCE: MASC ~~February 2019~~2021

[Reference: MGL, Chapter 269, Sections 17, 18, 19]

[Adopted: January 2001]

[Reviewed: May 2003]

[Reviewed: October 2017]

[Revised: August 2020]

[Revised: 2024]

HAZING

CH. 269, S.17 CRIME OF HAZING; DEFINITION; PENALTY

Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing as defined herein shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

The term “hazing” as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation. Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to be contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

CH. 269, S.18. ~~DUTY-FAILURE TO REPORT HAZING~~

Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

CH. 269, S.19. ~~COPY OF SECTIONS 17 TO 19; ISSUANCE TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT GROUPS, TEAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS; REPORT HAZING STATUTES TO BE PROVIDED; STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND DISCIPLINE POLICY REQUIRED~~

~~Each secondary school and each public and private school or college shall issue to every group or organization under its authority or operating on or in conjunction with its campus or school, and to every member, plebe, pledge or applicant for membership in such group or organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen. An officer of each such group or organization, and each individual receiving a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen shall sign an acknowledgement stating that such group organization or individual has received a copy of said sections seventeen and eighteen.~~

~~Each secondary school and each public or private school or college shall file, at least annually, a report with the regents of higher education and in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education, certifying that such institution has complied with the provisions of this section and also certifying that said school has adopted a disciplinary policy with regards to the organizers and participants of hazing. The Board of Regents and in the case of secondary schools, the Board of Education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such a report. Each institution of secondary education and each public and private institution of post-secondary education shall issue to every student group, student team or student organization which is part of such institution or is recognized by the institution or permitted by the institution to use its~~

name or facilities or is known by the institution to exist as an unaffiliated student group, student team or student organization, a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen; provided, however, that an institution's compliance with this section's requirements that an institution issue copies of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations shall not constitute evidence of the institution's recognition or endorsement of said unaffiliated student groups, teams or organizations.

Each such group, team or organization shall distribute a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen to each of its members, plebes, pledges or applicants for membership. It shall be the duty of each such group, team or organization, acting through its designated officer, to deliver annually, to the institution an attested acknowledgement stating that such group, team or organization has received a copy of this section and said sections seventeen and eighteen, that each of its members, plebes, pledges, or applicants has received a copy of sections seventeen and eighteen, and that such group, team or organization understands and agrees to comply with the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall, at least annually, before or at the start of enrollment, deliver to each person who enrolls as a full time student in such institution a copy of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen.

Each institution of secondary education and each public or private institution of post-secondary education shall file, at least annually, a report with the board of higher education and in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education, certifying that such institution has complied with its responsibility to inform student groups, teams or organizations and to notify each full time student enrolled by it of the provisions of this section and sections seventeen and eighteen and also certifying that said institution has adopted a disciplinary policy with regard to the organizers and participants of hazing, and that such policy has been set forth with appropriate emphasis in the student handbook or similar means of communicating the institution's policies to its students. The board of higher education and, in the case of secondary institutions, the board of education shall promulgate regulations governing the content and frequency of such reports, and shall forthwith report to the attorney general any such institution which fails to make such report.

[Adopted: January 8, 2001]

[Reviewed: May 2003]

[Reviewed: April 2021]

[Revised: 2024]

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, AND DRUG USE BY STUDENTS PROHIBITED

A student shall not, regardless of the quantity, use or consume, possess, buy or sell, or give away any beverage containing alcohol; any tobacco product, including vapor/E-cigarettes; marijuana; steroids; or any controlled substance. The School Committee prohibits the use or consumption by students of alcohol, tobacco products, or drugs on school property, at any school function, or at any school sponsored event.

Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at or participation in a school-sponsored activity, will be barred from that activity and may be subject to disciplinary action.

Verbal Screening

- The school district shall utilize, in accordance with law, a verbal screening tool approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to screen students for substance abuse disorders. The tool shall be administered by trained staff on an annual basis at grades 7 and 9.
- Parents/guardians shall be notified prior to the opening of school each year. Parents/guardians shall have the right to opt out of the screening by written notice prior to or during the screening.
- All statements made by a student during a screening are confidential and shall not be disclosed except in the event of immediate medical emergency or in accordance with law. De-identified results shall be reported to the Department of Public Health within 90 days of the completion of the screening process.

This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents/guardians of this policy in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

SOURCE: MASC ~~February 2019~~ Reviewed 2021

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:2A](#); [71:96](#); [71:97](#); [272:40A](#)

CROSS REFS.: [ADC](#), Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited

[GBEC](#), Drug Free Workplace Policy

[GBED](#), Tobacco use on School Property by Staff Members Prohibited

[IHAMB](#), Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco

[Revised: October 2017]

[Revised: October 2020]

[Revised: 2024]

PREGNANT STUDENTS

The Gardner Public Schools wishes to preserve educational opportunities for those students who may become pregnant.

Pregnant students are encouraged to continue to attend school. Every effort will be made to see that the educational program of the student is disrupted as little as possible; that health counseling services, as well as instruction, are offered; that return to school after delivery is encouraged, and that every reasonable opportunity to complete high school is provided.

In accordance with Federal Law and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations and guidance, a student who is pregnant in the Gardner Public Schools is permitted to remain in regular classes and participate in extracurricular activities with non-pregnant students throughout her pregnancy. After giving birth, a student is permitted to return to the academic program in which she was enrolled and is permitted to participate in extracurricular programs.

The district does not require that a pregnant student obtain certification from a physician that she is physically and emotionally able to continue in school unless certification is required for all students with other physical or emotional conditions requiring the attention of a physician.

SOURCE: MASC – Reviewed 2021

[Reference: M.G.L. 71:84; Title IX: 20 U.S.C. § 1681; 34 CFR § 106.40(b)]

[Adopted: May 2011]

[Reviewed: December 2019]

[Revised: 2024]

GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Item# 3624

AUGUST 2024

**22 Teacher Leader Training
26-29 No School, Full Day,
Professional Development for
Faculty and Staff**

AUGUST 2024						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2025 (15)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

FEBRUARY 2025

**6 Half Day, Professional
Development
17 No School, Presidents' Day
Observed
18-21 No School, February
Vacation**

SEPTEMBER 2024

**2 Labor Day Holiday Observed
3 First Day of School for Students
25 Half Day, Professional
Development**

SEPTEMBER 2024 (20)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MARCH 2025 (21)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH 2025

**5 Half Day, Professional
Development
19 Half Day, Professional
Development**

OCTOBER 2024

**14 No School, Columbus
Day/Indigenous Peoples Day
Observed
30 Half Day, Professional
Development for Faculty and Staff**

OCTOBER 2024 (22)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 2025 (17)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

APRIL 2025

**21 No School, Patriots' Day
Observed
22-25 No School, April
Vacation**

NOVEMBER 2024

**11 No School, Veterans' Day
Holiday Observed
25-26 Half Day, Teachers'
Conferences
27 Half Day, Thanksgiving Holiday
28-29 No School, Thanksgiving
Holiday**

NOVEMBER 2024 (18)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2025 (21)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MAY 2025

**14 Half Day, Professional
Development
26 No School, Memorial Day
Holiday Observed
31 GHS Commencement**

DECEMBER 2024

**23-31 No School, Christmas
Holiday Observed**

DECEMBER 2024 (15)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2025(10)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JUNE 2025

**13 Half Day, 180th Day
16-23 181st - 185th Day
19 No School, Juneteenth Day
Observed**

JANUARY 2025

**1 No School, New Year's Day
Observed
2 Classes Resume
20 No School, Martin Luther King
Day Observed**

JANUARY 2025 (21)						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Superintendent's Office:

978 632-1000
Gardner High School:
978-632-1600 7:35am - 2:35pm
Gardner Academy:
978-632-1673 7:35am - 2:45pm
Gardner Middle School:
978-632-1603 7:00am - 1:55pm
Gardner Elementary:
978-991-0900 9:00am - 3:15pm
Pupil Services:
978-632-4076

Early Release Times:

**GHS 10:35am
GALT 10:35am
GMS 10:00am
GES 11:30am**

Updated on: June 10, 2024



Gardner Public Schools

Melissa Paine, *College & Career Readiness Program Coordinator*

www.gardnerk12.org 70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440 (978) 632-1000

College & Career Readiness Program Update to School Committee – Jun 10, 2024

Early College Programs: Please see the below data charts for end of the year program data and demographics

Early College Academy- Non-Associate Degree Track

Number of Students Enrolled	64
Grade Level	38 Juniors
	26 Seniors
Retention Rate	93.70%
1st Year Students	49
2nd Year Students	15
Credit Count	Program Total: 1540
Student GPA	Average 1st Year Student: 2.8
	Average 2nd Year Student: 3.2
Student Credits Average	Average 1st Year Student: 19.12
	Average 2nd Year Student: 41.46
Student Credits Range	1st Year Student: 10-27
	2nd Year Student: 30-50

Early College Academy- Pathways Associates Degree Track

Number of Students Enrolled	28
Grade Level	15 Juniors
	13 Seniors
Retention Rate	96.40%
1st Year Students	15
2nd Year Students	13
Credit Count	1,264
Student GPA	1st Year Students- 3.2
	2nd Year Students- 3.55
Student Credits Average	1st Year Students- 28.8
	2nd Year Students- 64
Student Credits Range	1st Year Students- 19-39
	2nd Year Students- 60-71
Associates Degree Received	13 (100% of graduating seniors)

Additional Programming & Updates

- Through our partnership with MassHire North Central, our current juniors have an opportunity to participate in a 100-paid internship in a variety of STEM fields over the summer. Applications are open for approximately 15 paid positions.

Montachusett Vocational Partnership:

- Our new MVP program is officially full at this time with a waitlist of 2 students. On Thursday 6/6/24 all students will be visiting Monty Tech for program orientation. We will also be holding a mandatory parent orientation meeting on 6/12/24. We have 10 students (5 juniors and 5 seniors) enrolled in the electrical program and 10 students (5 juniors and 5 seniors) enrolled in the carpentry program for the 24-25 school year.

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The Gardner Public School District does not discriminate due to race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, homelessness or limited English proficiency.



Gardner Public Schools

Catherine A. Goguen, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

www.gardnerk12.org

70 Waterford Street, Gardner, MA 01440

(978) 632-1000

May 31, 2024

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Update

Professional Development:

The 2024 summer will be a mixture of virtual and in person Professional Development opportunities for administration and staff. Administrators will meet for strategic planning and professional development for two full days on June 18th and June 20th, and two additional days on August 20th and August 21st. At these meetings administrators will review 2023-2024 SEL, Academic, and School Culture/Climate data. Using this data, District goals will be updated for the 2024-2025 school year, assessment and professional development calendars will be developed, and school improvement plans will be updated. Additionally, administrators will plan next steps for the implementation of the Massachusetts Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) for academic, behavioral, and social emotional supports and interventions.

Staff will have several planning/training opportunities related to the District and school goals regarding tiered supports for academic and social emotional learning and supports to select from. Virtual and in person summer Professional Development opportunities for staff are as follows:

- April - August Building Leadership Team Strategic Planning (District-wide)
 - Including Curriculum/Assessment Review and Revision (District-wide)
- June- August Mentor Curriculum Planning (District-wide)
- June Reading & Math strategies training (Elementary)
- July Supporting Students with Autism in an inclusionary setting
- July Massachusetts Tiered System of Supports SEL and Academic Team Strategic Planning (District-wide)
- July Mental Health Professional Development Planning and Curriculum Development
- July Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Planning (Elementary/Middle School)
- July Special Education Program Planning
- August Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Training for Classroom Teachers (District-wide)

Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

A review of curriculum materials for ELA and Math throughout the District revealed that the Middle School's grade 6 and grade 7 literacy program is primarily teacher

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designed/developed. Additionally, the current grade 6 and grade 7 literacy curriculum was identified by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as not meeting all criteria for a high quality literacy program. Therefore, the District purchased a DESE approved high quality curriculum, Amplify ELA, during the 2023-2024 school year with funding from the DESE Targeted Assistance Grant (TAG). This curriculum will be fully implemented during the 2024-2025 school year with training in the implementation of the new curriculum, for all grade appropriate staff, beginning this fall. The materials are user friendly with many opportunities for student reading, discourse, and writing. We are excited to have updated high quality Math and literacy programs from Kindergarten through grade 8 in math and from Kindergarten through grade 7 in ELA implemented as part of the academic MTSS work to further improve literacy and math instruction, and student achievement/growth outcomes.

I would like to wish everyone a relaxing and healthy summer break!

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160 Elm St, Gardner, MA 01440

School Health Services Update to School Committee – June 2024

2023-2024 school year data and highlights:

I was asked to present, on May 8th, our CQI project at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Best Practices Meeting for School Nurse Leaders. Our project was one of 3 projects picked to share at the meeting. Our school nurses worked very hard on this project that focused on ensuring our MultiLingual Learners are able to access comprehensive healthcare services. Ensuring they are connected to a Primary Care Physician, Dentist, and have medical insurance and a current physical exam are just some of the indicators that we focused on. For more details on this project see [our poster](#):

School Nurse Case Management Improves Health Equity for At-Risk Populations

Goal: Improve health equity for students in the multilingual learner program at Gardner Public Schools

Health Indicators: Medical Home
 Health Insurance Current Physical
 Dental Home Current Immunizations
 Passed Screening/Screening Referral Returned

“Through collaboration with the shelter community liaison during this project we were able to have 7 out of the 8 elementary school students who are Haitian refugees seen by our in-school dental provider.” - Gardner Elementary School Nurse

Average Health Indicators in Place, Students with Incomplete Health Chart, Per Race

Race	Baseline	Completion
Amer Ind / Ales Nat, NH	3	5
Asian, NH	4	5
Black, NH	4	5
Hispanic, Black	4	5
Hispanic, Multi-race	4	5
Hispanic, Native Haw	4	5
Hispanic, White	4	5
Multi-race, NH	4	5
White, NH	4	5

Timeline:

- 1/2/2024 **ORGANIZE** 202 Multilingual students by demographic population
- 1/8/2024 **CONDUCT** baseline chart review
SN review health records and record missing health indicators
- 2/1/2024 **PRIORITIZE** interventions by demographic group with most % missing indicators
- 2/9/2024 **INTERVENTIONS**
Phone calls to parents, PCP offices to collect missing indicators or to provide resources related to missing health indicators
- 4/5/2024 **COMPLETION**
Follow-up calls-if necessary. Completion data recorded on spreadsheet

324 Nurse Communications for ELL students from Intervention-Completion

Obstacles	Actions
Language Barrier	Lionbridge Interpretation Services, DoJo, Translated messages
Non-answer	Call additional contacts, email, backpack info home, use of shelter liaison
School Nurse Time	Additional staffing, dedicated time to make calls

48% of students had all 6 health indicators at Baseline

73% of students had all 6 health indicators at completion

25% Increase!

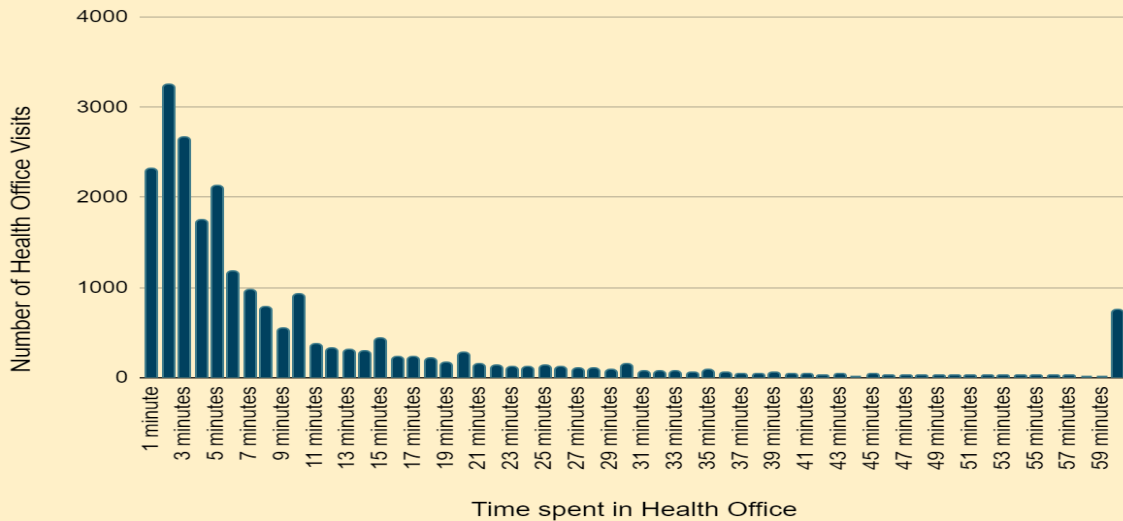
What's Next . . .

1. Inform Stakeholders + get feedback
2. Increase collaboration
3. Review demographic populations with the least improvement
4. Follow-up
5. Update resources
6. Make process more streamlined

- Eight of our Haitian refugee students at GES were identified as not having access to dental care.
- Through collaboration with the liaison at the shelter we were able to get forms filled out so 7 of the 8 children could access the dental service at school.
- Two of our ML student that needed an eye exam and glasses and transportation and insurance barriers were able to get both an eye exam and glasses with the assistance of the Lion’s Club and BJ’s Optical
- As a result of this project **25%**, more of our Multilingual learners are fully connected to healthcare!!!

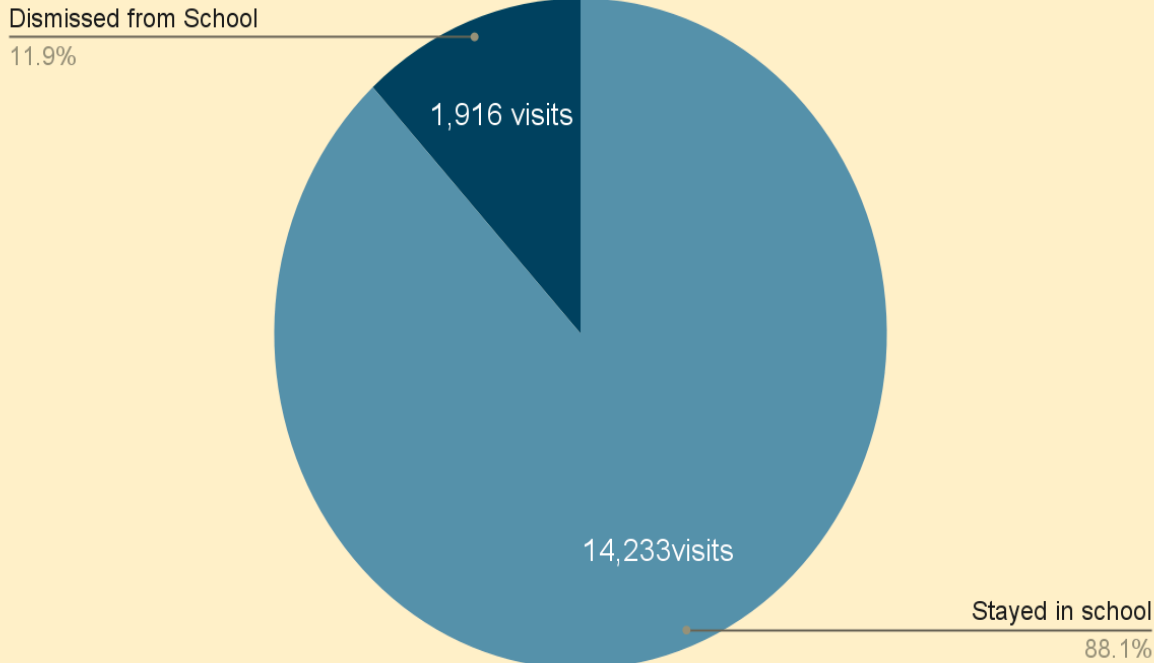
- 2,031 of our students visited the school nurse at least one time this year (82%)
- More students visited the school nurse 10 or more times than students that did not visit the school nurse at all!

Time in Health Office = Time out of class



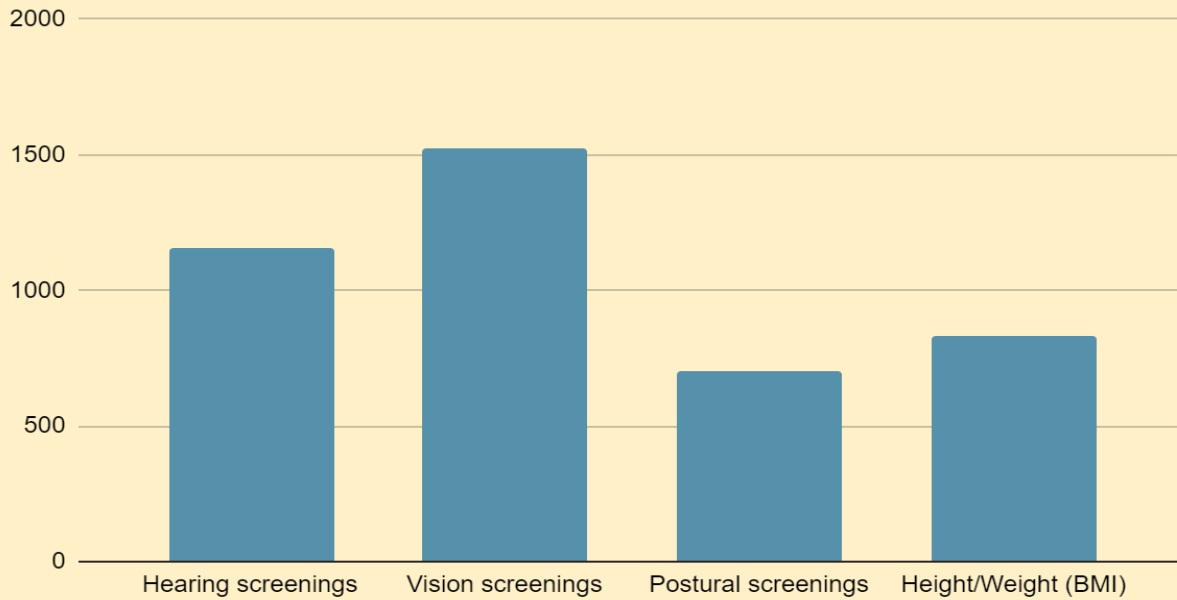
- Students can't learn academics when they are in the health office
- The majority of health office visits are under 10 minutes.
- When was the last time you saw a medical professional outside the school system and were in and out in under 10 minutes?

Outcomes of Injury/Illness visits to the school nurse

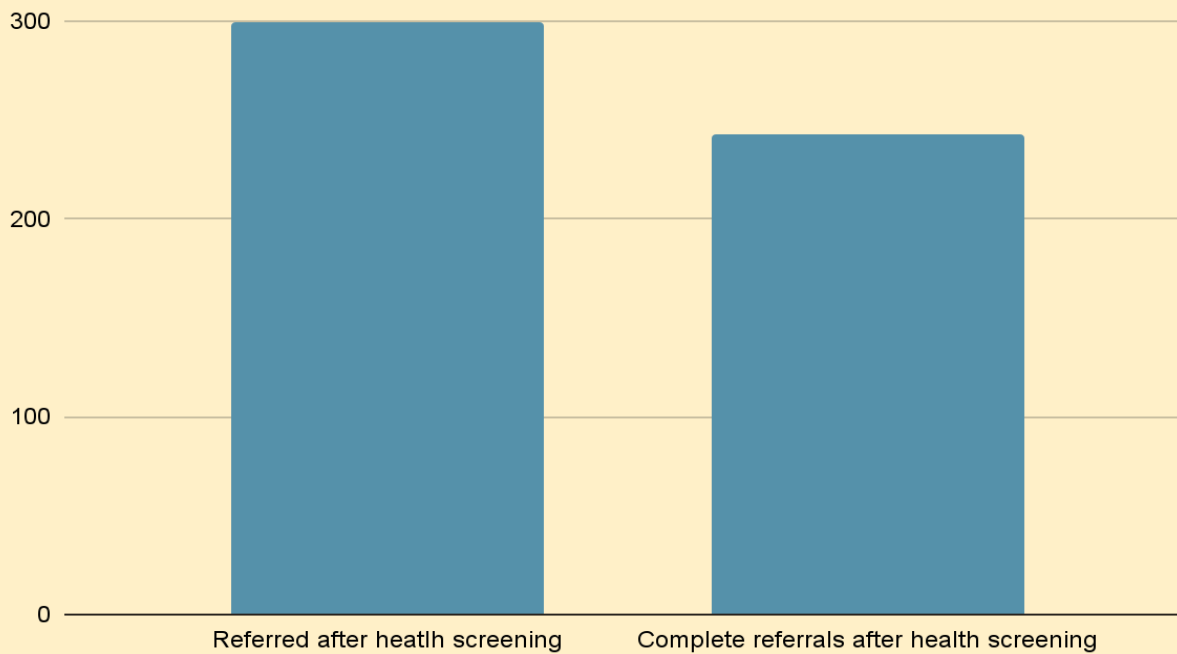


- Back to class = Back to learning!
- Total visits as of 5/31 (169th day of school) = 16149 visits
- 96 health office visits per day on average throughout the district
- These visits do not count health screenings, telephone calls/communications with parents/guardians, md offices, school staff care coordination, meetings

2024-2025 Health Screenings



- Total number of health screenings done this year = 4,217



- 81% of students that were referred for a health screening were seen by an outside provider for evaluation

Report from School Nurse Care Coordinator: Tina Rusak

The Nurse Care Coordinator is a district-wide position that supports comprehensive health services for students with complex medical needs. Many of the families that I work with need assistance in overcoming barriers such as language, transportation, health insurance, ability to advocate and navigate the healthcare system. I work to reduce those barriers and improve health equity across this district. [Hands In For Care](#) is a podcast that I was asked to participate in by Boston University. This podcast is for school nurses, caregivers, educators, and everyone else vested in caring for children with special health care needs. A few highlights of my work from this school year are:

I helped an elementary student with complex medical needs by doing the following:

- acquired nursing services in the home
- acquiring needed medical supplies
- developed and trained staff on a feeding protocol and secured supplies
- wrote and trained staff on an updated evacuation plan for this student
- supported student's parent in transition to outplacement

I assisted a High School student with a new medical concern by doing the following:

- coordinated daily nursing support
- assisted with finding a new primary care doctor
- assisted with finding and connecting the student to a specialist
- assisted with finding and connecting the student to mental health services

I helped to coordinate care for an Elementary student with medical concerns affecting the ability to meet IEP outcomes:

- collaborated with parents, the special education team and the primary care provider
- the student is now receiving specialty care at Boston Children's Hospital

I assisted a Middle School student with complex medical needs:

- identified a new specialty provider which resulted in new treatments which improved attendance at school
- assisted in acquiring medical supplies
- identified service providers and additional supports for the family in the community



Gardner Public Schools

Courtney Dunn, *Grants & Communications Manager*

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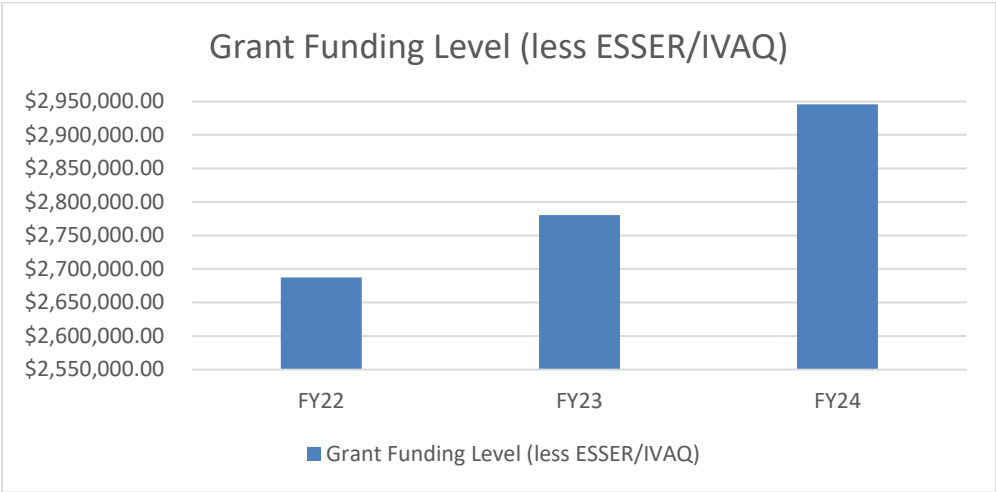
Grants Update to School Committee – June 10, 2024

Provided below is a summary of all grants received to support FY24 programming. This summary includes funding from Entitlement Grants, Targeted Support Funds, and Competitive Grants.

Grant Title	Amount	Spending Timeline	Use of Funds
FC305 Title I	\$890,255	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Providing students with equitable access to high-quality education through early literacy programming, professional development for staff, and family engagement.
FC140 Title II	\$102,285	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Improving the quality and effectiveness of staff for all students and increasing student achievement through mentorship.
FC180 Title III	\$29,688	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Ensuring that English learners have the same access as all students to a high-quality education through professional development, family engagement and literacy initiatives.
FC309 Title IV	\$61,737	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Improving student achievement, school conditions and use of technology through professional development for staff and family engagement.
FC262 Early Childhood Special Education Grant	\$39,600	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Provides students with disabilities with free and appropriate education including special education and related services.
FC240 Individuals with Disabilities Act Grant	\$884,881	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Ensures that students with disabilities receive education and services that protect their rights and prepare them for the future.
FC274 IDEA Federal Targeted Special Education Program Improvement Grant	\$26,115	Through August 31, 2024 (Year 1)	Support for district to implement new IEP procedures and requirements.
DPH FY24 Comprehensive School Health Services Grant	\$125,000	Through June 30, 2024	Support of student health services in school.
FY22/FY23/FY24 Barr Foundation School Leadership Pipeline Implementation Grant	\$250,000 (per year for three years. FY24 is year 3.)	Through October 15, 2024	Support for the implementation of school leadership pipeline professional development.
FC419 Innovation Pathways	\$50,000	Through June 30, 2024	To support business and healthcare pathway programming at Gardner High School
FC332/311 Mental and Behavioral Health Support Grant	\$94,699	Through June 30, 2024	Technical assistance and staff support to establish mental and behavioral health systems in all schools.

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FC653 Investigating History Grant	\$14,500	Through June 30, 2024	Multi-district partnership to examine district-developed history curriculum and identify needs to improve student history outcomes.
FC344 Homeless Student Support Grant	\$28,000	Through June 30, 2024	Supports for families living in emergency housing shelters.
FC213 Strategies to Reduce or Eliminate the Use of Time-Out Rooms	\$55,085	Through Sept. 30, 2024	Contracted services and supplies to meet the needs of occupational therapy staff at GES.
FC460 Early College Support Grant	\$150,000	Through August 30, 2024	Programmatic support of the Early College Program including the College & Career Readiness Coordinator position, coursework, college visits and materials.
DPH FY24 Behavioral Health Workforce Grant	\$79,500	Through June 30, 2024	Registered Behavior Technician position at GES and additional programming and curriculum needs to support behavior health staff.
FC222 Targeted Assistance Grant	\$50,000	Through June 30, 2024	Academic support and technical assistance to support improving GMS outcomes.
FC205 ESL Certification Grant	\$14,283	Through June 30, 2024	Support existing staff in finishing modules and completing MTEL for ESL Certification.
FY24 Grant Funding Total	\$2,945,628		



Though priorities shift based on district needs and available funding sources, funding support from grants has remained steady since FY22.

The grants office is in the process of finalizing spending in all remaining FY23 and FY24 entitlement grants, which will be closed between this fall and next spring, as required.

Remaining ESSER III and IVAQ funding (in the budgeted amounts of \$3,036,962 and \$539,600, respectively) to support HVAC upgrades at Gardner High School will be allocated by September 30, 2024, per federal regulations. The district will be applying for late liquidation, in the event that the project is not complete. The federal government offers this

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opportunity to ensure that the district can access all available funding beyond their initial liquidation date of December 31, 2024.

All non-multi-year FY24 grants will be finalized and closed in June.

The district will work on FY25 Entitlement Grant Applications in July, continuing to identify competitive grants based on district priorities and funding needs.

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Gardner Public Schools

Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

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June 3, 2024

Report to the School Committee Special Education Updates

MTSS SEL

The District attended the Northeast Positive Behavioral Interventions And Supports Network (NEPBIS) conference on May 16, 2024. Gardner Public Schools was recognized at the conference and received "Gold Status Recognition" as a District of Distinction in the NEPBIS District Recognition Program. This recognition goes to the districts that have 50% or more schools demonstrating fidelity at Tier 1 with a score of 70% or higher using the Tiered Fidelity Inventory, a standardized PBIS tool. Gardner was one of seven districts in the Northeastern part of the United States to receive this recognition. The area covers all six New England states plus New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, and Delaware. Gardner was one of three districts in the state to be recognized.

One May 28, 2024 the MTSS SEL District team held our District Family/Community Partner meeting. The District committee currently holds this meeting twice a year. This biannual meeting included two team members that are parents of students attending GPS and a member from the community that has a connection to our district. This year the District MTSS SEL Team has worked to identify and implement action items to improve student attendance. The most recent meeting included a review of the results of the annual Parent/Student/Staff Climate Survey and recommendations for improvement for the upcoming school year.

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

On May 28th at Quabbin Regional High School, students from 3 districts came together to participate in the Special Olympics. Quabbin, Narragansett and Gardner school districts along with CAPS collaborative coordinated the event to allow students with disabilities access to this amazing event and experience. Members of these districts met several times from February to May to plan and execute this event which included over 160 students! The size and scope of this event can't be fully appreciated without understanding the range in ages and severity of needs both physically and intellectually of the students being served by this event.

Arvid Tenney, Special Education Administrator, was key in overseeing the planning process for the entire event including organizing Gardner's participation and attendance at the event. The success of the event required meticulous planning to meet the needs of all students including transportation, staffing, dietary, mobility, communication and physical needs of individual students. Gardner staff under Mr. Tenney's direction spearheaded fundraising for this event through securing corporate sponsors for the

food and beverages provided to the athletes at the event. In total Gardner raised \$1000 dollars from GFA, HUB Insurance, Marty's On the Move and The Greater Gardner Women's Circle of Giving to provide lunch and healthy snacks to the athletes. Gardner staff continued to go above and beyond after the event, bringing leftover catered food to Public Safety personnel in Barre, Templeton and Gardner after the event to show our appreciation for those that serve our community and keep us safe.