

The School Committees Report

The School Committees are dedicated to supporting the school districts educational goals for Concord, Carlisle and Boston students while maintaining a transparent public process related to policy decisions. This article is one in a series that is intended to update and inform the residents of Concord and Carlisle about the districts on-going activities, initiatives and policies.

Concord Enrollment Projections

The Concord School Committee reviewed the latest enrollment projections issued by The New England School Development Council at their last meeting. While the reports provide projections for the next decade, historically the projections for years one through five are the most reliable. The enrollment projections are one of many tools used by the School Committees and Superintendent in planning for budgets as well as for school site staffing and supplies. Factors considered in the projections include births, building permits for housing, and kindergarten enrollment.

Projections for Concord Public Schools predict relatively consistent levels of enrollment in the next five years. This follows several years of steady increases in Concord including three large cohorts of students that are moving through the Concord Middle School and finishing during the 2016-2017 (FY17) school year. The projected enrollments for the next five years predict slight variations between the 2015 level of 2,100 students to a high of 2,130 students in 2018. For comparison, enrollment grew from 1,809 in 2008 to 2,100 in 2015, a 16% increase.

Enrollments are considered variable costs in the operating budgets for the districts. It is important for the School Committee and Administration to understand the combination of variable costs related to enrollment levels and fixed costs rising to cover employees, utility, and transportation costs because those are the most significant factors that place demands on the district budgets.

Instructional Technology

The Concord School District Technology Specialists made a presentation to the Concord School Committee regarding the use of technology in elementary and middle school classrooms. What differentiates the district from most other Massachusetts school districts is the personalized professional instruction provided to both students and teachers by the Technology Specialists. This instruction empowers teachers and students while supporting the District goal of addressing individualized student learning profiles. It is also transforming the educational climate in Concord from one that fosters learning how to use technology to one that fosters students using technology to enhance learning. In addition, it is preparing the District to the changes in the state's educational standard for K-12 which will soon include computer coding requirements and use of digital tools across all content areas.

The School Committees Contact Information

You can link to the School Committees emails on the District's home page at www.concordps.org. Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at concordschoolcommittee@colonial.net and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@colonial.net. You can reach out to the Superintendent and the School Committees through the Your Voice Matters link on the District's home page.

School Committee meetings are open to the public and the public is encouraged to attend. The meetings are broadcast on CCTV and are available on demand at www.concordtv.org. The district web site (www.concordps.org) contains updated reports, presentations and information on meetings.