

The School Committees Report 8-18-2017

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.

The first day of classes for students at CPS and CCHS is Wednesday, August 30th.

Reminder of New Start Time for CCHS – 8:00 AM

As part of the new school year, members of the Regional School Committee wanted to remind students and parents of the later start time. **The new start time for CCHS is 8:00 a.m. and the school day will end at 2:41p.m.**

The new schedule is the result of a comprehensive process undertaken by the Regional School Committee which included creating an Advisory Committee and reviewing the research that details the adverse impacts on adolescent brain development, student health, and performance due to early school start times and lack of sleep. As a result of the knowledge garnered in that effort, members of the Regional School Committee made developing an appropriate plan for a later start time a priority during the last academic year in order to implement the new approach for the 2017-18 school year.

Enrollments

The enrollment levels for Concord Public Schools (CPS) and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School District (CCHS) are being finalized for the coming school year. The 2017-18 school year enrollment levels are similar to the two previous school years and follow several years of steady increases in Concord.

CPS is expecting 2,075 students for the coming year with 440 at both Willard and Thoreau, 479 at Alcott and 716 at the Concord Middle School. Final enrollment levels will be set by late September. For comparison, CPS enrollment was 1,809 in 2008 and the growth to 2,075 this year represents a 15 percent increase in the last decade. For CCHS, enrollment is expected to be consistent with last year at 1,255 students.

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 long term projections include births, building permits for housing, and kindergarten enrollment. Levels of enrollment 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.

The School Committees Contact Information You can link to the School Committees' emails on the Districts' home page at www.concordps.org. Or, you can email the Concord Public School Committee at concordschoolcommittee@concordps.org and the Concord-Carlisle Regional School Committee at concordcarliseschoolcommittee@concordps.org. You can reach out to the Superintendent and the School Committees through the Your Voice Matters link on the Districts' home page. Interested individuals are encouraged to sign up for the School Committees subscriber's list which is also on the District's web page.