



Pittsfield Public Schools

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Pittsfield Public Schools Community,

This marks a pivotal moment for Pittsfield Public Schools as we are undergoing a thorough examination of the structures and systems within our district that have contributed to disparities between schools and individual classes. Currently, we are taking part in an extensive study related to our school attendance districts, grade spans, and school facilities to ensure that they align with the evolving needs of our students and families.

In assessing our school district's performance, it is imperative to determine if the underlying structure of our district is hindering some students from reaching their full potential. State and local assessment data underscore the wide range of student achievement levels across the district, within student groups, and within schools. We can improve student achievement across the school district, not just for some students but all students recognizing that in addition to altering our structures and systems, our academic expectations and standards must be rigorous and consistent with social and emotional supports that recognize the needs of a student and the child. The performance gaps among special education, race, and ethnicity must be narrowed and eliminated.

Last year's budget process and the allocations from ESSER-III (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) were instrumental in enabling us to bolster academic and social-emotional support for our staff, students, and families. However, as we approach the fiscal year 2025, we find ourselves confronted with daunting financial decisions. The approaching conclusion of ESSER funding and the significant decrease in our Chapter 70 funds necessitate thorough deliberation and strategic planning to ensure the continued provision of essential instructional and social emotional support resources and services to our school community.

Our mission, *The Pittsfield Public Schools, in partnership with students, families, and the community, empowers all students to thrive and build a more equitable and just world*, serves as our guiding principle as we navigate the outcomes of the Pittsfield Facilities and School Structure study and address our anticipated budget deficits. Our decisions must ensure that our vision is lived: *We will create a supportive, equitable, and challenging learning environment where all students experience joy in learning while becoming intellectually, emotionally, and socially ready to succeed through graduation and beyond.*

The school district's administrators understand that publicly-generated funds must be spent wisely and appropriately to support all children in the City of Pittsfield. The Pittsfield Public Schools district and school leaders, along with the Pittsfield School Committee, are committed to a transparent budgeting process that encourages stakeholder input at every step.

We strive to be responsible, responsive, and respectful to those we serve and those who support our endeavors.

At your service,

Joseph C. Curtis
Superintendent of Schools