



Superintendent's Report to the NRSD School Committee January 26, 2022

Superintendent Update

At-home Antigen Testing

On Tuesday, Governor Baker announced a new testing program that has the potential to be a game changer for students, families and employees of NRSD. The Governor announced that school districts can sign up for the "At-Home Antigen Testing Program" which will provide a weekly at-home testing kit to every student and employee of the school system every week until April vacation. Combined with weekly PCR covid safety checks, every person in the school system has the opportunity to be tested twice a week. That degree of coverage would eliminate the need for the test and stay program as well as contact tracing. As a result, our nurses will be more available to serve the school community on a variety of health issues.

[Here is the joint memo from DESE and the MDPH](#) that describes the new program.

All families, regardless of vaccination status or consent to test status, are eligible to opt in to the program. We will send details of that plan next week. We will continue with our current strategies until our community has had ample time to opt in to the new program.

Here is how it will work. The schedule for weekly covid safety checks (PCR) will continue as currently designed. Three days after the weekly PCR test, individuals will be asked to take the at-home antigen test. In the event a positive test result is found, you will report the result to the school nurse and follow the isolation protocol. The school will then send out email notification to classes prek-8 as we have been doing the last two weeks. The schedule will look like this.

	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
WCSC (PCR test)		FSS	Center Hale	MRE LBMS	NRHS		
At-home (Antigen test)	NRHS				FSS	Center Hale	MRE LBMS

It is important to note, it is our intention to end the classroom notification for high school students via email. It has proven to be a redundant and unnecessary step due to the interplay of 888 students with individual schedules. There have been multiple days where every family at NRHS has received one or more email

notification in a day of a student in a class with a positive case. If every family receives a notification on a given day, it suggests that all high school students should assume they are a close contact. With an opportunity to be tested twice weekly we can stay on top of cases at the high very effectively.

Student Travel (Washington D.C.)

School sponsored trips continue to be limited during this time of high covid transmission. As a result, we will not participate in the annual eighth grade trip to Washington D.C.. With the advent of vaccine availability, better testing strategies and severe illness and death data relative to total cases going down, we are hopeful to return to school travel activities in the 2022-2023 school year. It is our hope that we can reinstitute local field trips during the spring term with improving conditions.

FY23 Budget Workshop Update

On Saturday we gathered for the annual NRSC budget workshop. Since that date, some minor adjustments have been made. Here are those changes.

- District mentoring (line 100 on executive summary) was reduced \$40,000 and shifted to the Title IIa grant.
- Teaching and Learning Administration Salaries (line 99 of executive summary) was reduced \$38,087 to reflect 2.6 FTE rather than 3.0.
- Anticipated chapter 70 number was increased to \$7,832,332 (FY22) from \$7,273,744 (FY21) while we still await accurate numbers from the state for FY23. The increase is a total of \$558,588.

These changes amount for a decrease of expenses totaling \$78,087 and an increase of revenue of \$558,588. The impact on the increase in town assessments are as follows.

- Bolton - \$1,685,63 (10.33%) to \$1,474,476 (9.04%)
- Lancaster - \$1,563,311 (11.29%) to \$1,367,363 (9.88%)
- Stow - \$1,675,703 (9.28%) to \$1,442,663 (7.99%)

It is important to note that these numbers reflect a budget process and there are many variables that need to be actualized before reaching final numbers for the budget hearing.

Teaching and Learning Update

January Early Release Day

Friday January 14, 2022 was a district based Early Release day for all faculty and staff. Our “train the trainer” model continues to thrive in delivering SEL competencies to teachers to use in their classrooms and implement with students. We continue to align our work with the CASEL (Collaborative for Academic and Social Emotional Learning) in implementing new strategies in our classrooms.

Faculty and staff continue to work to design lessons, and routinely plan for how they will use these approaches on SEL integration through their academic instruction, understanding that effective integration requires a mix of all five approaches to address the balance of SEL competencies over time. Using their understanding and a variety of tools, participants are continuing their work on redesigning a series of lessons to incorporate plans for teaching, and implementing these strategies in their classroom in alignment with our District Improvement Plan.

CIVIC ACTION PLANS

The [2018 History and Social Science Frameworks](#) along with Chapter 296, [An Act to promote and enhance civic engagement](#), renewed the civic mission of a history and social science education in Massachusetts: to prepare students to be thoughtful and active citizens. Student-led civics projects support the development of **civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions** that are necessary for informed civic participation.

A product of Chapter 296, student-led civics projects are meant to give students a chance to apply all the civic knowledge and skills they gained throughout their K-8 study of history and social science. Students complete the real work of engaged, informed participants in a democracy by *identifying issues and advocating for change in their communities*. For example, students may identify substance abuse as an issue in their community and after extensive research, decide to advocate to create a meaningful drug prevention program in their school.

All students in the Nashoba Regional School District will be engaged in a non-partisan, student-led civics project in grade 8 and again during grade 11. Completing the Civic Action Project is a required component of the HS Social Studies curriculum. All projects will embody the defining characteristics and six stages described in the [Civics Project Guidebook](#). These projects are rooted in action civics--a process of applying civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions to identify, research, and address community issues. Check out our [NRSD CIVIC ACTION PLAN](#)