



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



September 4, 2026

SHHS Tradition
A Message from the Superintendent
Protect Act
4th Grade Band
Community Conversations
Upcoming Dates



SHHS
Tradition:
All together on
the 50-yard line

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear South Hadley Community,

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the recent override vote and what it may mean for South Hadley Public Schools in the months ahead.

I know this was a difficult decision for many members of our community. I understand that families and residents are balancing many competing priorities, and I respect the decision that was made at the ballot box.

At the same time, the outcome does create a significant financial challenge for our schools. At this point, we are facing a shortfall of at least \$1 million. Over the past 12 months, we have spent a great deal of time publicly discussing the reductions that could be necessary if additional recurring revenue was not available, and those potential reductions remain on the table. Unfortunately, a shortfall of this size will be felt by both students and staff.

Even with that reality, I do not want us to rush into decisions. We owe it to our students to take one more careful look at every option available to us and to use this school year thoughtfully. We have made several strategic investments in programs and positions designed to address identified student needs, and I want to give that work an opportunity to grow, demonstrate its impact, and help inform the difficult decisions that may be ahead.

There will not be easy answers, and I do not want to minimize the seriousness of the situation. My commitment is that we will continue to approach this work carefully, transparently, and with students at the center of every conversation. We will do everything we can to minimize the impact on student learning, supports, and opportunities while continuing to keep our community informed along the way.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools.

Jennifer Voyik
Superintendent

Keeping Our Community Informed:

ACL – Protect Act

As part of SHPS's standard policy review process, District Administration is presenting the current working version of policy ACL – Protect Act to the School Committee for review. Draft policy updates are shared throughout the year as part of our commitment to keeping the community informed and involved.

The proposed policy addresses protections established under the PROTECT Act, which states:

“Civil arrests for civil law enforcement, including federal immigration enforcement, are not allowed on school grounds during school hours, student drop off and pick up windows, before- and after-school programming and school-sponsored events without a Judicial Warrant or Judicial Order,” except as otherwise required by state or federal law.”

Community members are invited to review the draft and share feedback at policies@shschools.com

Upholding the Rights of Immigrant Students to Enroll in School
Click [HERE](#) for resources.



**Calling all
4th grade
Musicians!**

Students have the opportunity to join South Hadley Music's 4th Grade Band and learn to play an instrument this year. Students can choose from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion. Band lessons and rehearsals will take place on Mondays or Wednesdays from 7:25–8:05 a.m. at MESMS.

Interested in signing up? [Click HERE](#)

[Community Conversations Schedule Here](#)

Upcoming Dates



September 7:
No School - Labor Day

September 8:
First Day of Preschool

September 16:
**School Committee Meeting
7pm (Hybrid) SH COA & Zoom**

September 17:
SHHS Open House 6-8pm

September 21:
**Community Conversation - Special Edition
4pm at HJSS**

September 24:
HJSS Open House 530-7pm

September 28:
**Mosier Open House 430-6pm
MESMS Open House 530-7pm**

October 7:
**School Committee Meeting
7pm (Hybrid) SH COA & Zoom**

October 12:
No School - Indigenous People's Day

October 21:
**School Committee Meeting
7pm (Hybrid) SH COA & Zoom**

October 21-23:
Parent Conferences PreK-8th / Half days

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