



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER



September 18, 2026

District Improvement Plan
Understanding the Process
Wellness Committee
Academic Rigor & Deeper Learning
Support from the Start
Policy Feedback
Upcoming Dates
Appreciation for SHPS IT Team

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN: FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION

Over the past year, we have spent a great deal of time listening, learning, reflecting, and planning for the future of South Hadley Public Schools. At this week's School Committee meeting,

Assistant Superintendent Lyn Jacques and I were pleased to present the district's new 2026–2028 District Improvement Plan, which now takes that work and moves it into action.

This plan serves as the action plan for the first two-year cycle of our broader District Strategy and outlines the specific work we will undertake to move our priorities from planning into implementation.

The development of this plan reflects a thoughtful process that has taken place over the past 14 months. That work began with the Superintendent Entry Plan and the opportunity to listen to students, staff, families, and community members. Those conversations informed the Entry Findings, which helped shape our long-term District Strategy. The District Improvement Plan now brings that work together by identifying the concrete action steps, responsibilities, timelines, and measures we will use to move the strategy forward.

This is an ambitious plan, and one of the strengths of this process has been the involvement of so many stakeholders along the way. We are grateful for the voices and perspectives that have helped shape our direction, and we look forward to digging into this work alongside our administrators, teachers, and staff across the district.

At the next School Committee meeting, each of our schools will continue this work by presenting their School Improvement Plans, which align building-level priorities and action steps with the broader direction of the district.

The District Improvement Plan presentation and detailed plan are available on the district website. [Please click the link here to view them.](#)

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

Each year, South Hadley Public Schools reviews several policies and procedures that help support safe, welcoming, and respectful learning environments for all students. As part of that annual process, the School Committee recently reaffirmed the District's Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy and its Title IX policies and procedures for the 2026–2027 school year.

We want to make sure students and families understand how to raise a concern and what they can expect once a concern is reported. Whether a concern involves bullying or Title IX, students and families may bring it to the attention of any district employee. Building administration will then help begin the appropriate process and ensure the concern is addressed in accordance with district policies and procedures. The district's Title IX Coordinator is Assistant Superintendent Lyn Jacques, and her contact information is included in the Title IX policy and procedures.

We encourage students and families to review these resources and become familiar with the reporting processes. The attached materials include the reaffirmed policies and procedures, information about what students and caregivers can expect throughout each process, and the Bullying Report Form. Most importantly, we want students and families to feel comfortable reaching out whenever they have a concern or need assistance.

RESOURCES

- **BULLYING POLICY**
- **BULLYING PROCEDURES**
- **BULLYING REPORT FORM**
- **TITLE IX POLICY AND PROCEDURES**



SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



JOIN THE SCHOOL WELLNESS COMMITTEE!

2026-2027 School Year



BE A CHAMPION FOR YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH!

HELP SHAPE A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER
SCHOOL COMMUNITY!
YOUR UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE MATTERS!



WHO CAN JOIN?

- ✓ Parents & Guardians
- ✓ Grandparents
- ✓ Community Members
- ✓ Family Members

2026-7 MEETING

**4 MEETINGS
PER YEAR**

- MEETING 1: Oct 5, 2026
- MEETING 2: Dec 7, 2026
- MEETING 3: Jan 25, 2027
- MEETING 4: April 26, 2027



THIS YEAR'S TOPICS TO DISCUSS

- 1 **Nutrition & Cafeteria Standards**
Help improve healthy food options and cafeteria environment
- 2 **Physical Activity & Recess**
Review and enhance student activity opportunities
- 3 **Social-Emotional Learning**
Discuss and support student well-being and social skills
- 4 **Health Services & Family Engagement**
Coordinate school health and connect with families



CONTACT US TODAY!

CONTACT: Melissa Bednarski, Director of Health Services

EMAIL: mjbednarski@shschools.com

PHONE: 413-538-5063 ext 3718



Asst. Superintendent's Corner

Focusing on Academic Rigor & Deeper Learning

This school year, South Hadley Public Schools is prioritizing academic rigor, access, and higher-order thinking across all grade levels.

Guided by the collective work of our educators, research on deeper learning, and state standards, our district understands rigor not as “more work,” but as appropriately challenging learning that asks students to think deeply, solve problems, communicate their reasoning, and apply their learning in new situations—with the support they need to be successful.

Rigorous learning challenges and supports students to:

- Make meaning for themselves through active exploration and inquiry.
- Impose structure on complex information to build strong foundational knowledge.
- Combine individual skills into processes that drive problem-solving.
- Apply their learning to novel, real-world situations.

Our schools are continuing to deepen critical thinking, refine assessment practices, and implement high-quality instructional materials so that every student can access rich, meaningful learning experiences.

We look forward to sharing more about our progress throughout the year!

Thank You, IT Team!

IT Professionals Day was Tuesday, September 15, and we're taking the opportunity to say thank you to our amazing IT team. We appreciate all you do behind the scenes, and often on the front lines, to support our students, staff, and schools!



UPCOMING DATES

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



Meet.
Explore.
Connect.

September 24 530-7pm
HJSS Open House

September 29:
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

November 3:
No School - Election/Teacher PD

Supporting Students from the Start

From in-school tutoring to targeted ELA and math interventions, South Hadley is strengthening academic support across grades K-5.

Read how early intervention is helping students get the support they need, when they need it in South Hadley, click [HERE](#).

Have Your Voice Heard: Policy Feedback

At its most recent meeting, the School Committee received the first reading of [Policy ECA - Buildings and Grounds Security](#) and [Policy ECAF - Security Cameras in Schools](#).

We invite community members to review the proposed policies and share their feedback before the upcoming School Committee meeting by emailing policies@shschools.com. Community input helps inform the policy process and is greatly appreciated.

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



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