



# **SOUTH HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER**

**DECEMBER 5, 2025**

**Update on U.S. Dept Of Education  
Public Comment on Policy  
Graduation Interim Report  
Budget Task Force  
School Building Project  
Upcoming Events**

## **Update from the U.S. Department of Education**

On November 18th, the U.S. Department of Education announced significant structural changes that will shift the management of several major federal K-12 education programs including Title I-A, Title II-A, Title III-A, Title IV-A/B, and McKinney-Vento to the U.S. Department of Labor through new inter-agency agreements. Programs under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Office for Civil Rights will remain with the U.S. Department of Education at this time.

While details about timelines and implementation have not yet been finalized, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as more information becomes available. These changes may prompt questions, and the Commissioner has emphasized the state's continued commitment to supporting all Massachusetts public schools, educators, and students throughout this transition.

To learn more, you can review the official fact sheets and press releases issued at the federal and state levels:

- [U.S. Department of Education & U.S. Department of Labor Fact Sheet](#)
- [Healey-Driscoll Administration Press Release](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education Press Release on New Agency Partnerships](#)

## **Some Snapshots of the SHHS Marching Band**



# Massachusetts Releases Interim Report on the Statewide High School Graduation Framework



The Healey-Driscoll Administration and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) recently released the Interim Report of the Massachusetts Statewide High School Graduation Framework, outlining proposed updates to graduation expectations across the Commonwealth. This framework focuses on ensuring that all students graduate with the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed for future success, including college readiness, career pathways, and civic engagement.

Earlier this school year, the South Hadley School Committee approved updated Graduation and Competency Determination Policies. Our current graduation requirements already align closely with what the state refers to as courses for college readiness, as we follow the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks (Mass Common Core). However, DESE's interim report indicates that additional components such as potential End-of-Course Exams, a Capstone Project or Portfolio, and a new Financial Literacy requirement are still under consideration.

A final Graduation Framework is expected to be submitted to the Governor in June. Once released, we anticipate the need to revisit and update our district policies to ensure full alignment with state guidelines. We will continue to keep families informed as more details become available.

To learn more about the statewide work, you may review the following resources:

- [Press Release: Healey-Driscoll Administration Releases Statewide High School Graduation Framework](#)
- [Statewide High School Graduation Framework Overview](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Interim Report of the Massachusetts Statewide High School Graduation Framework](#)

# BUDGET TASK FORCE LISTENING SESSION

South Hadley residents are invited to share their priorities for town services and spending. Tell us what matters most, which services are essential, and how you want your tax dollars used. Your input will help guide the Task Force as it develops budget recommendations.



Monday, Dec. 8  
7 p.m.  
South Hadley  
Public Library  
& Zoom

Scan or tap to  
join via Zoom



CONTACT US



Phone Number:  
413-538-5030  
ext 6181



Website:  
[https://www.southhadley.org/1504/  
Budget-Task-Force](https://www.southhadley.org/1504/Budget-Task-Force)

## Community Conversation on the Budget Task Force

South Hadley residents are invited to join our upcoming Community Conversation hosted by the Town's Budget Task Force. This session will take place on Monday, December 8th at 7:00 PM at the South Hadley Public Library. The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the Town's financial landscape, ask questions, and share your perspectives as we work collaboratively to strengthen our community's long-term fiscal health. The Zoom link for remote participation is available in the image included in this newsletter and can also be found on the Town of South Hadley website under the Budget Task Force page. We hope you will join us and be part of this important discussion.

## Updated Policies Presented for Public Comment



At last night's School Committee meeting, two updated district policies received their first readings: [JJE - Student Fund-Raising](#) and [KBE - Relations with Parent Organizations](#). These policies have been revised to ensure clarity, consistency, and improved alignment with district practices, as well as to comply with state laws and regulations.

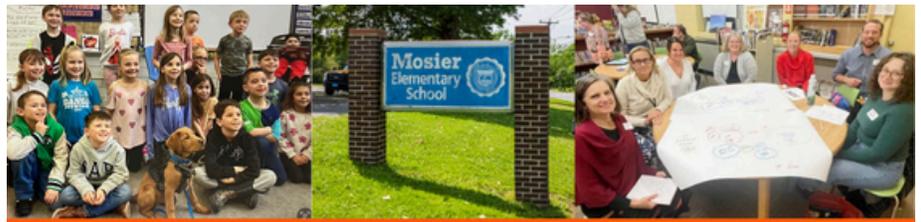
The School Committee will hold a second reading and vote on these policies at its next meeting on Thursday, December 18th. We welcome and encourage public comment on the proposed updates. All feedback received will be shared with the School Committee prior to any action being taken.

Comments may be submitted by sending an email to [policies@shschools.com](mailto:policies@shschools.com).

Your engagement and feedback play an important role in shaping district policy, and we appreciate your partnership.



# You're Invited: Elementary School Building Project Community Meeting & Mosier School Tour



**South Hadley Elementary School Building Project  
Community Meeting & Mosier School Tour  
Thursday, December 11, 2025**  
5:15 PM – Mosier School tour (in-person)  
6:00-7:00 PM – Community Meeting /  
Q&A Session to follow (in-person or virtual)

- Learn about design options
- Review preliminary costs
- Hear next steps
- Ask questions



Use the following QR code to join the 6PM session virtually

South Hadley Public Schools families and caregivers are invited to attend an upcoming Community Meeting and optional Mosier School Tour to learn more about the South Hadley Elementary School Building Project. This is an important opportunity to hear updates on the project's progress, preview early design options and cost information, and share your feedback as the project team prepares to submit the Preliminary Design Program to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) at the end of December. Families are welcome to attend in person or join virtually. Free childcare will be available, provided by South Hadley High School students, for those attending on site. We hope you will join us and take part in shaping the future of elementary education in South Hadley.

**Date:** Thursday, December 11, 2025

**Time:** 5:15 PM to 7:00 PM

**Location:** Mosier Elementary School, 101 Mosier St, South Hadley, MA and Virtual

Join the South Hadley Elementary School Building Committee to learn more about the project process, emerging design options, preliminary costs, and next steps. Community questions and feedback are welcome.

**Schedule:**

5:15 PM – Mosier School Tour (in person)

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM – Community Meeting with Q and A (in person or virtual)

Childcare provided by South Hadley High School students. Check in at the Mosier Gymnasium.

**Virtual Access:**

Use the QR code on the flyer or [this link](#) to join the 6:00 PM session.

# Know Your Rights: Immigrant Students & Families

South Hadley Public Schools is committed to ensuring that every student—regardless of immigration or citizenship status—feels safe, supported, and welcomed in our schools. We want to ensure that families understand the rights and protections in place for immigrant students and the resources available to help navigate questions or concerns related to immigration and school access. Schools do not require proof of citizenship or immigration status for enrollment.

To support families in understanding these protections, please review the following resources:

- [Upholding the Rights of Immigrant Students to Enroll in School](#)
- [Know Your Rights: A Guide for Immigrants, Families, and Communities on ICE Enforcement](#)

If you have questions or need support, please reach out to your school's main office.

**Support is available all year. If your family needs food assistance, please connect with our local partners.**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors  
(413) 437-7593

<https://nhnfoodpantry.org/>

Amherst Survival Center  
(413) 549-3968

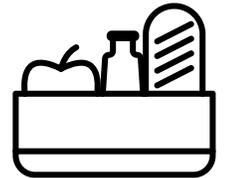
<https://amherstsurvival.org/pantry/>

Rachel's Table  
(413) 733-0084

<https://nhnfoodpantry.org/>

Food Bank of Western MA  
(413) 247-9738

<https://www.foodbankwma.org>



## UPCOMING DATES

**December 8: Multilingual Learner Family Fair**

**December 12-14: [MESMS Drama Club Presents: Charles' Dickens' A Christmas Carol](#)**

**December 18: School Committee Meeting (virtual) 6pm**

**December 23: Half Day - Beginning of Holiday Recess**

**December 24 - January 2: No School - Holiday Recess**

**January 7: School Committee Meeting (Hybrid) 6pm**

**January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School**

**January 21: School Committee Meeting (Hybrid) 6pm**



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FACEBOOK**