



# AIM PROGRAM EXPANSION SY 2026-2027

Presentation to the School Committee  
January 26, 2026

# Planning for Sustainability

- The AIM Program has grown significantly in both enrollment and student needs
- The district has been closely examining how to:
  - Maintain high-quality instruction
  - Preserve small class sizes
  - Ensure long-term program stability
- At this point, the AIM Program can no longer be sustainably housed at Winter Hill

# Current Enrollment & Growth

## Who We Are Serving:

14 PreK Students - Capuano

28 K-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students - Capuano

59 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – Winter Hill

# Class Size & Instructional Integrity

## Why One Strand at Winter Hill is Not Enough

- AIM classrooms are intentionally designed for 6-8 students
  - The structure supports:
    - Individualized instruction
    - Regulation and behavioral support
    - Meaningful access to learning
- The AIM model is designed to function as a coherent K-8 strand in order to provide continuity of:
  - Programming
  - Staffing
  - Instructional approach across grade levels
- With projected enrollment:
  - Class sizes would increase to 10-11 per classroom
  - A single strand would compromise both class size expectations and the integrity of a K-8 AIM Program

# Program Expansion Plan

Beginning in SY 2026-2027

- A second AIM strand will be created
  - 4 AIM Classrooms will shift to Argenziano
  - 10 AIM Classrooms will remain at Winter Hill
  - 1 AIM Learning Center classroom at Winter Hill
    - For students who are primarily included in general education
- This approach ensures:
  - Appropriate space
  - Continuity of services
  - Long-term sustainability of the program

# Impact on Capuano

The current K/1 AIM program at Capuano will be restructured into two distinct instructional strands to better align student needs.

## Community Impact

- The district recognizes that this shift represents a meaningful loss for the Capuano community, as staff have built strong, trusting relationships with students, families and other staff.
- Decisions were made with care to balance relational continuity with the need to ensure appropriate, differentiated programming for students.
- Intentional transition planning will prioritize:
  - Clear communication with families
  - Collaboration among staff across sites
  - Stability and continuity of services for students

# Impact on Staff

## Staffing & Support

- AIM Classroom will continue to be staffed with:
  - 1 Special Education Teacher
  - 2 Paraprofessionals
  - Floater
- The AIM Program will continue to receive support from services providers (e.g., BCBA, SLP, OT, SAC, etc.)

## Staffing Shifts

- As part of the expansion, staffing shifts will need to occur
- We are actively working with Human Resources to ensure a clear and supported process
- Individual conversations will take place end of January/beginning of February with staff who may be impacted

# Defining AIM Strands

## Clarifying Strands to Support Student Needs

- We are currently working to better define the AIM strands. This work is grounded in
  - Student profiles
  - Learning, communication, social/emotional, regulation needs
  - Level of inclusion and instructional support required
- We have preliminary strand descriptions and student profiles
  - These will be shared with staff in the coming weeks
- We anticipate identifying students by early February
  - This timeline allows us to:
    - Begin thoughtful transition planning
    - Support Staff Collaboration
    - Communicate clearly with families

# Next Steps

- Parents were notified of the changes via email
  - Two hybrid sessions have been scheduled for
    - January 22 6:30-7:30 PM
    - January 26 10:00-11:00 AM



# MLE PROGRAM UPDATE SY 2026-2027

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# Newcomer Enrollment Update

- Newcomer Enrollment declined in SY 2025-2026
- Low enrollment projected to continue due to geopolitical factors; consistent with statewide trends
- Two SEI-1 strands in grades 1-5 are no longer sustainable

## Current Enrollment

- Argenziano: 18 SEI-1 students (2 newly arrived)
- Healey: 27 SEI-1 students (16 newly arrived)

Trend: Newcomer students are settling in the Healey proximity

# Program Changes & Impact

- Consolidate SEI-1 into **one strand (grades 1–5)**
  - Maintain program strand at **Healey** (5 teachers, 5 paras)
  - Close strand at **Argenziano** (5 teachers, 3 paras)
- Current Argenziano students will be supported in the transition into general education. Families will receive individualized notification.
- Any newcomer students enrolling in grades 1–5 for the 2026–2027 school year will be assigned to Healey



Thank you for your  
continued support.

