



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-1st Grade Students - Capuano

59 1st-8th 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.**