

SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

STRATEGIC PLAN

Progress Report

School Committee Meeting
June 15, 2026



AGENDA

- **Mission & Vision**
- **Progress on Goals**
- **Family Listening Sessions**
- **Next Steps**

VISION

We envision a student-centered learning community where every student – honoring their unique strengths and background – is empowered to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally through tailored supports and equitable access to opportunity.

MISSION



Our primary mission is to cultivate inspired learners who are equipped to make a positive impact on the world. We achieve this by fostering rigorous and joyful learning environments where students, families, staff and community partners collaborate with a shared commitment to academic excellence and well-being.

PRIORITY 1

Academic Excellence

Promote equitable outcomes, and enable targeted supports based on need by focusing on quality curriculum, instructional rigor, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), with an emphasis on strengthening supports for multilingual learners and special education students.



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ACTION STEPS

Completed

- **Strengthened MTSS Child Study Team structures and systems** and piloted a universal screener through our partnership with Boston Children's Hospital.
- **Sonday Systems** multi-sensory reading Intervention provided by Special Ed and ESL Specialists (20 educators trained)
- Many School Instructional Leadership Teams (ILTs) have incorporated **Learning Walks** to make progress on goals outlined in school improvement plans; We continued to conduct curriculum focused instructional rounds facilitated by TNTP.
- **Reallocated an additional \$100,000** to Curriculum Budget to invest in high quality instructional materials (HQIM)
- Completed **SEI-1 Working Group** to strengthen transitions for newcomers entering general education
- Completed **Inclusive Practices/Co-Teaching Model Working Group** (Final Recommendations being proposed June 2026)
- Presented **Middle Grades Experience Working Group** recommendations to school committee; taking steps towards a portrait of a learner
- **Special Education and Intervention Service Delivery Review**- Final Report shared with Superintendent and School Committee
- **District Instructional Leadership Team** focusing on strengthening x-block, providing resources to support diverse learners, scaling learning walks across the district, and creating more cohesion across types of professional development

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ACTION STEPS

In Progress

- **Revamping of coaching model** to include an instructional coach in every school; strengthen inclusive practice, instructional rigor, and equitable access to grade level content
- **Added two math interventionists** to expand access to support
- **Curriculum rollouts** continue across the district. In the 2026 - 2027 school year, **Wit & Wisdom and Foundations** will be fully implemented in Grades K-2 and **Amplify Science Curriculum will be implemented in middle grades.**
- Year Two of the Strengthening School Leadership Grant from the Barr Foundation will provide support from a partnership organization to **provide increased professional development and support to principals and other instructional leaders**

PRIORITY 1

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

KEY INDICATORS

>> CURRICULUM

High Quality Instructional Materials for English Language Arts and Math in all grades including in specialized programs

>> ASSESSMENT

Seeing positive progress and growth on DIBELS and i-Ready, incl. for MLs

Preliminary ACCESS 2026- SPS exceeded Target Annual Growth Progress ELL

25-26 LEA Annual IDEA LEA Determination: Meet Requirements, up from previous result

KEY INDICATORS SNAPSHOT

Outcomes from most recent Learning Acceleration Network Walkthrough with TNTP (focused on Fishtank Implementation) show **improvement across all core actions.**

Core Actions Site Visit 1 Comparison (2024 vs 2025)

■ Yes ■ Mostly ■ Somewhat ■ Not Yet

RLC Core Action 1 Overall: Is the lesson focused on a high quality text(s)?



RLC Core Action 2 Overall: Does this lesson employ questions and tasks, both oral and written, which integrate the standards and build students' comprehension of the text(s) and its meaning?

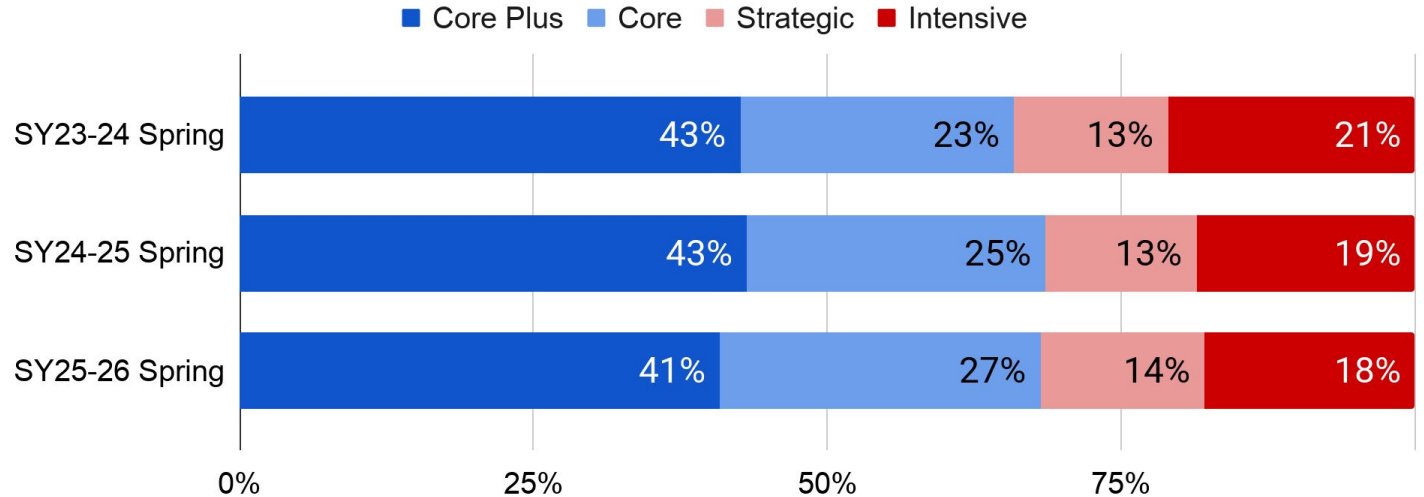


RLC Core Action 3 Overall: Are all students responsible for doing the thinking in this classroom?



KEY INDICATORS SNAPSHOT

When reviewing EOY DIBELS results for students in grades 1-3, each year, we've had a more **than two-thirds of students at or above grade level in early literacy skills.**

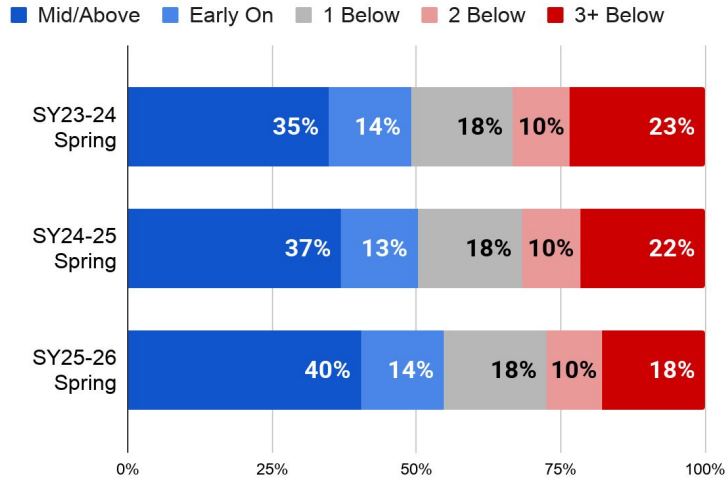


ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

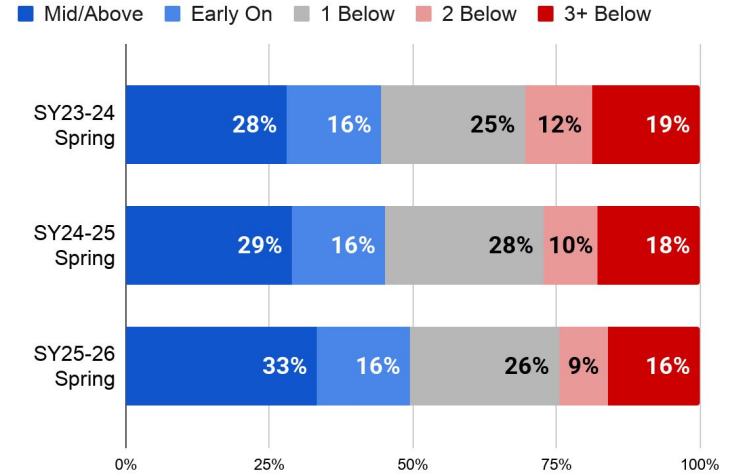
KEY INDICATORS SNAPSHOT

When comparing beginning-of-year reading and math i-Ready results for students in Grades 3-8, we see a **higher proportion** of students starting the year “mid/above” or “early on” grade level this year compared to past years

Reading



Math



PRIORITY 2

Equity & Access

Address persistent gaps; deploy resources based on need; diversify the workforce; expand OST, CTE & SCALE programming/ enrollment; ensure access to welcoming facilities.



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ACTION STEPS

Completed

- **Increased OST, SCALE, and CTE enrollment**
- Enhanced **SCALE programming** including:
 - **Food Service dept and SFLC**, Created a pilot class for SPS parents to improve their English skills in food services and gain skills for SPS Food Service roles (14 parents); added Serve Safe certification as well (industry recognized credential)
 - **#1 testing center in the state** Hi-Set, GED, Parapro exams; asked to present to the state about practices for supporting individuals with disabilities with testing; working to become an MTEL testing center
 - SCALE has received the second year of the **Workforce Initiative and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** Out-Of-School Youth Grant and has increased the the number of Out-of-school youth from 25 to 30.
- Equity-driven **funding formula added \$186,840** to schools' discretionary budgets for FY27
- Submitted the **MSBA Preliminary Design Program Feasibility Study** and the Educational Program, to support the new K-8 school building project
- New audiovisual equipment at the ESCS and WSNS cafeterias supporting **school events and community gatherings.**
- 6 out of 7 **middle grades** have SEAT and 7/7 have Student Council, contributing to student leadership opportunities

Address persistent gaps; deploy resources based on need; diversify the workforce; expand OST, CTE & SCALE programming/ enrollment; ensure access to welcoming facilities.

PRIORITY 2

EQUITY & ACCESS

ACTION STEPS

In Progress

- Strengthening Tier 1 instruction through **inclusive practices professional development** for ALL staff: PD Series based on recommendation from the Special Education Review for SY 26/27
- Exploring options for hiring international candidates (e.g. **visa sponsorship**, ChileMass, etc.)
- Laid the foundation for **AIM expansion**, with professional development in progress
- Vendor selected for **Healey School Classroom Conversion (Room 208)** and **Cafeteria Reconfiguration Project**; construction tentatively planned to start on June 23rd.
- Winter Hill Community Innovation School Cafeteria are being equipped with Cooling for the Summer months
- Awaiting for an **automotive tech and electrical grant** mid-June notice (waiting for Gov to sign the grant and announce it)

KEY INDICATORS

>> COMMUNITY SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT

+22% (SY23-24: 768 students, SY25-26: 937 students)
SY26-27 1009 enrolled

>> OST CLUB ENROLLMENT

+26% (SY24-SY25: 334 students, SY25-SY26: 422 students)

>> SCALE ENROLLMENT

+35% (SY23-24: 432 students, SY25-26: 589 students)

Ten GOAL students graduated with SCALE Adult Diploma this year; Enrollment has increased by nearly 70% in the last three years, serving close to 600 students

>> CTE ENROLLMENT

+28% (SY22-23 695 students, SY25-26: 891 students)

5.4% point increase in ML students in CTE
(SY22-23 11.9% to 17.3% in SY25-26)

Since SY22-23, 202 HS students have participated in affiliation program; This year 45 seniors participated in co-op education (Highest number to date)

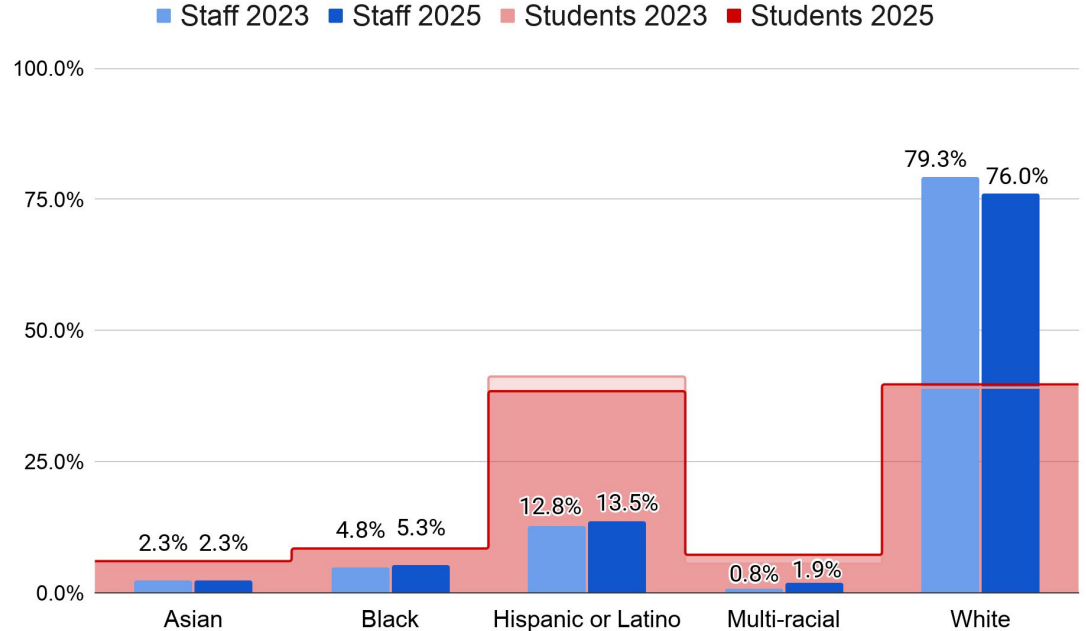
>>FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS

+10% points increased completion of rodent control DPW requests this year compared to last year

EQUITY & ACCESS

KEY INDICATORS SNAPSHOT

Over the last several years, due to efforts to attract and retain diverse staff, we have seen an **increase in the percent of diverse staff (3.3 percentage points)** and a **shrinking of the gap (3.9 percentage points) between our students of color and staff of color.**



PRIORITY 3

Wellness & Joy

Invest in student and staff wellbeing by implementing quality SEL curriculum, Leveraging teams toward prevention, expanding clubs and OST offerings with focus on community-building, and celebrating educators.



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ACTION STEPS

Completed

- Annual **SPS New Educator and Mentor Celebration** - new 'Mentor of the Year' award for June 2026
- Annual **Staff Recognition Ceremony** - 2nd annual event held in June 2026
- **Expanded club offerings** at many schools
- **Student-equity based formula and increased funding for clubs** at each school for SY26-27
- Ensured continued access and sustainability for Community Schools by updating funding model
- The SHS Highlander robotics team made it to the First Robotics Competition World Championships in Houston finishing in the top 20% worldwide
- Middle School Peer Mentors are successfully completing their last session of leading and supporting younger students in the after school program clubs and homework time

Invest in student and staff wellbeing by implementing quality SEL curriculum, Leveraging teams toward prevention, expanding clubs and OST offerings with focus on community-building, and celebrating educators.

ACTION STEPS

In Progress

- **Restorative Justice circle keeper tier 1 internal trainings** on going (80 staff trained; 55 students trained)
- Launched SPS:In Print newspaper and Teach Me Something Podcast to community at large
- Expanding **Working on Womanhood** to Healey and Winter Hill in SY26-27
- Phase 1 of the New Playground at the Kennedy is due to begin late June.

PRIORITY 3

WELLNESS & JOY

KEY INDICATORS

>> CONDUCT INCIDENTS DECREASING:

16% reduction in suspensions

13% decrease in disruptive behavior referrals

>> CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM DECREASING:

Approximately 1.5% point decrease from SY24-25 to SY25-26

>> ATTENDANCE RATE INCREASING

Current 93.5% attendance (YTD)

compared to 92.8% end of SY24-25

>> CONDITIONS FOR LEARNING (2025):

92% of students feel their school values the diversity of their school community

73% of students said they enjoy going to their school.

PRIORITY 4

Family & Community Engagement

Create clear, accessible, and streamlined communication channels with families, more opportunities for engagement and strengthen community partnerships.



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ACTION STEPS

Completed

- Increased social media audience by an average of about 10% (or approx. 900 followers)
- Launched SPS Podcast and SPS:In Print Newspaper to expand reach to community at large
- Published an abridged and retroactive **budget book** for FY26
- Revamped Finance Subcommittee & Meetings of Whole to provide clearer and more regular reports and improve transparency
- In partnership with the Somerville Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC), the Special Education Department applied and was selected to participate in the Advancing Parent and Professional Leadership in Education (A.P.P.L.E.) Institute.
- Three district wide curriculum focused workshops on the new ELA and math curriculum as well as i-Ready.
- SCALE has developed many innovative career pipeline tracks including:
- ESOL class focused on Food Services serving 100% parents of Somerville students
- Paraeducator Pipeline program
- Certified Nursing Assistant certificate program in partnership with SHS CTE. Holds night classes at SHS
- Strengthen partnerships - New programs utilizing school building space: Elizabeth Peabody House, Summer Spot, Knowva, BAM/WOW
- Completed five Family Listening Sessions
- Developed opportunities for focused family and community engagement, such as **Curriculum Workshops: Introduction to Math and ELA Curriculum** (Jan & May 2026) and **Bilingualism and the Brain Workshops** (Jan & May 2026)
- Opened direct channels of engagement: **Dr. Carmona met with families** at a monthly food market; **District leaders were listeners** at Family Listening Sessions
- Launched a **Parent-Teacher Conference Working Group**; solicited feedback from diverse set of families
- **Carrot Cards** returned in January 2025

Create clear, accessible, and streamlined communication channels with families, more opportunities for engagement and strengthen community partnerships.

ACTION STEPS

In Progress

- Continue our Collaboration with **SEPAC and A.P.P.L.E.** Members in order to strengthen family engagement across the district.
- Expanding the use of Arbiter as a **single-point of entry** for families to register for afterschool & summer programs
- Development of new communications platforms and publications for broad messaging, including SPS: In Print newspaper and SPS Podcast.
- Publishing a **complete budget book for FY27**
- Created an online payment option (UniPay) for clubs/extracurriculars at SHS
- **Regular tabling at monthly Free Food Markets** for community partners to share key resources with families

PRIORITY 4

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

KEY INDICATORS

>> GET READY FOR SCHOOL FAIR (Aug '25)

1,000 + attendees;
47 community partners
Avg 92% satisfaction rating

>> FOOD MARKETS

Avg. 380 families per month (as of May '26)
of families served by Carrot Cards

>> K TRANSITIONS

297 prospective families at PK-8 School Tours
111 Registrants for Getting Ready for K Info Session
9 Early Beginnings Parent Education Trainings

>> ACADEMICS/CURRICULUM

24 attendees at Math/ELA Curriculum Workshop, Avg 95% satisfaction rating
85 views on Illustrative Math Curriculum Video
15 attendees at Bilingualism & the Brain Workshop

FAMILY LISTENING SESSIONS

Continuous Engagement

Create meaningful, intentional, multilingual opportunities for families to partner in the work by sharing their ideas and priorities for key areas of the strategic plan.

Action Steps

- **Formal Listening Sessions** - in person at SHS
 - OST x 2 sessions
 - Strengths: variety and quality of OST programming; positive relationships and quality of OST staff; increased access for immigrant families
 - Barriers: need for communication that's accessible, transparent, and equitable; ongoing financial strain; need access for students with disabilities
 - Special Education x 2 sessions
 - Strengths: supportive staff, positive relationships with school staff, and student-centered focus; some positive communication; sense of community and belonging
 - Barriers: ongoing communication barriers about understanding IEP process as well as cultural and language barriers; need for more social emotional supports; trouble accessing afterschool and summer programming
- **Pulse Checks** - meet families where they are; at food markets, in conversation with liaisons and home visitors, with SPS parents at SCALE
 - OST - 43 conversations
 - Parent Teacher Conferences - 66 conversations
 - MLE - 21 conversations



NEXT STEPS

Continue to implement the Strategic Plan

- School Improvement Plans
- Professional Development
- Progress monitoring

Continue to use data to drive decision-making

- Data dashboard, Open Architects
- Bi-annual progress updates to the School Committee

Continue to engage students, staff, families and community partners

- Listening sessions
- Website updates
- Working groups
- Pulse checks

THANK YOU!

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the students, families, staff and community partners who participated in a listening session, focus group, root cause analysis session, strategy session and/or responded to the survey. Your voice and expertise have been invaluable to the development and implementation of the SPS Strategic Plan.

Staff Acknowledgements

Amara Anosike – Chief of Staff and Strategy

Samantha Eligene – Director of Data, Assessment, and Accountability

Darryl Nash - Chief Communications Officer

Ruth Santos – Director of Somerville Family Learning Collaborative

Tina Lu – SFLC Coordinator of Resources, Data, and Communication

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Somerville Public Schools'
Strategic Plan 2025-2030

