



School Committee Meeting | Superintendent Update

08.31.2026

Agenda

- ❖ Day One Readiness
- ❖ Building on Momentum:
Welcome to 2026-2027 SY
- ❖ Academics: Our Focus for the SY
- ❖ Data: Where We Stand Part I



The background is a dark, semi-transparent overlay on a photograph of various school supplies scattered on a desk. Visible items include pens, pencils, markers, a compass, a ruler, and some loose paper. In the bottom left corner, there are three stylized hand icons in blue, green, and red, with three small star icons in blue, orange, and yellow above them.

Day One Readiness

Highlights from work over the summer
across departments to ensure we were
ready for Day 1 of school

Getting Ready for 2026-2027



Staff across the district got ready for SY27 by engaging in department PD, planning meetings and data meetings.

Convocation 2026



This past Thursday, we gathered together as one district to kick off the 2026-2027 school year, with remarks from the Mayor, School Committee member Pitone and performances from our Dance Team.



Day 1 Joy



SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

FACILITIES READINESS



SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE



Building on Momentum

Welcome to SY26-27

Building on Momentum:

Last year, we strengthened our foundation.
This year, we build on it.

SY26: We built...	SY27: We build on it by...
A clearer strategic direction	Moving from priorities to measurable implementation
Stronger academic foundations	Continued work on curriculum adoptions...
Expanded supports for students	Strengthening how we identify and respond to student needs
Stronger district systems	Building greater consistency, accountability and follow-through across schools



FACILITIES HEADLINES

High Level Summer Projects	On-Going Facilities Projects (Short and Long Term)
● Argenziano Kitchen Expansion: Completed expansion of the main kitchen, including a new 88 sq. ft. walk-in freezer, a new electric ventless double oven that approximately doubles cooking capacity, and relocation of a tilting kettle and three blast chillers from Winter Hill. ● Winter Hill @ Edgerly Accessibility: Completed ADA improvements along Bonair Street, including a widened curb cut, accessible ramp and parking space, new concrete sidewalks, signage, and a repaved walkway to the building entrance. Additional landscaping/surfacing work is planned for the fall. ● Kennedy Playground: A new modern and accessible playground is being completed to provide an updated outdoor environment supporting student play, inclusion, and community connection.	● Argenziano Classroom Addition: Construction is underway on a new 850 sq. ft. third-floor classroom, including new technology, cabinetry, sink, lockers, and updated fire-safety systems; the project documents anticipate completion in late September/early October. ● Argenziano Building Systems: New boilers are positioned for installation as part of continued building-readiness work. ● Somerville High School: Façade work continues as the school year begins. ● West Somerville: Roof work will continue into the school year. ● Districtwide HVAC: Additional HVAC upgrades have been conducted across multiple Somerville schools as part of broader facilities investment



Academics

What We Are Focused on This Year



FOCUS AREA #1:

EVERY STUDENT LEARNS. EVERY CLASS. EVERY DAY.

This year, we are sharpening our focus on the daily learning experience of every student by using evidence of student learning to understand what is working, where students need more, and how we respond.

Strong Instruction

Students experience meaningful, rigorous learning every day.

What are students learning?



Know Where Students Are

Educators regularly use evidence of student learning to understand progress.

How do we know?



Respond to What We Learn

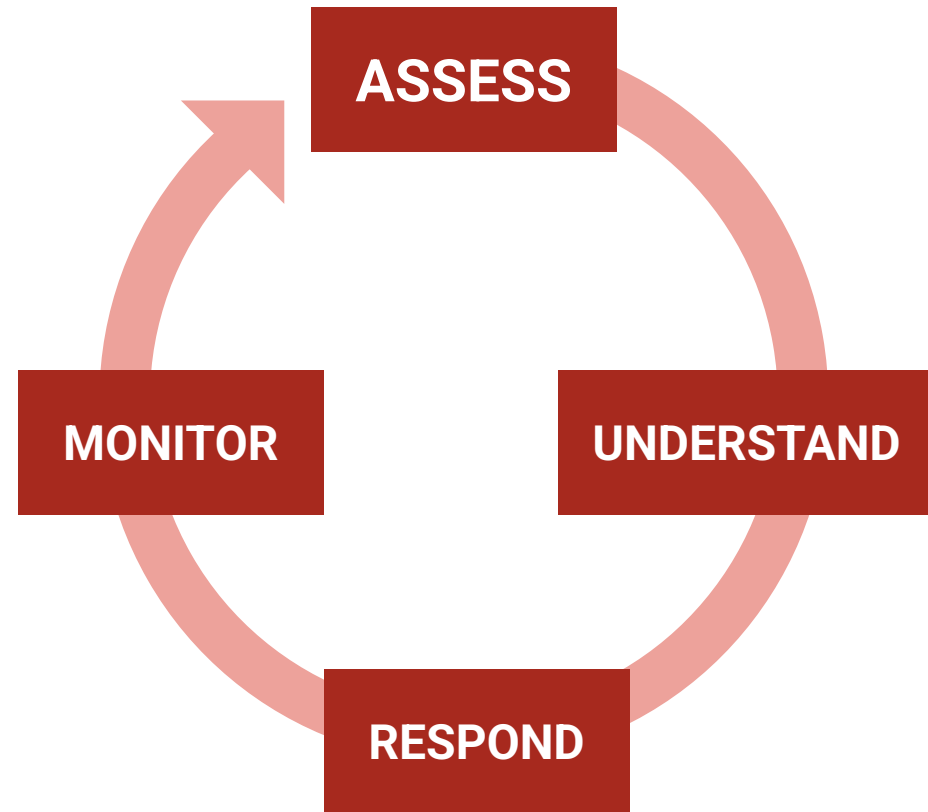
Schools adjust instruction and supports based on what students need.

What are we doing about it?



FOCUS **Building a Stronger** **AREA #2: Culture of Data**

Data should be a tool for action.



FOCUS AREA #3: Strengthening Our Inclusive Practices for Students with Disabilities



"It's not an overstatement to say that society would be changed for the better if every school child had the chance to know and learn alongside people with disabilities and to see them as peers."

- ***Your Students, My Students, Our Students: Rethinking Equitable and Inclusive Classrooms***

In order for all of our students to learn every day in every class, we need to ensure that our teachers have the tools need to support that.





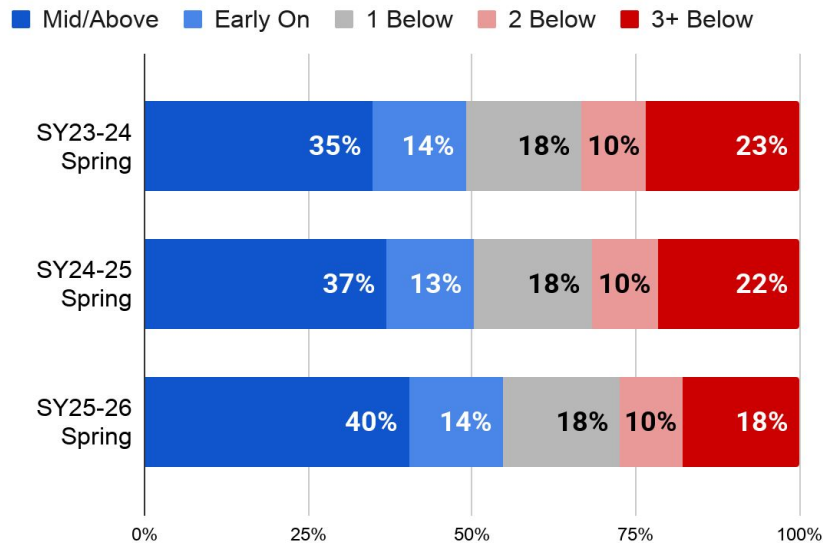
Data: Where We Stand



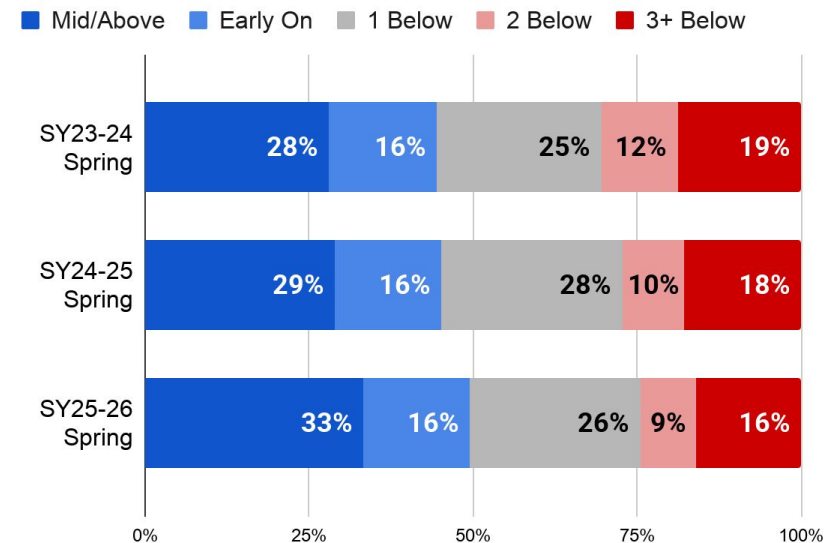
End of Year i-Ready Shows an Upward Trajectory

- More students ending the year on grade level in reading and math on i-Ready compared to the previous two school years

Reading



Math



Preliminary Data Shows an Upward Trajectory

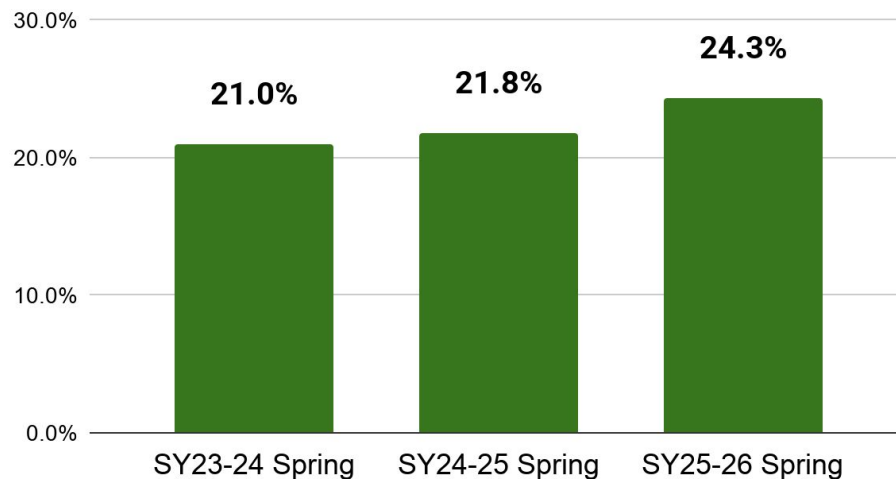
- Prelim 2026 MCAS:
 - **improvement in math** for students in grades 3-8 and notably for our students with disabilities and multilingual learners subgroups
 - **highest average math SGP** in the past five years
- Prelim 2026 ACCESS - **more students making progress and meeting exit criteria** compared to previous three years



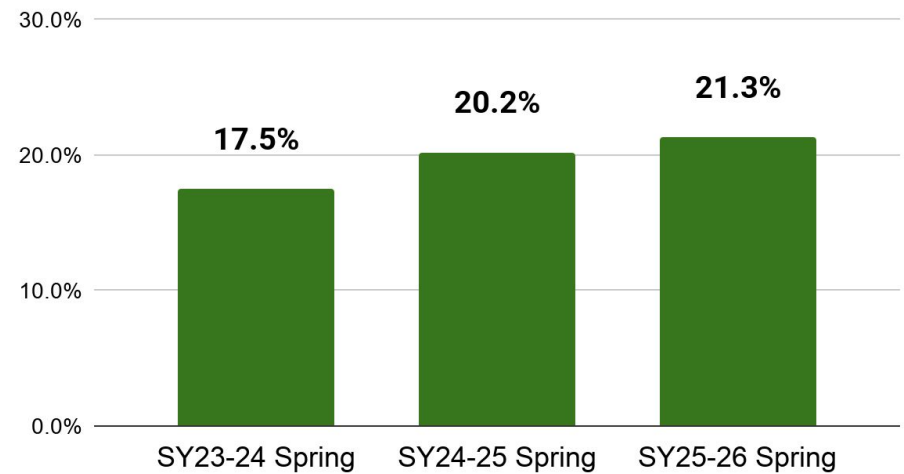
End of Year i-Ready Shows an Upward Trajectory for Students with Disabilities

- A greater proportion of students with disabilities ended the year at or above grade level on i-Ready reading and math compared to previous years

i-Ready Reading End of Year for Students with Disabilities



i-Ready Math End of Year for Students with Disabilities



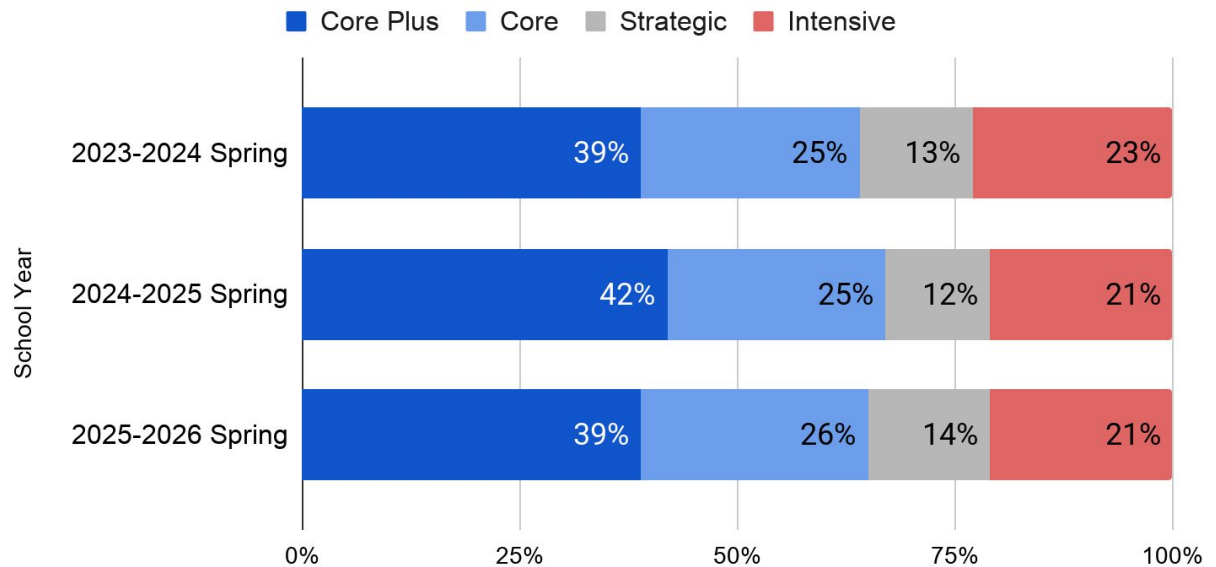
Instructional Strategy for SY27

1. Continued focused professional development districtwide on inclusive practices.
2. Repeated data cycles with all instructional leaders district-wide.
3. Strengthening the use of “X-Block” (daily block where K-8 students receive targeted instruction).
4. Leveraging external partners to support instructional practices throughout the district (Ignite, Catapult, Relay, TNTP, Lynch Leadership).
5. Use of DIBELS to identify students in need of additional supports and create a strategy to accelerate student reading at the K3 grade level.



End of Year DIBELS Remains Stable

- We have ended each year with 64-67% of students in grades K-3 at or above grade level in early literacy.





PRESENTATION TITLE HERE