



School Committee Meeting | Superintendent Update

10.05.2026

Agenda

Superintendent Remarks

- District-Wide: DESE Review 2026

District Reports

- Summer Programming Overview Presentation



The background is a blurred image of a desk with various school supplies like pens, pencils, and markers. Overlaid on the left side are three stylized hand icons in yellow, blue, and red, with several colorful stars (yellow, blue, red, black) floating around them. A solid blue vertical bar is positioned to the left of the text.

District-Wide

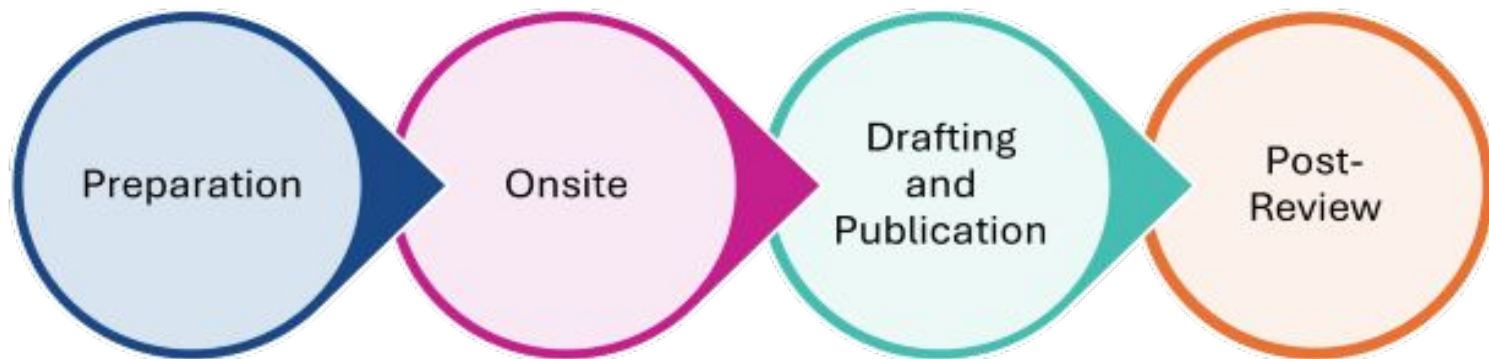
DESE Review

DESE District Review - What Is It?

The Office of District Reviews and Monitoring (ODRM) conducts in-depth reviews of school districts, as mandated by [M.G.L. c. 15, § 55A](#). These reviews provide districts with critical information and recommendations for improvement, based on the [District Standards and Indicators](#). The reviews are overseen by DESE's Office of District Reviews and Monitoring, but is conducted by American Institutes for Research.

Districts are chosen semi-randomly, based on a number of factors. The focus of the district reviews is to provide formative and actionable feedback to allow the district to promote equity for all students.

All published district reviews are available on the [District Review Reports page](#).



The Headline:

Somerville has built a strong foundation. Our next challenge is consistency.

The review affirms clear strategic direction, supportive learning environments, investment in educators, and a commitment to equity, while calling on us to ensure those strengths translate into a consistently rigorous experience across schools and classrooms.

Strong Direction

Strategic planning, school improvement, budgeting and instruction are increasingly aligned.

Strong Foundation

Students generally experience supportive classrooms where they feel known and respected.

Clear Next Step(s)

Move from strong systems to consistent implementation and impact across the district.

DESE District Review — What Reviewers Affirmed

The review identified meaningful strengths across the district's core systems.

Leadership & Coherence

A clear strategic direction connects district priorities, school improvement planning, budgeting and instruction.

Students Feel Supported

Classroom observations found generally positive environments and particularly strong emotional support.

Investment in Educators

Professional learning and educator collaboration were recognized as important district strengths.

Equity & Family Support

The district has built multilingual access, family supports, restorative practices and student-support structures.

**The foundation is not the finish line.
It gives us a stronger platform for the next phase of improvement.**

DESE District Review — Where We Need to Get Better

**Across the findings, one theme shows up repeatedly:
stronger consistency and coherence in implementation.**

1

Rigorous instruction

More consistent opportunities for students to engage in rigorous, grade-level learning.

2

MTSS & Special Education

More consistent tiered supports, scaffolds and access for students with disabilities.

3

Data → Action

Use the data we already collect more consistently to adjust instruction and intervention.

4

Student & family communication

Clearer, more consistent information about grading, progress and how families can interpret academic data.

5

Financial planning

Continue strengthening forecasting, multiyear planning and sustainable financial systems.

DESE District Review — Our Response

We are translating the report into three district commitments.

1 Consistent, rigorous learning

Strengthen instructional rigor, MTSS and the use of data so that strong practice is not dependent on school or classroom.

2 Clearer, more equitable experience

Improve communication about student progress and strengthen inclusive supports for students with disabilities and multilingual families.

3 Stronger systems for sustainability

Build on recent financial improvements with stronger forecasting, multiyear planning and documented systems.

Our charge is straightforward:

Turn strong systems into a consistently strong student experience, such that every student learns, every class, every day.

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