



Together, we inspire and challenge all learners to realize their unique potential and become active contributors to their community

Office of the Superintendent

Kirk Downing, Superintendent

Laura Friend, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning

Superintendent's Report to the NRSD School Committee October 26, 2022

Announcements:

NAEYC Update

The National Association for the Education of Young Children is a membership institution that has served as the accreditation agency for our preschool and kindergarten programs for over a decade. The relationship with NAEYC began as a requirement to receive grant money from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for unfunded full day kindergarten programs. Since Nashoba moved to a full day kindergarten, the accreditation requirement is longer necessary. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education serves as our auditing agency for educational programming. In addition, our preschools are integrated special education that are audited every three years through the coordinated program review.

Nashoba Regional School District has a robust special education preschool program. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, requires that the school district ensure that there are programs available for eligible children beginning at age three through age five. The programs are designed to provide developmentally appropriate and specially designed instruction for children who are unable to participate in developmentally appropriate typical preschool activities. Early Childhood Special Education services ensure that all children with disabilities have a free and appropriate public education that is designed to meet their unique needs and enable them to make progress. There are specific regulations pertaining to preschool programs 603 CMR 28.00. Every three years the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reviews the district's programs, including our preschool. In addition, we are required to submit Indicator data (7) to DESE throughout each school year. Indicator 7, measures the percent of preschool children, aged three through five, who demonstrate improved abilities in three areas:

- Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
- Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication and early literacy); and
- Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.

NAEYC is not a required certification as we are reviewed by DESE, have highly qualified teachers and follow the PreK curriculum standards. Therefore, it is no longer necessary to extend our relationship with NAEYC and we will not renew our membership with them as our current memberships expire throughout the district.

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State Seal of Biliteracy

The State Seal of Biliteracy is an award provided by state approved districts that recognizes high school graduates who attain high functional and academic levels of proficiency in English and a world language in recognition of having studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation. The State Seal of Biliteracy serves to acknowledge the value of academic success and the tangible benefits of multilingualism. The State Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admissions. We are pleased to announce that the Nashoba Regional School District will participate in the Massachusetts State Seal of Biliteracy for the first time beginning this year. Graduating seniors who meet the rigorous requirements set forth for the State Seal of Biliteracy will be formally recognized and receive a seal on both their transcript and diploma upon graduation.

Updates on Strategic Work

Topic 1: MassCUE

Strategic Objective #4: Maximize the potential of students, staff, caretakers and community through effective resource allocation

Strategic Initiative #1: *Build and create a distributive leadership plan that fosters shared responsibility for leading and learning*

Held in partnership with the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents, the MassCUE Annual Fall Conference is the leading education technology conference in New England. A two-day professional development event, MassCUE features a variety of workshops and presentations from leading educators on how to enhance teaching and learning with the latest in educational technology. The event was held last week at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. Nashoba was well-represented at MassCUE with teachers and building leaders from all schools in attendance. We are proud to share that three of Nashoba's educators presented workshops at the event. Melissa Foley-Procko presented, "Innovate and Re-Create with PBL and Design Thinking," Mary Marotta presented two workshops, one she co-presented with Thea Tully, "Getting Started with PBL in Social Studies and the Race to the Presidency," and the second entitled, "Promoting Creativity with Canva."

Topic 2: Professional Development, 2022-2023

Strategic Objective #2: Support and inspire all learners through improving and implementing clearly aligned and articulated curricula, equitable innovative instructional and assessment practices, and shared leadership

Strategic Initiative #1: *Engage in an audit of district-wide curriculum and conduct a curriculum revision cycle*

Strategic Objective #3: Ensure equitable opportunities and outcomes for all through increased awareness, representation, practices, and communication around diversity, equity, and inclusion

Strategic Initiative #3: *Integrate social emotional learning best practices into daily instruction and student life*

Strategic Objective #4: Maximize the potential of students, staff, caretakers and community through effective resource allocation

Strategic Initiative #1: *Build and create a distributive leadership plan that fosters shared responsibility for leading and learning*

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Last Friday, PreK-12 faculty and staff engaged in the first districtwide early release professional development session of the 2022-2023 school year. Each of this year's professional development activities has been intentionally designed to support the strategic objectives outlined in the 2022-2027 NRSD Strategic Plan. Learning activities range from professional development in support of our K-5 *Bridges in Mathematics* implementation, to the further development of skills related to the integration of social emotional learning, to curriculum alignment and mapping across domains and grade levels. Of note, the framework and implementation of curriculum alignment, development, and mapping is supported through a distributive leadership model with 10 curriculum facilitators leading the work at the middle level (6-8 content areas) and at the K-8 level (related arts). Curriculum development, alignment, and mapping at the high school level is being facilitated by high school department chairs as they guide the work within their respective departments. The Department of Teaching and Learning has provided training and resources to all curriculum facilitators to support districtwide alignment using updated curriculum mapping tools and structures. To view the Year-At-A Glance NRSD Early Release Professional Development activities, click [here](#).

Topic 3: Nashoba Notable Recognition

Strategic Objective #4: Maximize the potential of students, staff, caretakers and community through effective resource allocation

Strategic Initiative #3: Recruit, hire and retain a highly qualified, diverse staff that mirrors the educational vision

The Department of Teaching and Learning is excited to announce a new program, *Nashoba Notable*, developed to recognize the everyday efforts of Nashoba faculty and staff. Nashoba Notable Awards provide a simple venue for extending a thank you to Nashoba employees for supporting our school communities in all ways great and small. Students, families, staff, and community members can send a Nashoba Notable Award to any Nashoba employee by completing a short [form](#). Employees will receive a certificate that includes a brief explanation from the nominator of why they are Nashoba Notable. There is no limit to the number of Nashoba Notable Awards an employee may receive. The Nashoba Notable announcement and nomination form will be posted on the district website and flyers will be posted in each of our schools. Thank a Nashoba employee today!

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