

Dear Visitors:

Welcome to an open meeting of the Abington School Committee. This is the agenda that will be discussed this evening. Please note that Hearing of Visitors is included; and if you have a statement or question, please be kind enough to wait to be recognized by the Chair and give your name and address.

Chris Coyle, Chair

This meeting may be digitally recorded

ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ABINGTON, MA 02351

REGULAR MEETING OF THE ABINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023

ABINGTON MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL – LIBRARY

7:00 P.M.

- I. CALL OF MEETING TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE

- II. HEARING OF VISITORS

- III. READING AND APPROVAL OF RECORDS

September 26, 2023

- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MASC/MASS Annual Joint Conference (November 8-10, 2023) at Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis, Hyannis, MA.
 1. Appointment of a Voting Delegate
 2. Review of 2023 Resolutions

- V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT
 - A. Report on 2022-2023 MCAS Results
 1. Grades 3-6 Science, Math and ELA (Dr. Basta, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment)

2. Secondary Science, Technology and Engineering (Nicole Corbett, Department Head)
3. Secondary Math (Meg Doherty, Department Head)
4. Secondary ELA (Dr. Gonzalves, Department Head)

B. *Abington Innovates*, Nov. 1, 2023, Professional Development (Dr. Basta)

VI. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Review Search Process for the Assistant Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations

VII. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Strategic Planning Update

VIII. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

• Dates to Remember

1. Wed., November 1 – No School for Students- Half Day of Professional Development for Staff
2. Wed., November 8 – Abington Education Foundation (AEF) Board Meeting @ Buckley Room at Abington Town Hall @ 7 p.m.
3. Fri., November 10– Veterans’ Day Observance– All School Offices and Buildings Closed
4. Wed., November 22 – Half Day (Thanksgiving Break)
5. Thurs., November 23 and Fri., November 24 – All School Offices and Buildings Closed

• Personnel Administration - Informational

1. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Kylie Lasky as a paraprofessional with the Abington Public Schools.

2. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Jennifer Cummings as a paraprofessional with the Abington Public Schools.
3. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Kim DiVito as an LTS teacher within the Abington School System.
4. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the superintendent has approved the appointment of Alexis Pineda as a tutor within the Abington Public Schools.
5. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following coaches for the 2023-2024 winter season:

Head Girls Basketball	Dan Norton
Assistant / JV Girls Basketball	Jennifer Worden
Head Boys Basketball	Peter Serino
Assistant / JV Boys Basketball	Jason Brown
Freshman Boys Basketball	Tom Carey
Head Ice Hockey	Bryan Woodford
Assistant / JV Ice Hockey	Ed O'Neil
Head Girls Indoor Track	William Caseley
Head Boys Indoor Track	Mike Caseley
Auxiliary Indoor Track	Connor Bennett

6. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Andrea Harmon as a Music Teacher within Abington Public Schools.
7. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of Christine Cook as a Cafeteria worker within Abington Public Schools.

X. ADJOURNMENT

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION by roll call vote in accordance with MA G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing strategy in preparation for negotiations with nonunion Personnel, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations. Holding this discussion in open session may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Committee; and not to return to regular session.

**I. CALL OF MEETING
TO ORDER AND FLAG
SALUTE**

A regular meeting of the School Committee was held in the library at 201 Gliniewicz Way.

Present: Mr. Chris Coyle, Chair; Ms. Danielle Grafton, Vice-Chair; Ms. Heidi Hernandez, Secretary, Julie Groom Member and Melanie Whitney Member. Also in attendance were Mr. Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Felicia Moschella, Assistant Superintendent, and Ms. Danielle Gaylor, Executive Secretary and Jaccob Spellane, Student Representative

II. HEARING OF VISITORS

Before the opening of the Hearing of Visitors, Superintendent Peter Schafer, spoke on the events of the day. He provided a detailed explanation of the bomb threat that occurred during the school day and also provided possible adjustments with messaging should similar events occur in the future. He expressed that the safety of the children is of the utmost importance. He thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, and staff for their quick responsiveness to this matter.

Julie Riley 81 Lady Slipper Lane shared her concern with the evacuation areas for students, and wanted confirmation that the locations are a safe distance away from any threat.

Theresa Little, Colonel Hunt Drive, thanked the staff at the Beaver Brook for their organized actions during this event. She shared concerns about the lack of communication during the event and felt that there should have been more as parents started to gather at the schools.

Tina DeCotis 390 Groveland Street questioned why all schools were not dismissed during this event. It was explained that there were no formal dismissals at any school. She also shared that more communication would be helpful when events like these occur, she also shared her concerns with the distance of the evacuation areas as well as the length of time kids are outside especially in cold weather.

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VOTED: on motion of Chris Coyle (Melanie Whitney) the members of the School Committee voted approve the minutes of August 30, 2023, as presented.

IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND ASSESSMENT

Michelle Poirier, Department Head of Art, provided updates on her department. She highlighted the strengths of her department and discussed the Department's standard of curriculum which focuses on the four MA Visual Arts Standards (Creating Artwork, Presenting Artwork, Responding To Others Work, and Connecting Within Self) She shared the increase of participation in classes. Ms. Poirier also talked about the success of the district wide art show and provided AP testing information.

Dr. Christopher Basta, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment invited Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School to talk about the Personal Finance pilot program. Mr. Bourn shared several of the topics that will be taught during this program that will likely take place after the April break, this program will target Seniors. The Personal Finance program will integrate into Math classes and will be run by Meg Doherty.

Dr. Basta provided a Math Curriculum update. He shared information on the current 5-12 math pilot program. The three pilot programs that are being researched are Illustrative, enVision Math and Into Mathematics. At separate times, teachers have/will incorporate these programs into the curriculum and will communicate their findings provide a program recommendation to adopt in the 24/25 school year.

V. PRINCIPAL REPORT

Matthew MacCurtain, Principal, Abington Middle School asked the Committee to consider approving the out-of-state field trip to Philadelphia for the Abington Middle School, Grade 8 Students on June 6, 7, 8, 2024.

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to Philadelphia for the Abington Middle School, Grade 8 Students on June 6, 7, 8, 2024.

VI. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUPIL SERVICES

Dr. Robbins asked the School Committee to approve one additional student to the 2023-2024 Home School Education Program.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the additional student to the Home Education Programs for the 2023-2024 School year as recommended by Dr. Robbin

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Superintendent of Schools Peter Schafer and School Committee member Julie Groom reported on School Safety And the recent topics that were discussed at the safety meeting. Some items discussed were; temperature within the schools, camera upgrades and protocols surrounding people coming into the buildings. The committee set an agenda and discussed goals they would like to accomplish. They also shared that they are planning to implement safety walks around the schools in the coming months.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent proposed a possible job restructuring to the Central Office as Peter Schafer retires and Dr. Moschella becomes the Superintendent. Two new job descriptions were presented to support the need for this transition, Assistant Superintendent and Director of Finance and Operations. The current role of Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment will end and those responsibilities will roll into the Assistant Superintendent job description. Therefore, no additional positions will be added. A formal candidate search will take place for each role.

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Heidi Hernandez) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the Assistant Superintendent position as presented

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Julie Groom) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the Director of Finance and Operations position as presented

VIII. REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Felcia Moschella, presented the FY 2025 Budget Development and Article Planning Schedule

VOTED: on motion of Heidi Hernandez (Chris Coyle) the members of the School Committee voted to approve the FY 2025 Budget Development and Article Planning Schedule as presented

Dr. Moschella and School Committee member Melanie Whitney provided an update on the Strategic Planning Committee which is comprised of about 25 members. The committee is looking to develop a 5-year strategic plan. The goal is to understand the needs of the district to help create one district wide plan.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

MASC Resolutions will be discussed at the October meeting.

X. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. READS Collaborative Quarterly Report Overview

• **Dates to Remember**

1. Mon., October 9 – Columbus Day – All School Buildings and School Offices Closed
3. Sat., October 14-Town Meeting at 9 a.m.@ AMS/AHS/AEEP Auditorium
4. Tues., October 17 – GreenWave Boosters' Meeting @ 7 p.m.

• **Personnel Administration - Informational**

1. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Anne-Marie Padilla as a LTS Guidance Counselor through November 1, 2023.
2. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of James Donohue as a Special Education Teacher within the Abington Public Schools.
3. The Superintendent has accepted the resignation of John Kelliher as a tutor within the Abington Public Schools.
4. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Caroline Boffoli as a Special Education Teacher within the Abington Public Schools.
5. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Kaitlynn Willette as a Special Education Teacher within the Abington Public Schools.

6. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of Cait Southwood as a tutor and Shanah Hitchens as a .6 tutor in the transition program within the Abington Public Schools.
7. On the recommendation of Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of the Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of John Sal Clifford as a paraprofessional within the Abington Public Schools.
8. On the recommendation of Julie Thompson, Principal of the Beaver Brook Elementary School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following paraprofessionals within the Abington Public Schools:
 - Mike Lyons
 - Julia Kelly
 - Kerry Foy
 - Jovanié Pierre-Charles
9. On the recommendations of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School, and Peter Serino, Athletic Director, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following coaches for the 2023 school year:

Jennifer Worden J/V Volleyball Asst. Coach
Matthew Henriksen JV Golf

10. On the recommendation of Jonathan Bourn, Principal of Abington High School and, Matthew MacCurtain, Principal of Abington Middle School, the Superintendent has approved the appointment of the following advisors for the 2023-2024 school year:

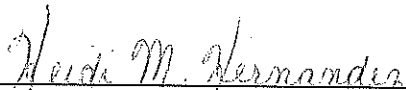
Tim Leonelli	Jazz Band Director
Tim Leonelli	MS Enrichment Activity Advisor
Kim McHugh / Daisy	Class of 2024 Advisor
Presley Mahanna	Fall Show Director
Lindsey MacNeil / Laura Regan	7th & 8th Grade Student Council
Victoria Tansey	ACE Advisor
Brian Lanner	Anti Bullying Club Advisor
Tim Leonelli	Marching Band
Brian Mazzoli	Assistant Marching Band Director
Henry Beckvold	Technical Director
Susan Mullen	Class of 2025 Advisor
Karin Daisy	Global Travel
Karin Daisy	GSA Advisor
Meg Tomlin	Drama Producer
Kimberly McHugh	Brazilian Club (international club)
Presley Mahanna	Sophomore Class Advisor
Presley Mahanna	Costumer for Drama Club
Meg Tomlin	Drama Society Advisor
Erin Slayton	Yearbook Advisor (H.S.)
Sue Harrington	Student Council Advisor (H.S.)

Matt Cuttter
Meg Doherty
Bill Siegel
Tricia London
Tricia London
Christin Couture
Bridget Wakelin
Janny Kelliher
Ann Parks
Elizabeth Despres
Adam Talbot
Daria Healy
Lauren Peruzzi/Carol Calcano
Jillian Earle

Newspaper Advisor (H.S.)
Mathematics Team Advisor (H.S.)
Peer Advisor (H.S.)
Literary Arts Magazine Advisor
Honor Society Advisor
Visual Art/Media Club Advisor
Unified Sports Team Advisor
Student Account Bookkeeper
Student Account Bookkeeper
Language Buddies Advisor
H.S. Intramural Advisor
Color Guard Instructor
MS Enrichment Club-Cross Country
Peer Advisor

XII. ADJOURNMENT-

VOTED: on motion of Danielle Grafton (Heidi Hernandez)
the members of the School Committee voted to adjourn the
meeting at 8:20pm


Heidi Hernández, Secretary

report of the resolutions committee

The members of the Resolutions Committee met on June 28, 2023 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts for consideration at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Mildred Lefebvre (Chair), Holyoke; Beverly Hugo (Life Member); Barbara Davis (Life Member), Holbrook; Robin Zoll, Southeastern Reg. Voc. Tech.; Katherine Hubley, Quincy; Michael Boudreau and Maura Ryan, Hamden-Wilbraham, Stacey Rizzo (MASC President), Revere; Paul Schlichtman, Arlington; Humera Fasihuddin, Hadley; Robert Swartz, Gardner; Linda Woodland, Wachusett Regional; and Jessica Barnhill, Framingham. Beverly Griffin Dunne, Peabody/Essex Tech., participated remotely.

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 1: FULL, STABLE FUNDING FOR METCO

(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS in 1966, the first 220 students rode buses from Boston neighborhoods to schools in seven suburbs; and

WHEREAS in 1968, the Massachusetts Legislature passed the Racial Imbalance Act, in which the Commonwealth accepted financial responsibility "for any town that wishes to enroll students from outside the district for the purpose of racial integration (subject to appropriation); and

WHEREAS in 1968, the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) assumed responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Racial Imbalance Act, providing support for students, families, and receiving districts; and

WHEREAS METCO's mission is to provide students with a strong academic foundation rich in cultural, educational, ethnic, socioeconomic, and racial diversity and foster the opportunity for children from Boston and from neighboring suburbs to develop a deeper understanding of each other in an integrated public school setting; and

WHEREAS Over the last half century, METCO has reached tens of thousands of students, supporting 3,100 families annually in 31 participating suburban school districts and 190 public schools, with graduation rates and college attainment far above state averages; and

WHEREAS METCO creates environments where students, parents and teachers of different backgrounds can appreciate diversity, find common ground through shared experiences, build lifelong inter-racial friendships, and strive toward the mutual goal of preparing young people to become global citizens; and

WHEREAS METCO districts have expressed an interest in welcoming more METCO students into their schools; and

WHEREAS METCO has been recognized as the nation's most successful school integration program in the United States; and

WHEREAS requiring METCO funding to be subject to appropriation results in METCO families and partner districts spending considerable time and energy to lobby for funding to maintain the current level of services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor

and the Legislature to create a stable funding structure to support METCO and its partner districts that fully funds the support provided by METCO, and the cost of providing services delivered by METCO's partner districts.

RESOLUTION 2: REGARDING INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION BIDDING PROCEDURES

(Sponsored by the Southeastern Vocational Technical School Committee)

WHEREAS school districts across the commonwealth are struggling with the problem of transportation services and the bidding and purchasing of these services; and

WHEREAS a stunning number of districts find that, after soliciting multiple bids, it is a frequent occurrence that only a single bidder submits a proposal; and

WHEREAS in light of the paucity of submissions, the single bidder is able to propose significant increases over previous years exacerbating not only financial matters, but also skepticism about the integrity of the bidding process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MA Association of School Committees prevail upon the Office of the State Auditor to investigate the bidding practices of school transportation providers, and to present such findings and recommendations as may be necessary to contain costs and make more efficient transportation services available for public schools.

RESOLUTION 3: REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

(Sponsored by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS as outlined in M.G.L. Title XII c. 71, § 16C, the regional school district shall be subject to all laws pertaining to school transportation; and when the agreement provides for the furnishing of transportation by the regional school district, the regional school district shall be obliged to provide transportation for all school children in grades kindergarten through twelve and the commonwealth shall reimburse such district to the full extent of the amounts expended for such transportation, subject to appropriation; and

WHEREAS provided, however, that no reimbursement for transportation between school and home shall be made on account of any pupil who resides less than one and one-half miles from the school of attendance, measured by a commonly traveled route; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has not consistently reimbursed regional transportation to the full extent of the amount expended for such transportation;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that in such case where a pupil resides greater than one and one-half mile from the school of attendance, measured by a commonly traveled route, and the commonwealth reimbursement does not fully cover the amounts expended for such transportation, the regional school district may allow pupils to opt out of such transportation or may charge a fee that in aggregate may not exceed the differential between the amounts expended for furnishing transportation and the commonwealth reimbursement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MASC encourage the Legislature to modify M.G.L. Title XII c. 71, § 16C, with the aforementioned proposed language (or alternative and remove the period) to provide regional districts the ability if so desired to charge a transportation fee that in aggregate cannot exceed the differential between the and that the Commonwealth reimbursement and the regional school district transportation expense for any pupil that resides greater than one and one-half mile from the school of attendance measured by a commonly traveled route. Pupils may opt out of transportation and not be subject to a transportation fee.

RESOLUTION 4: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

(Submitted by Division X; amended by the Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS we are responsible for fostering equitable learning environments wherein all students, staff members, and families are treated with respect and their voice and presence valued regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, expression, religion, natural origin, culture, physical ability, or other status; and

WHEREAS we should always stand, speak out, and help educate against violence and injustice on the basis of prejudice or discrimination; and

WHEREAS we should provide inside and outside of the classroom support to continue efforts centered on equity, diversity, and inclusion, with a heightened awareness and focus on racial equity and to adopt proper speech and text to the furtherance of these objectives;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that MASC recommends that all districts adopt the position of DEI coordinator to work towards an anti-racist school system.

RESOLUTION 5: MA SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY

(Submitted by the Wachusett Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS the School Building assistance program is the oldest capital grant program operated by the Commonwealth, as established in MGL Chapter 70B section 1; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is charged to promote the thoughtful planning and construction of school facility space in order to ensure safe

and adequate facilities for public schools, and to assist municipalities in meeting the cost thereof; and

WHEREAS the MSBA has improved the learning facilities of over 600,000 students across the Commonwealth by working with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools; and

WHEREAS the MSBA is limited in funding as stated in MGL 70B section 7, to \$800,000,000 plus either the rate of growth in the dedicated sales tax revenue amount as defined in subsection a of section 35BB of chapter 10, or 4.5%; and

WHEREAS the MSBA has declared a pause on their Accelerated Repair Program and limits on their Core Projects due to rising costs and inflation, and the need to stay within the Annual Cap as referenced in the Memorandum of October 19, 2022 from the MSBA Deputy Treasurer and Executive Director; and

WHEREAS each year the Accelerated Repair Program is delayed results in an increase in application backlog among the Commonwealth's existing backlog of school building needs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to amend MGL ch.70B, section 7 by removing the \$800,000,000 cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts School Building Authority to reinstate the Accelerated Repair program for 2024 applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to allow public preschools to be included in the Accelerated Repair Program and Core Program.

RESOLUTION 6: SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SURVEILLANCE ACT AND ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

(Submitted by the Peabody and Marlboro School Committees)

WHEREAS it is against the law in Massachusetts to pass a stopped school bus with the stop arm extended and flashing lights while student passengers embark and disembark the bus. Unless witnessed by a police officer, the penalties for passing a stopped school bus are minimal. The danger to the passengers is extraordinary, and can prove fatal; and

WHEREAS: a survey conducted in 2022 by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services (NASDPTS) found that motorists illegally pass stopped school buses: "Throughout a 180-day school year, ... sample results point to more than 41.8 million violations per year among America's motoring public.;" and

WHEREAS technological advances have now made possible digital video violation detection monitoring systems to detect drivers failing to stop for school buses; and

WHEREAS: penalties for passing a stopped school bus utilizing a digital video violation detection monitoring system

need to be commensurate with the same penalties imposed for said action if witnessed by a police officer;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation to pass into law the ability for cities and towns to install on all school buses live digital video detection monitoring systems for the purpose of enforcing violations against the owner of a motor vehicle whose vehicle failed to stop for a school bus when required to do so by law.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation raising the fine for passing a stopped school bus to a significant schedule of fines as penalty whether witnessed by a police officer or recorded by a digital video detection monitoring system.

RATIONALE: The significant safety concerns present when a vehicle passes a stopped school bus embarking or disembarking passengers are endangering our students in Massachusetts. Presently, unless witnessed by a police officer, the penalties for passing a school bus are minimal. If the registration plate of the offending vehicle is reported by the bus driver, there is a minimal fine.

Requiring a police officer to witness the violation prevents appropriate law enforcement action from taking place, especially for repeat offenders. Allowing the installation and utilization of digital video detection monitoring systems on school buses will allow for appropriate law enforcement action, provide for monitoring and data pertinent to this safety concern, and serve as a deterrent to drivers who are contributing to this safety issue. Protecting the safety of our students is a paramount concern.

RESOLUTION 7: RELATED TO MCAS

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS access to a high-quality, publicly funded education is a guaranteed right written into the Massachusetts Constitution; and

WHEREAS an effective public education program meets the needs of students who present a variety of abilities and learning styles; and

WHEREAS a successful system of public education nurtures and supports students and offers opportunities for growth along a continuum that begins in preschool and extends through higher education; and

WHEREAS the goal of public education is to teach students how to be critical thinkers, engaged citizens and lifelong learners; and

WHEREAS the use of MCAS has restricted curriculum and narrowed the focus of education in our public schools; and

WHEREAS the use of MCAS has impacted student emotional wellbeing; and

WHEREAS MCAS testing has unjustly targeted communities with underfunded public schools for state takeovers that have failed to improve student performance by any measure; and

WHEREAS using MCAS testing as a high-school graduation requirement has prevented or delayed countless students from earning a diploma, either interrupting or derailing education or career plans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- that MASC urges Massachusetts to develop a wider, more consensus-built strategy for an evaluation system with meaningful input from legitimate stakeholders.
- that MASC urges the state Legislature to launch a comprehensive evaluation to investigate the extent of biases pertaining to MCAS testing and make these results public.
- that MASC urges Massachusetts to enact a moratorium on MCAS testing effective immediately.
- that MASC urges Massachusetts to develop an alternative to the high-stakes MCAS tests.

RESOLUTION 8: SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS the safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff is a top priority in schools and keeping them safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites; and

WHEREAS in the United States, gun violence is the leading cause of death in children and teens; and

WHEREAS approximately 1200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year," and over 80 percent of children under age 18 who died by firearm suicide used a gun belonging to a family member; and

WHEREAS in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of 18 obtained their guns from their own home or that of relatives or friends; and

WHEREAS an estimated 4.6 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm and every year

WHEREAS research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to a 78 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries and up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; and

WHEREAS evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; and

continued on page 28

Proposal to Amend the MASC By-laws

Resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. The MASC Legislative Committee shall provide a list of expiring resolutions to the membership no later than March 1st of the year in which they expire. Readoption of an expiring resolution can be accomplished under the method proscribed in ARTICLE IX, section 1. *(This proposal was submitted by the MASC Legislative Committee)*

RATIONALE:

- Permits three years of focus on resolutions which overlaps two legislative cycles.
 - Provides an additional opportunity for school committees to become involved in the resolution process by championing resolutions which are set to expire.
 - Allows the Association to affirm what's important to current membership by re-adoption.
 - Clears expired, less relevant and no longer supported resolutions for new priorities.
-

Report of the Resolutions Committee *continued from page 27*

WHEREAS the US Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center recommends the importance of appropriate storage of weapons because many school attackers used firearms acquired from their homes; and

WHEREAS across the country, lawmakers, community members and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART Program, which is endorsed by the National PTA and encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and

WHEREAS secure storage of firearms is a legal requirement in Massachusetts pursuant to G.L. Chapter 140, sections 131L and 131C, and failure to comply with secure storage laws can lead to criminal prosecution, jail time, fines, and/or revocation of FID card or license, depending on the offense; and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends storing firearms unloaded and locked, with ammu-

munition locked separately to reduce risks of injury to children; and

WHEREAS in order to continue with preventive measures to increase student and school safety we must act now;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that MASC recommends all districts to urge their Superintendent and staff to create an appropriate communication to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure firearm storage to protect children and teens from unauthorized access to unsecured firearms, and their legal obligations consistent with Massachusetts safe storage law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges other communities to work with their local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profit organizations to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents and guardians of their obligations regarding secure storage of firearms in their homes and vehicles.



ABINGTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MCAS 2023 Review

Dr. Christopher Basta, *Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment*

Nicole Corbett, *Science Department Head*

Meg Doherty, *Math Department Head*

Dr. Elizabeth Gonsalves, *English Department Head*

What is the recovery story at the state level?

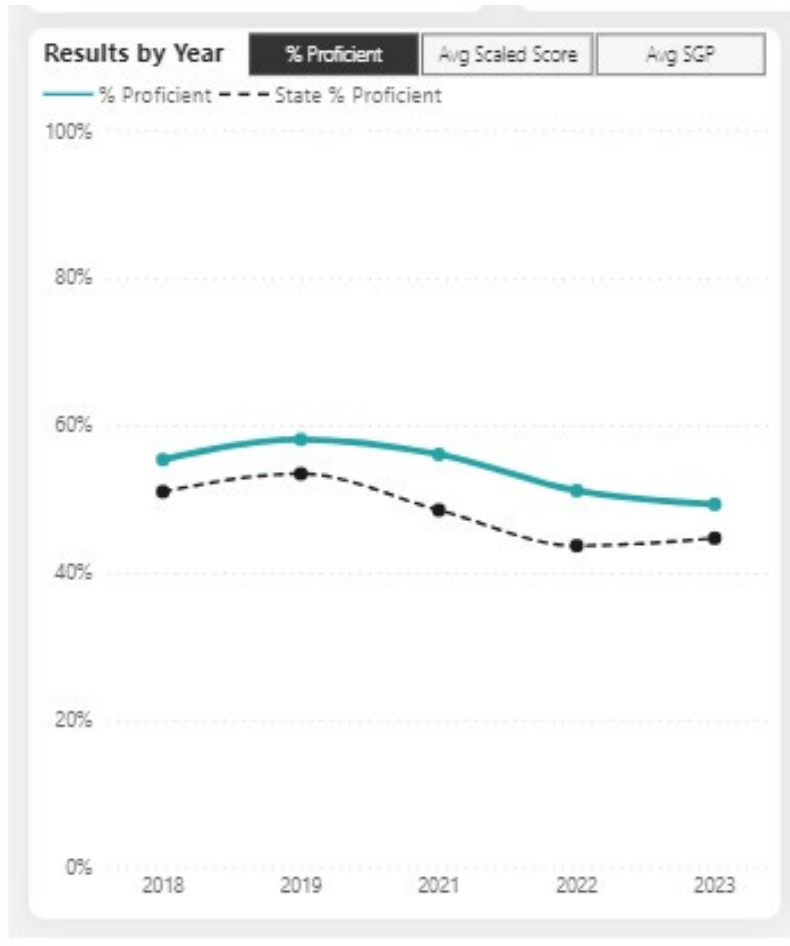
While overall Statewide results are still lower than they were in 2019, results in English language arts (ELA) scores and math were level or improved in all grades across the state compared to 2022.

MCAS Test Administration 2019-2023

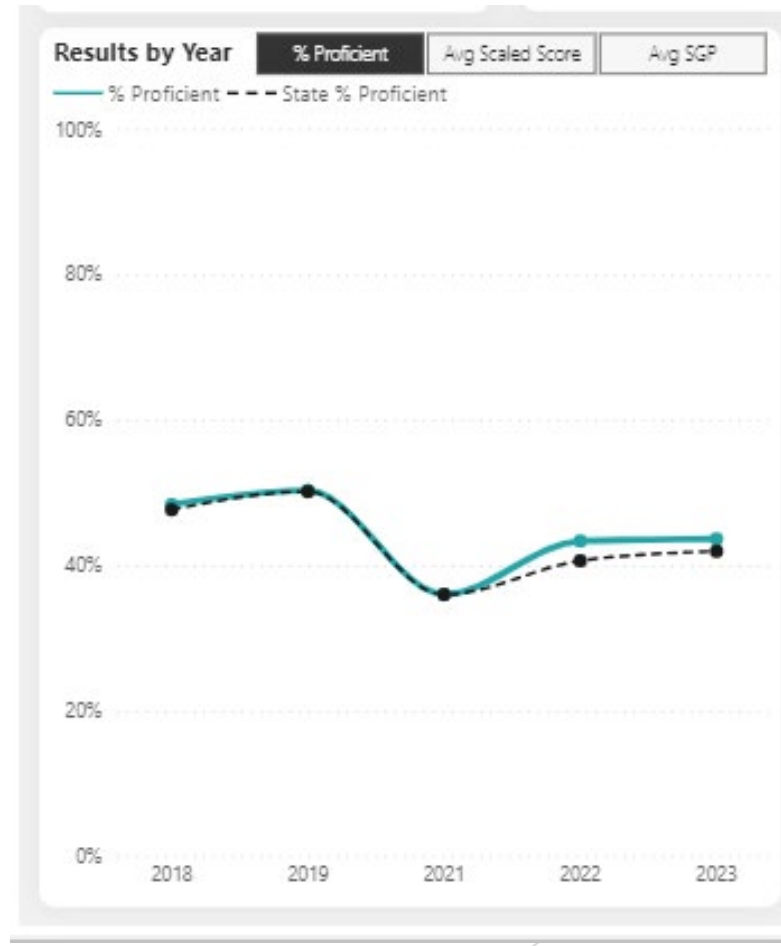
Year	Grades 3-8	Grade 10
2019	Full test administration	Full test administration
2020	No tests administered	No tests administered
2021	Half-test administered	Full test administered
2022	Full test administered	Full test administered
2023	Full test administered	Full test administered

Abington (3-8 and HS) vs. State Average 2018-2023

ELA



Math



State MCAS Results 2019-2023

Subject	Grade	2019 % M/E	2021 % M/E	2022 % M/E	2023 % M/E	Change M/E 22-23	Change M/E 19-23
ELA	3-8	52	46	41	42	1	-10
ELA	HS	61	64	58	58	N/C	-3

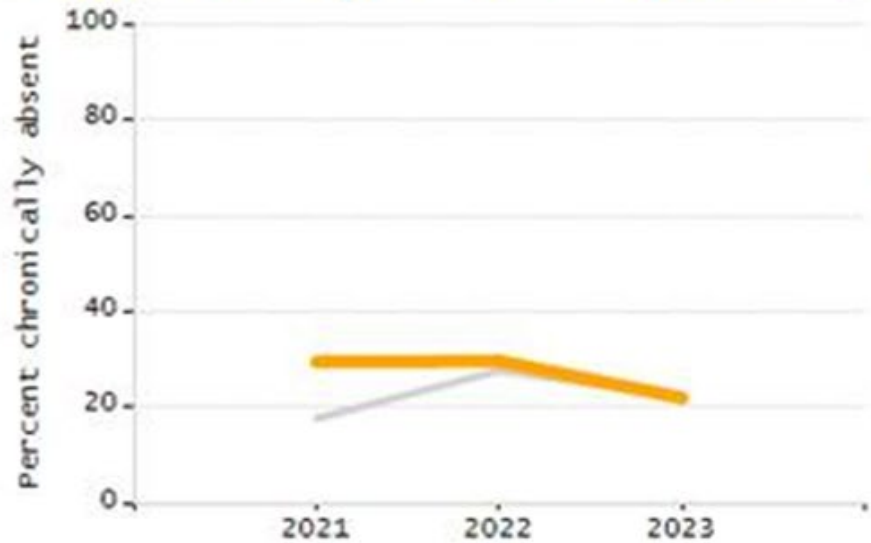
Subject	Grade	2019 % M/E	2021 % M/E	2022 % M/E	2023 % M/E	Change M/E 22-23	Change M/E 19-23
Math	3-8	49	33	39	41	2	-8
Math	HS	59	52	50	50	N/C	-9

Subject	Grade	2019 % M/E	2021 % M/E	2022 % M/E	2023 % M/E	Change M/E 22-23	Change M/E 19-23
Science	5	49	42	43	42	-1	-7
Science	8	46	41	42	41	-1	-5
Science	HS*			47	47	N/C	N/C

*First administration of the Next-Generation Science MCAS in HS Physics and Biology was in 2022 and not comparable to prior years.

APS vs. State Attendance Data

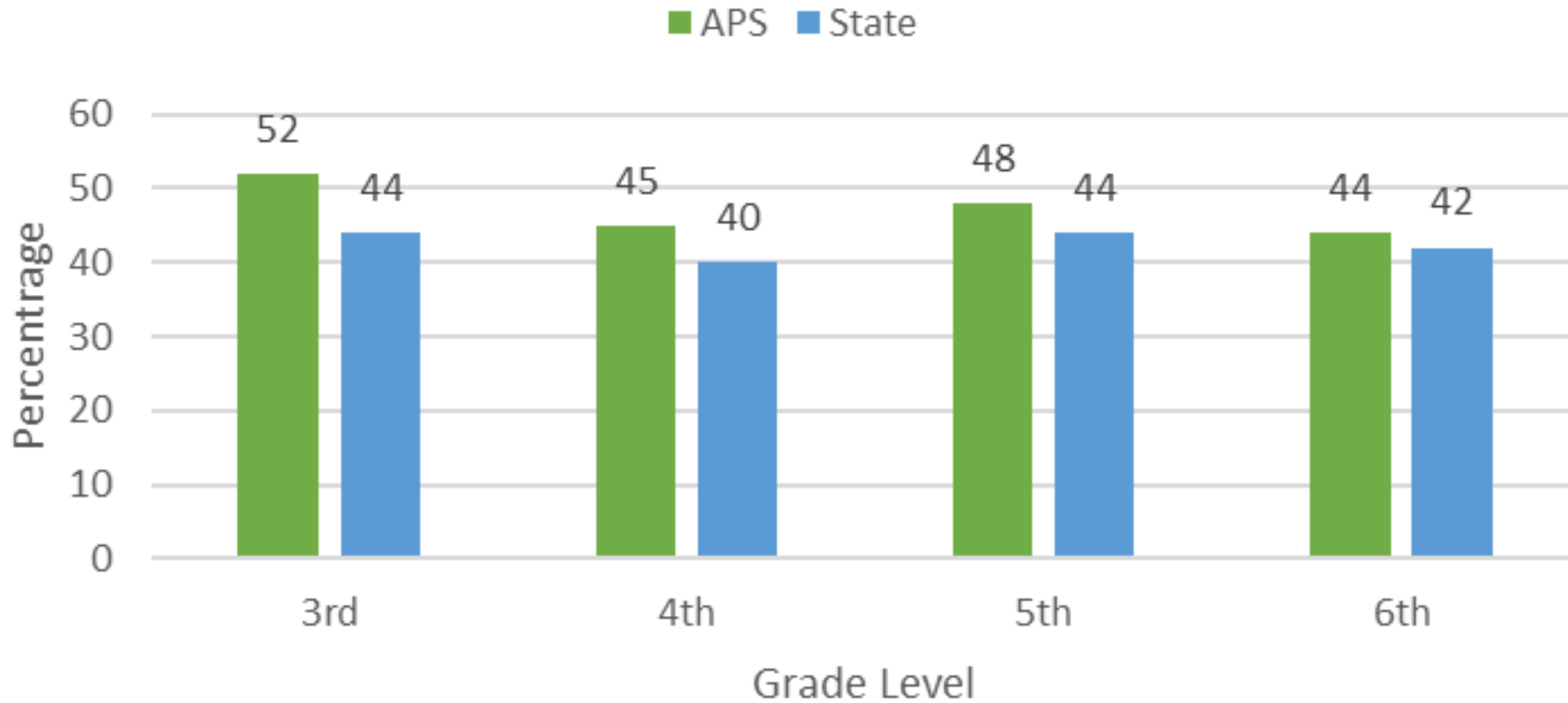
Chronically absent rate (% of students absent 10% or more each year)



	2021	2022	2023
Abington			
Students Incl	2,217	2,266	2,245
Chronically absent #	653	674	493
Chronically absent %	29.5%	29.7%	22.0%
State			
Students Incl	937,090	947,168	946,517
Chronically absent #	165,632	262,191	210,358
Chronically absent %	17.7%	27.7%	22.2%

Massachusetts defines **Chronically Absent** as missing at least 10% of days enrolled (e.g., 18 days absent if enrolled for 180) regardless of whether the absences are considered excused, unexcused and/or for disciplinary reasons. Being chronically absent can have a significant impact on a student's ability to read at grade level, perform academically, and graduate on time.

ELA MCAS: School vs. State 2023 Meeting/Exceeding Expectations



<i>Abington vs. State</i>	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
	+6	+5	+4	+2

3-6 ELA Areas of Strength and Growth

Strengths:

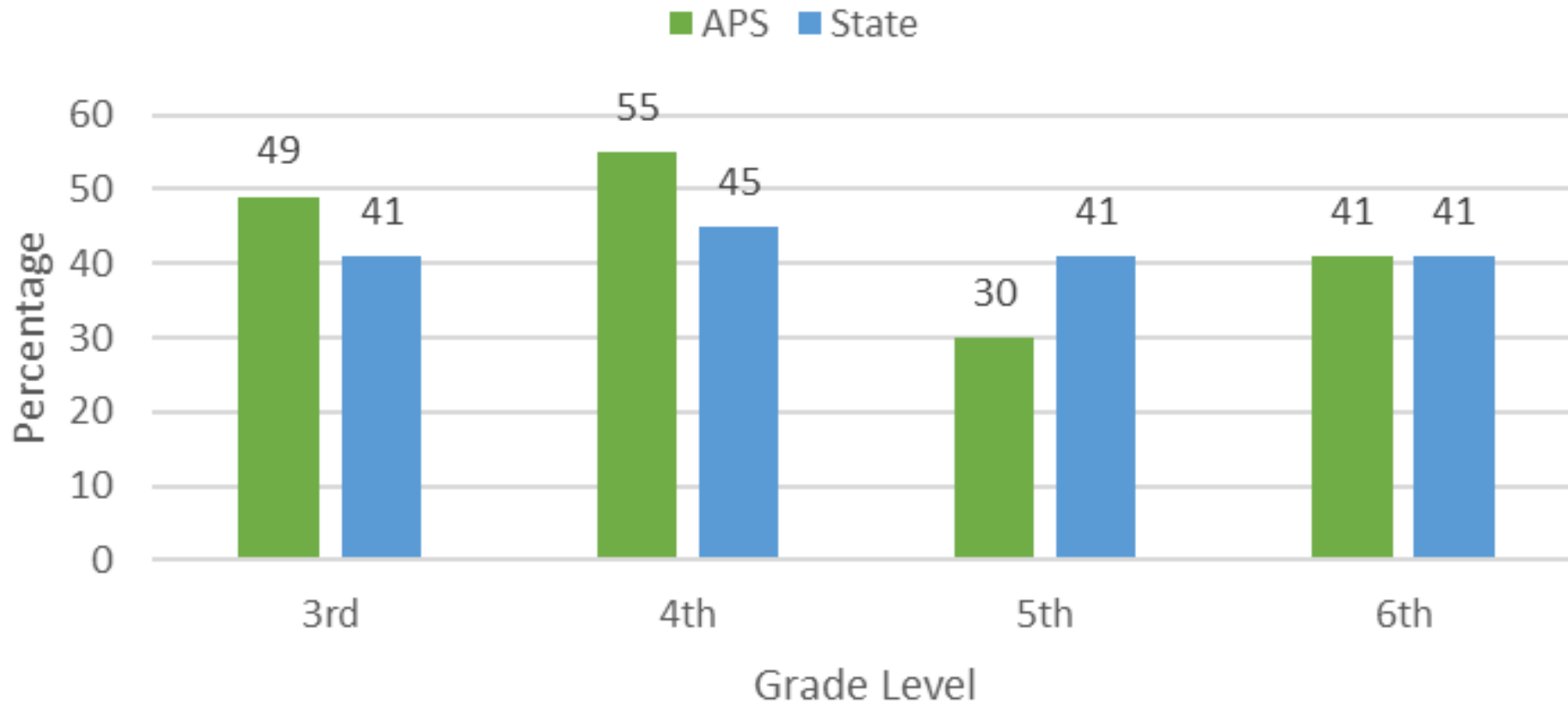
- ✓ Intervention supports for all students
- ✓ Addition of systematic/explicit phonics instruction in upper elementary
- ✓ Independent reading stamina

Recommendations:

- Continue Professional Development on data-informed small group instruction
- Enhance student engagement through small groups, stations, and independent work
- Investigate, enhance, and align writing instruction K-6
- Continue to align/enhance K-6 reading instructional vision
- Establish a formal P-6 assessment plan

MATH MCAS: School vs. State 2023

Meeting/Exceeding Expectations



<i>Abington vs. State</i>	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6
	+8	+10	-11	N/A

3-6 Math Areas of Strength and Growth

Strengths:

- ✓ Intervention supports for all students
- ✓ Updated enVision 2020 math program
- ✓ Working toward independent learning and stations

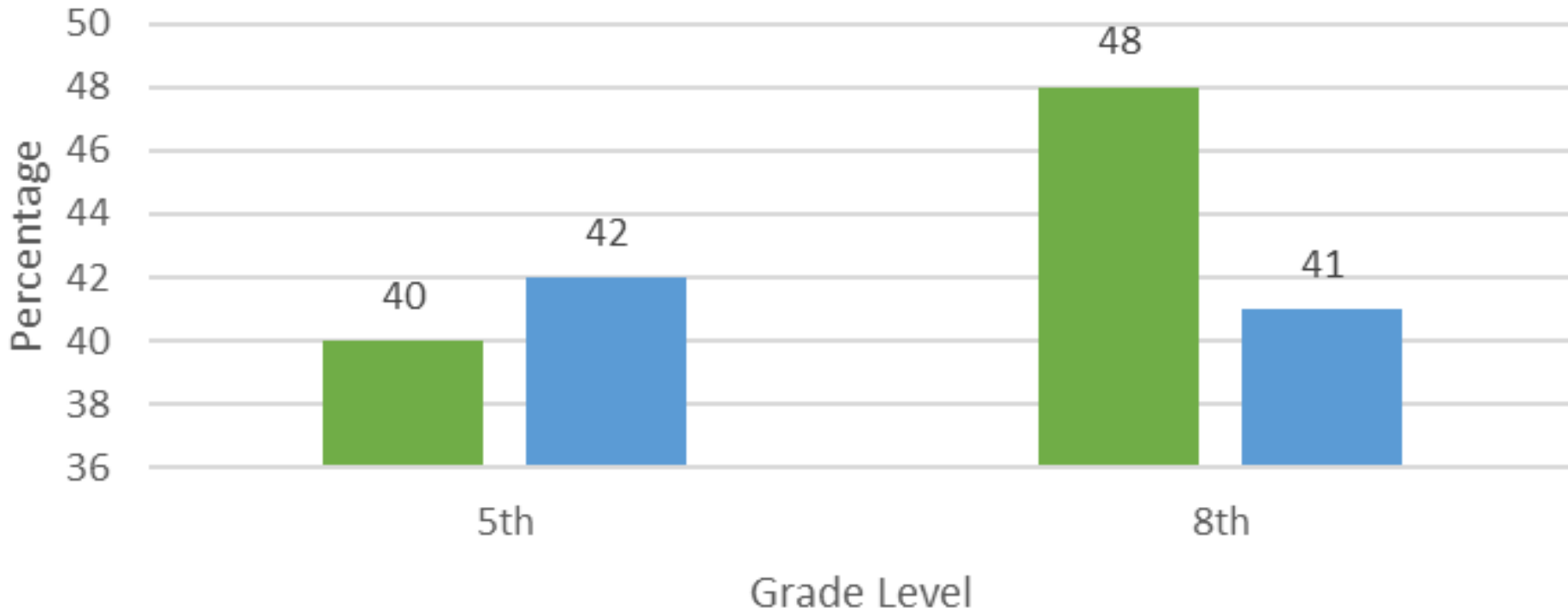
Recommendations:

- Incorporate more targeted math in STEAM classes in 5 and 6
- Enhance student engagement through small groups, stations, and independent work
- 5-12 Professional Development in Math Thinking and Problem-Solving
- 5-12 Math Committee to recommend program adoption for 2024-2025
- P-4 Math Committee in 2024-2025
- Establish a formal P-6 assessment plan

Science MCAS: School vs. State 2023

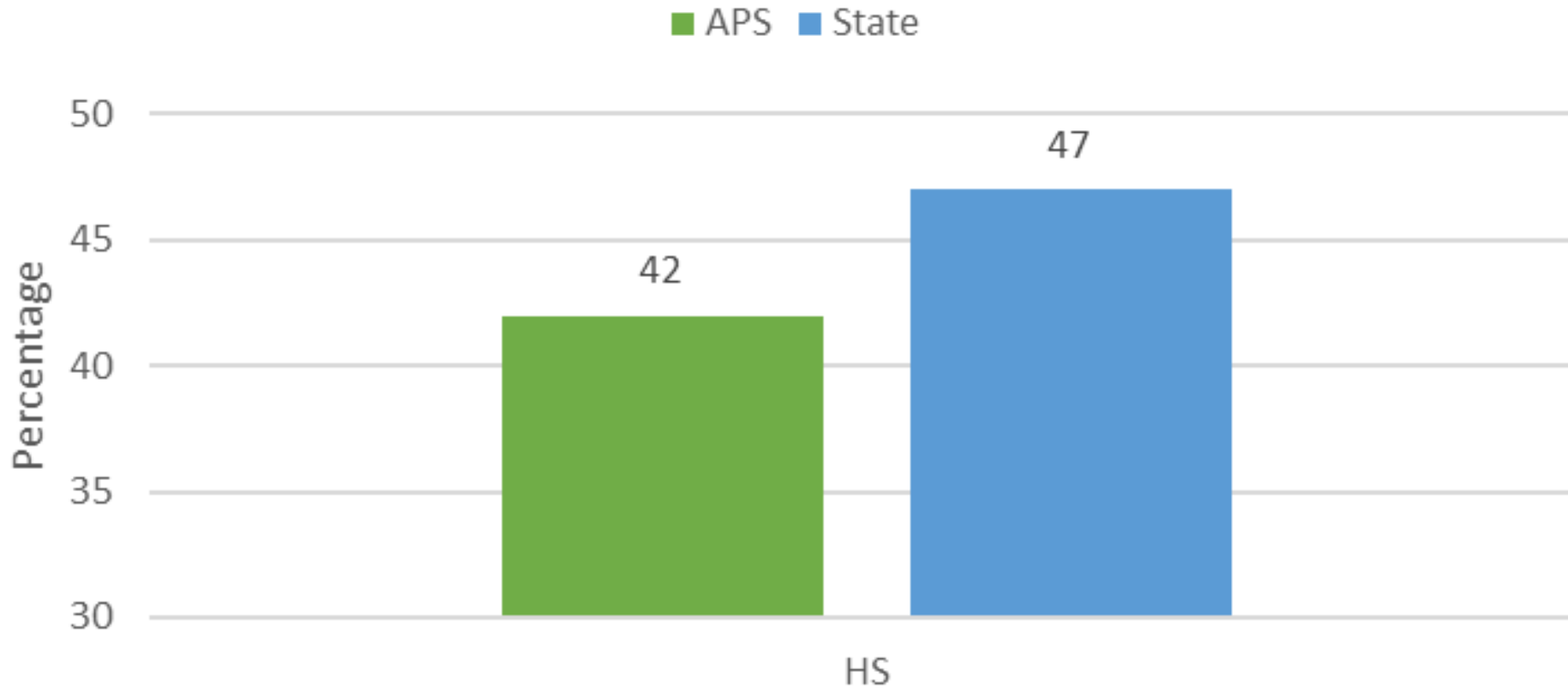
Meeting/Exceeding Expectations

■ APS ■ State



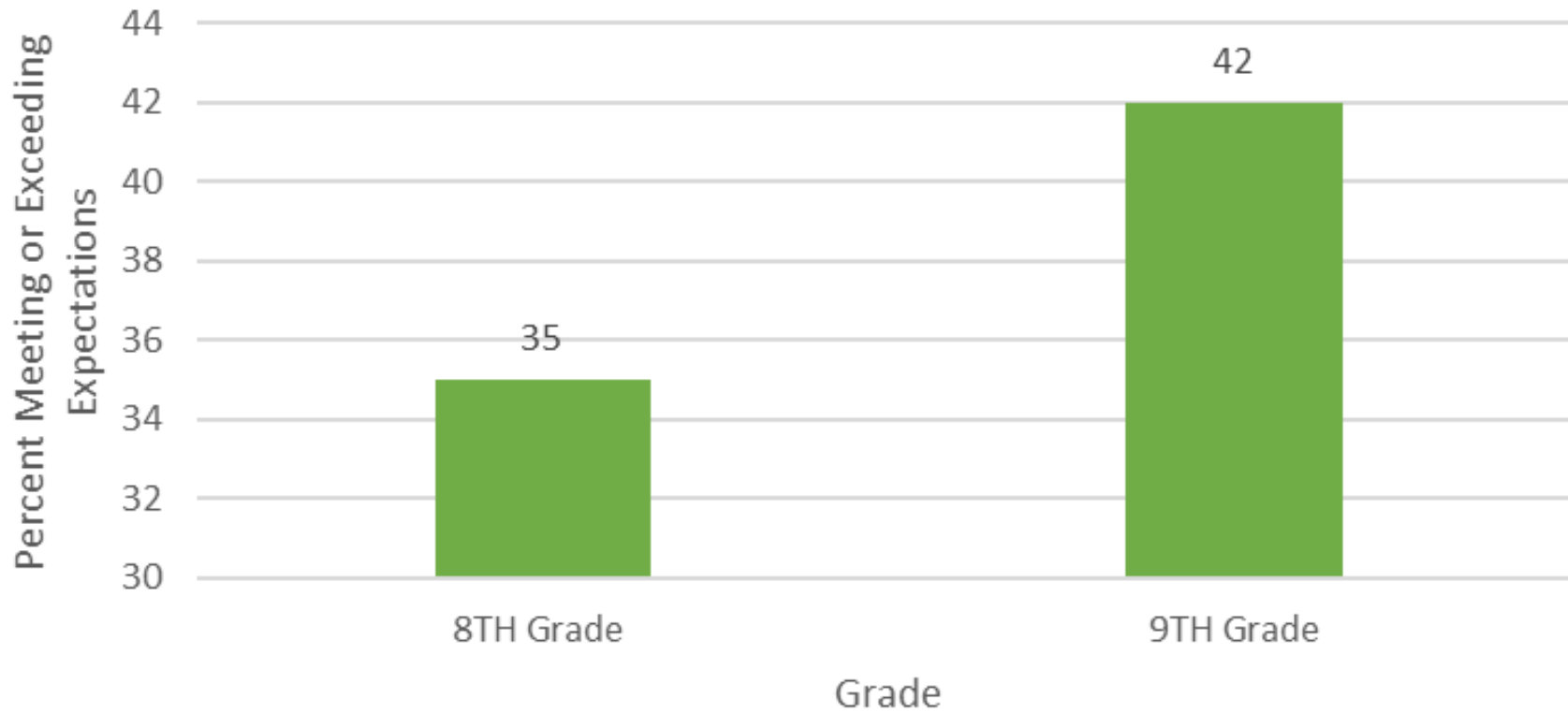
Abington vs. State	Grade 5	Grade 8
	-2	+7

HS Science MCAS: School vs. State 2023 Meeting/Exceeding Expectations



<i>Abington vs. State</i>	HS
	-5

Percent of Class of 2027 Meeting or Exceeding Expectation (Grade 8 vs Grade 9)



Science Areas of Strength and Growth

Strengths:

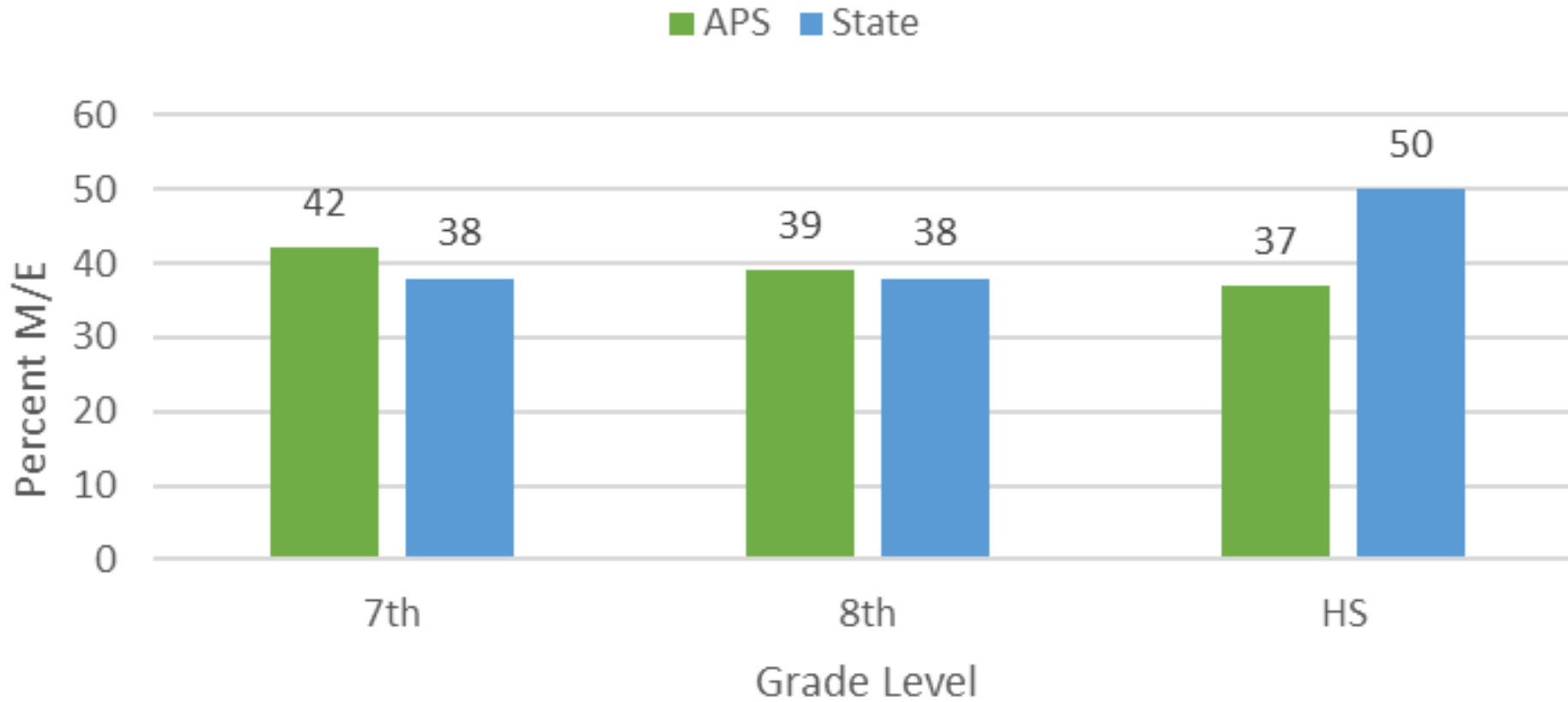
- ✓ "Biology Bootcamp" day-long activity was likely effective in helping students achieve a passing score
- ✓ Incorporates hands-on activities and labs utilizing physical technology and equipment (i.e., Vernier equipment and software) and virtual learning platforms (i.e., Gizmos)

Recommendations:

- Continue Biology Bootcamp but potentially restructure it to two half-days
- Continue to work on engagement by building on use of lab and data analysis-based activities.
- Focus on genetics and critical thinking and experiment design->
areas where performance was weakest
- Have students work more often with online MCAS practice tests and similar assessment styles

MATH MCAS: School vs. State 2023

Meeting/Exceeding Expectations



<i>Abington vs. State</i>	Grade 7	Grade 8	HS
	+4	+1	-13

AMS/AHS Math Areas of Strength and Growth

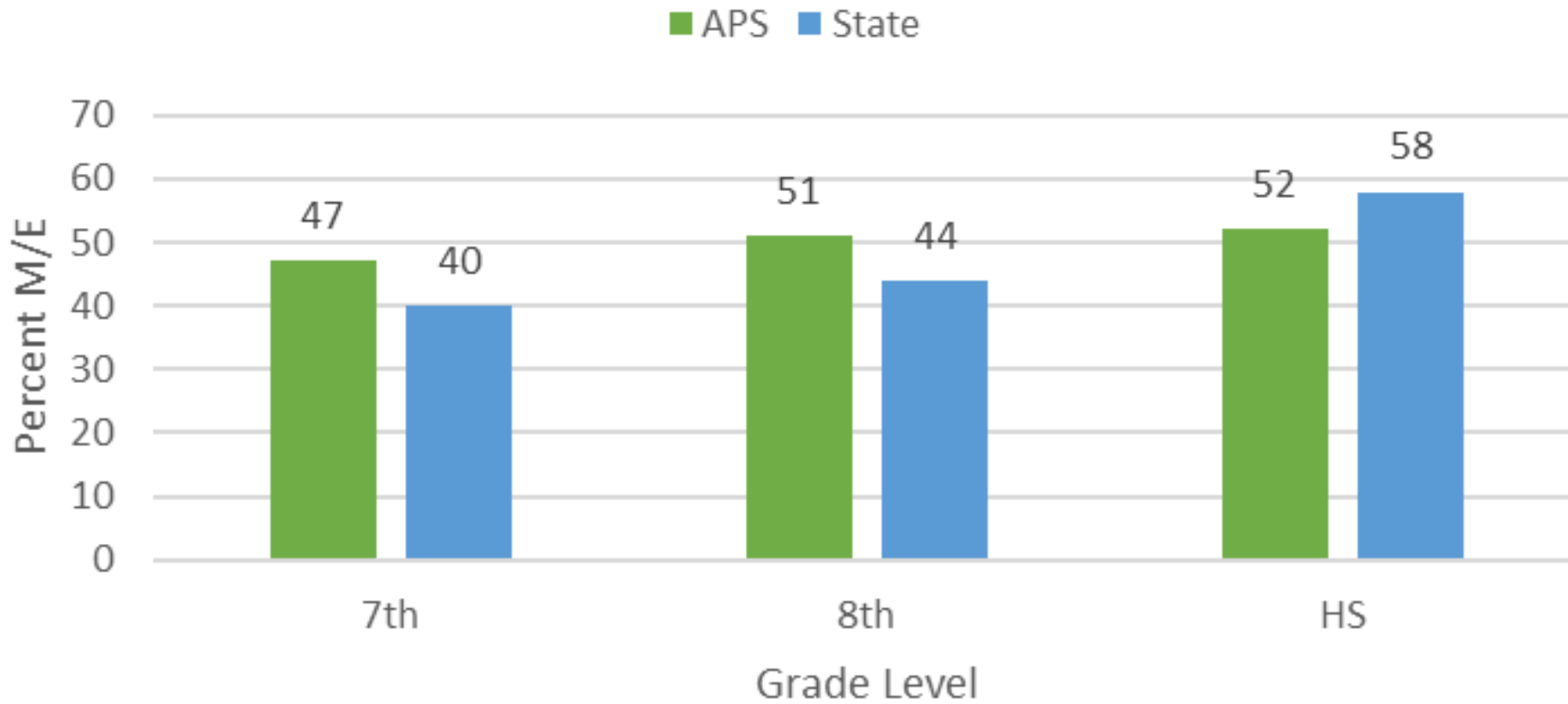
Strengths:

- ✓ Arithmetic with Polynomials and Rational Expressions
- ✓ Probability and Statistics in grade 7, Number System in grade 8
- ✓ Math Interventionist added so small group supports can be done both during the day and after school.

Recommendations:

- Continue the work begun in 2019 in choosing and creating a curriculum that fosters independent thinking, mathematical discourse and perseverance in problem solving
- Professional development to support teachers in creating a problem-based classroom where math becomes the tools to solve the problem
- Continue work in identifying and closing gaps created during the pandemic
- Incorporate more targeted math in STEAM classes in 7 and 8
- Do a deep dive of MCAS questions and data at the HS and create a 'Hot topics' workshop for students to rotate through during Bridge Block for students who are 'border scores'.
- Time dedicated to coaching and teacher-to-teacher observations to promote discourse about best practices in teaching and learning

ELA MCAS: School vs. State 2023 Meeting/Exceeding Expectations



<i>Abington vs. State</i>	Grade 7	Grade 8	HS
	+7	+7	-6

AMS/AHS ELA Areas of Strength and Growth

Strengths:

- ✓ 7th: Main purpose of punctuation & paragraphing; purpose of word & figurative language.
- ✓ 8th: Making inferences about a character, using information from the passage as support.
- ✓ 10th: Making inferences about author choices in character development & structure of text.
- ✓ Overall patterns: Students in all grades perform better on selected response items than essays.

Recommendations for students in all grades:

- Promote written comparison & contrast of multiple genre/texts on similar topics.
- Focus on inferential reading comprehension in discussion & in writing—what is suggested?
- Require multiple quotes to support a single topic sentence; consider counter-arguments.
- Provide regular feedback on writing for revision & editing with targeted checklists.
- Continue to use IXL as a targeted intervention tool in both Middle School and High School.
- Monitor attendance & progress of students, especially in the High Needs Categories.



Additional questions?

Thank you!



Abington Innovates

- **November 1st, 2023 – All Certified Staff**
- **Choice-based PD with 60 workshops offered over three 1-hour sessions**
- **30 APS Presenters, 11 External Presenters**

Self-Care

- Mindfulness, Movement, Meditation
- Adult Wellbeing and Self-Care
- Vicarious Trauma and Self-Care
- Self-Care, Mindfulness, & Meditation

Science and Tech

- Artificial Intelligence
- Canvas Integrations, Tips & Tricks
- Technology for Data Investigations
- Coding vs. Programming
- Mad Science for Early Elementary
- Community-Based Environmental Education Initiatives
- Makerspace in the Classroom
- SORA Workshop
- Dabble in Delightful Databases

Hot Topics

- Equitable Grading in the Classroom
- Using Mentor Texts
- Playful Learning in Early Childhood Education
- Changing Expectations of College
- Creating a Culture of Excellence
- Cricut Classroom Sign Design
- The Power of Passion Projects

Math

- Puzzles & Games for the Elementary Math Classroom
- Number Talks
- Meeting the Diverse Needs of Students Learning Math

Multilingual Learners

- Engaging Families of English Learners
- Differentiating content and instruction
- Teaching Strategies for Newcomers
- Culturally Responsive Teaching
- Differentiating Content and Instruction
- Teaching Strategies for Newcomers
- Developing Language and Math Content through Tasks

Social-Emotional Learning

- Supporting Anxious Students
- Mentorship, Metacognition, & Self-Regulation
- Trauma & the Brain in the Classroom
- Self Regulation Strategies
- Promoting a Growth Mindset
- Creating Trauma-Sensitive Classrooms
- Classroom Behavior Management
- Complex ADHD
- Community Resources



ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“The mission of the Abington Public Schools is to provide all students with relevant, challenging educational experiences to prepare them to be engaged, responsible citizens and members of the global community.”

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Assistant Superintendent Search Process

The following multi-step process has been established to assist in the search for an Assistant Superintendent (Start date 7.1.24):

Step	Timeline
1. Advertise / Post position	November 6, 2023
2. Meeting of Screening Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review expected personal qualities, expectations, and Job Description for Assistant Superintendent Develop interview questions and <i>Candidate Interview Sheet</i> Determine final candidate recommendations for interviewing 	Week of November 27, 2023
3. Interview candidates	Week of December 11, 2023
4. Site visits and finalists interview with the Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent	Week of December 18, 2023
5. Superintendent of Schools recommends a candidate to the Abington School Committee	January 9, 2024

The **Assistant Superintendent Screening Committee** will be comprised of:

- Peter Schaffer, Superintendent of Schools
- Felicia Moschella, Ph.D. Assistant Superintendent
- James Robbins Ed.D. Director of Student Services
- Abington School Committee Member
 - (1) Principal
 - (2) Faculty / Staff
- (1) Special Education (1) Curriculum Leadership Responsibility
- (2) Parents (School Council Members)

The role of the Assistant Superintendent Screening Committee is to identify a minimum of two (2) candidates to be recommended as finalists to the Superintendent of Schools. The role of the Superintendent of Schools will be to interview the finalists and recommend a candidate for appointment.

The Abington Public School System is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, homelessness, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The contents of all publications are available upon request in languages other than English.



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Director of Finance and Operations Search Process

The following multi-step process has been established to assist in the search for a
Director of Finance and Operations (Start Date 7.1.24):

Step	Timeline
1. Advertise / Post position	October 25, 2023
2. Meeting of Director of Fin/Ops Screening Committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Review Director of Fin/Ops job descriptionDevelop Director of Fin/Ops profileDevelop interview questions and <i>Candidate Interview Sheet</i>Determine final candidate recommendations for interviewing	Week of November 13, 2023
3. Interview candidates	Week of November 27, 2023
4. Final Interviews	Week of December 4, 2023
5. Superintendent of Schools recommends candidate to the Abington School Committee	January 9, 2024

The **Director Finance and Operations Screening Committee** will be comprised of:

Peter Schafer, Superintendent of Schools
Felicia Moschella, Ph.D. Assistant Superintendent
James Robbins Ed.D, Director of Student Services
Abington School Committee Member
Principal

The role of the Director of Finance & Operations Screening Committee is to identify a minimum of two (2) candidates to be recommended as finalists to the Superintendent of Schools. The role of the Superintendent of Schools will be to interview the finalists and recommend a candidate for appointment.

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