



FY22 METCO Program Report

Report on the impact of the grant program on student outcomes, the expenditure of funds by districts, and the extent to which the services rendered by the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity support the goals of the grant program

December 2024

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

December, 2024

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit the 2022 Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, (METCO) Program Report to the Legislature pursuant Chapter 126 of the Acts of 2022, line item 7010-0012.

The purpose of the state-funded METCO program is to expand educational opportunities, increase diversity, and reduce racial isolation by permitting students in Boston and Springfield to attend public schools in other communities that have agreed to participate. The METCO program provides students from participating school districts the opportunity to experience the advantages of learning and working in a racially and ethnically diverse setting. The statute that authorizes the METCO program is M.G.L, Chapter 76, Section 12A – The Racial Imbalance Act. The METCO program has historically enrolled approximately 3,200 students.

METCO, Inc. and participating METCO districts have continued to maintain and enhance their programming around student enrollment, school culture, and transportation in support of students, staff, and families. In FY22, METCO, Inc. moved toward a broader vision for elevating their partnerships with schools and communities to provide an equitable, inclusive, and antiracist education for all students. As part of their strategic multi-year “Antiracism Road Map,” they have prioritized their capacity to enhance training and offer support to districts, parents, and students in challenging systemic racism.

Within this report you will find an overview of the METCO program, including a description of the services provided by METCO, Inc.; a report on METCO student outcomes; school and district grant expenditures; transportation services; and student demographics.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Johnston
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature pursuant to Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021, line item 7010-0012:

“7010-0012 For grants to cities, towns and regional school districts for payments of certain costs and related expenses for the program to eliminate racial imbalance, established under section 12A of chapter 76 of the General Laws; provided, that funds shall be made available for payment for services rendered by the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO), Inc. and Springfield public schools; provided further, that all grant applications submitted to and approved by the department of elementary and secondary education shall include a detailed line item budget specifying how such funds shall be allocated and expended; provided further, that not later than December 1, 2021, the department shall submit a report to the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means on the impact of the grant program on student outcomes, the expenditure of funds by districts and the extent to which the services rendered by METCO support the goals of the grant program...”

METCO Overview

The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Program is a grant program funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is a voluntary program intended to provide students with a strong academic foundation rich in cultural, educational, ethnic, socioeconomic, and racial diversity and to foster the opportunity for children from Boston and Springfield and children from their respective neighboring suburbs to develop a deeper understanding of each other in an integrated public school setting. Currently, there are approximately 3,300 students participating in thirty-eight school districts in metropolitan Boston and at four school districts outside Springfield.

METCO, Inc. has a contract with the Department and has been the service provider for the Boston program for over fifty years. The primary role of METCO, Inc., is to provide direct services to participating students, families, and school districts. Districts provide a broad-based educational program for all students, and METCO, Inc. provides additional options for tutorial programs, enrichment, and remedial and referral services for METCO students in need of additional support. In addition, METCO, Inc. provides opportunities for Boston and suburban families to engage in cross-cultural learning experiences to support increased understanding of and appreciation for different cultures.

METCO, Inc. serves as the Boston based central office for all Boston METCO parents, students and the general public requesting information about the program. When schools are in session, METCO, Inc. is open from 8:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and occasionally on Saturdays for specific purposes.

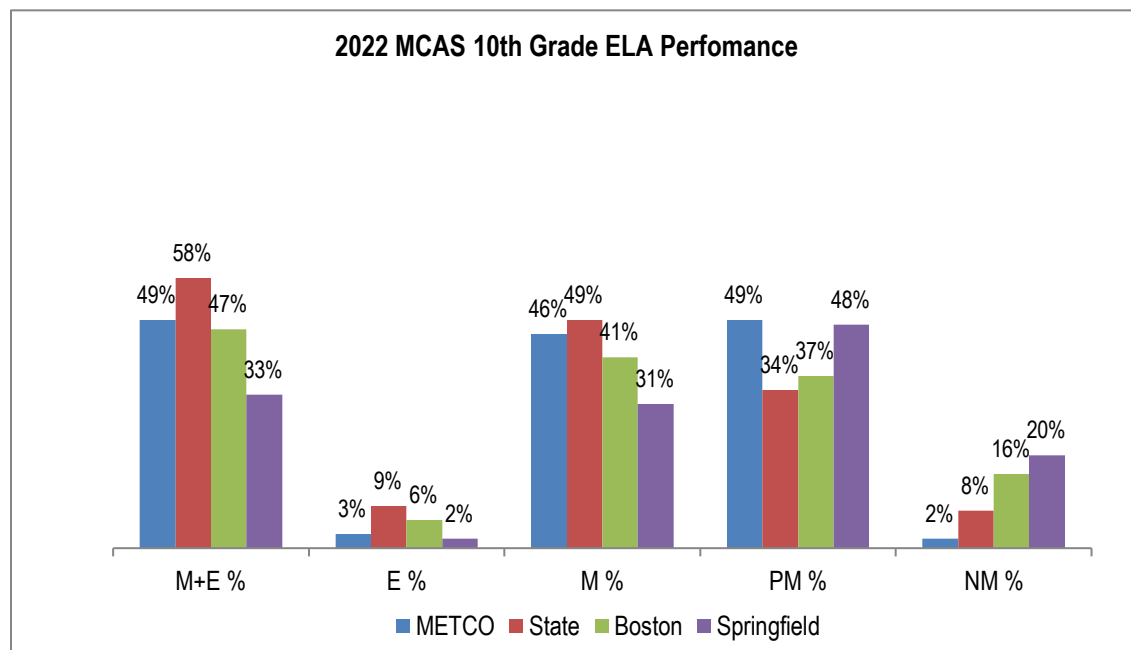
The Department looks forward to continuing our work with METCO, Inc.'s chief executive officer, Milagros (Milly) Arbaje-Thomas, METCO superintendents, directors, and the METCO, Inc. board of directors, as the program develops and implements new policies and practices intended to provide increased transparency to the METCO community.

The Springfield Public Schools serves as the program's service provider for Western Massachusetts with approximately 100 students participating in the program.

METCO Student Outcomes

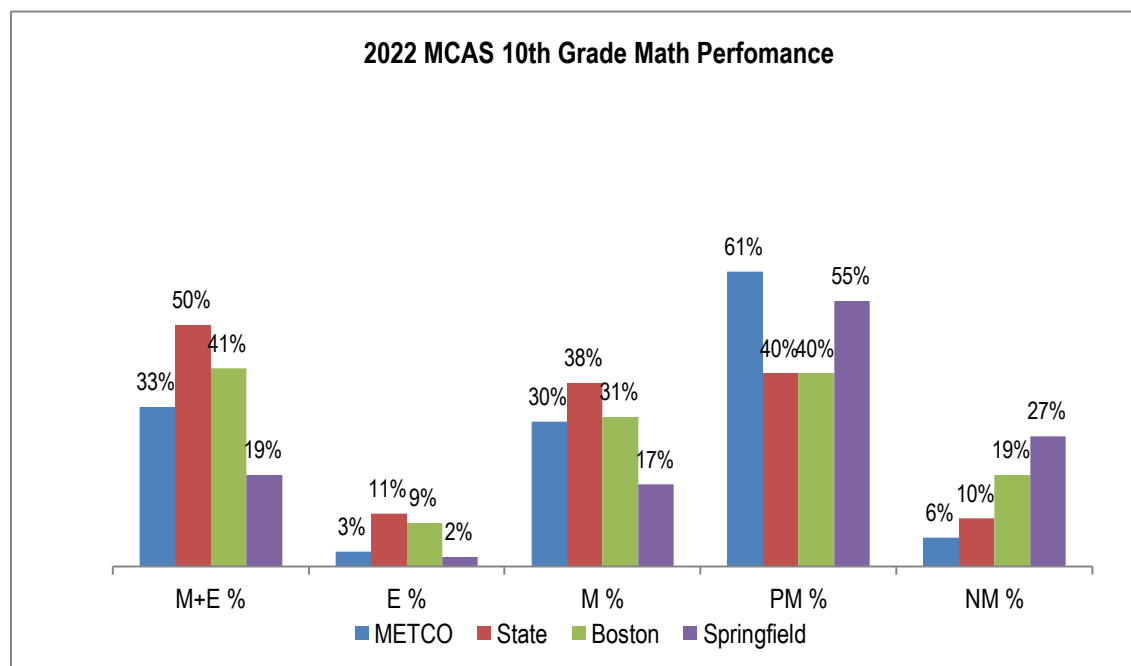
2022 Next Generation MCAS Tests Results

The following charts reflect METCO student performance as compared to the state, Boston Public Schools, and Springfield Public Schools in Grade 10 ELA and Mathematics. The performance abbreviations in the charts below are as follows: M= Meets Expectations; E= Exceeds Expectations; P= Proficient; N= Needs Improvement.



Source:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2022 MCAS Assessment file

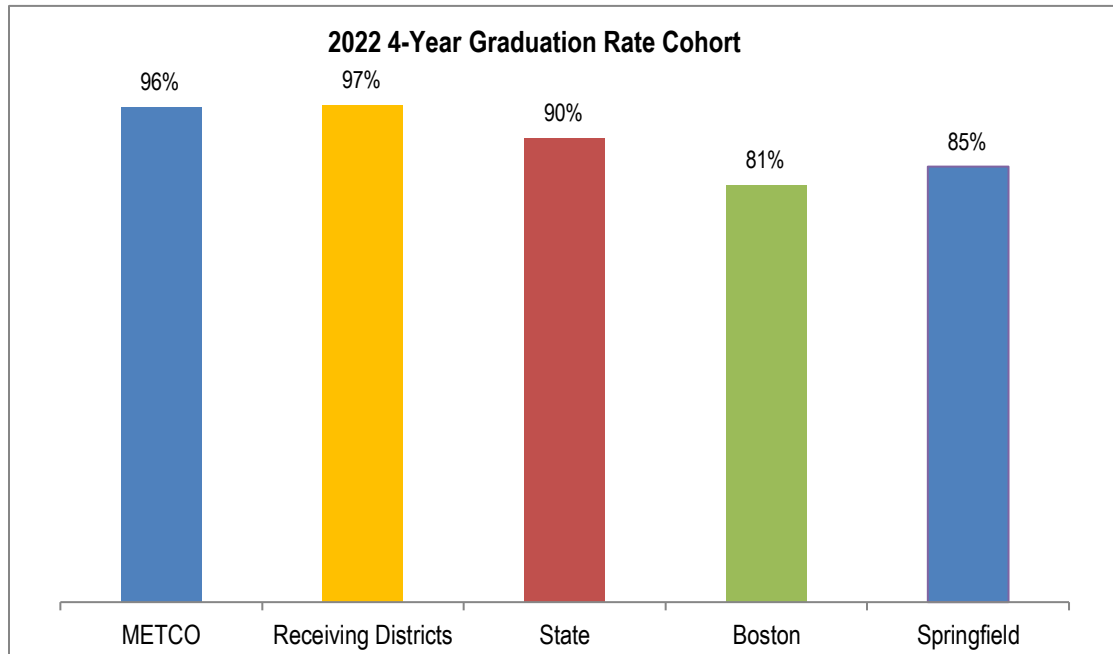


Source:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2022 MCAS Assessment file

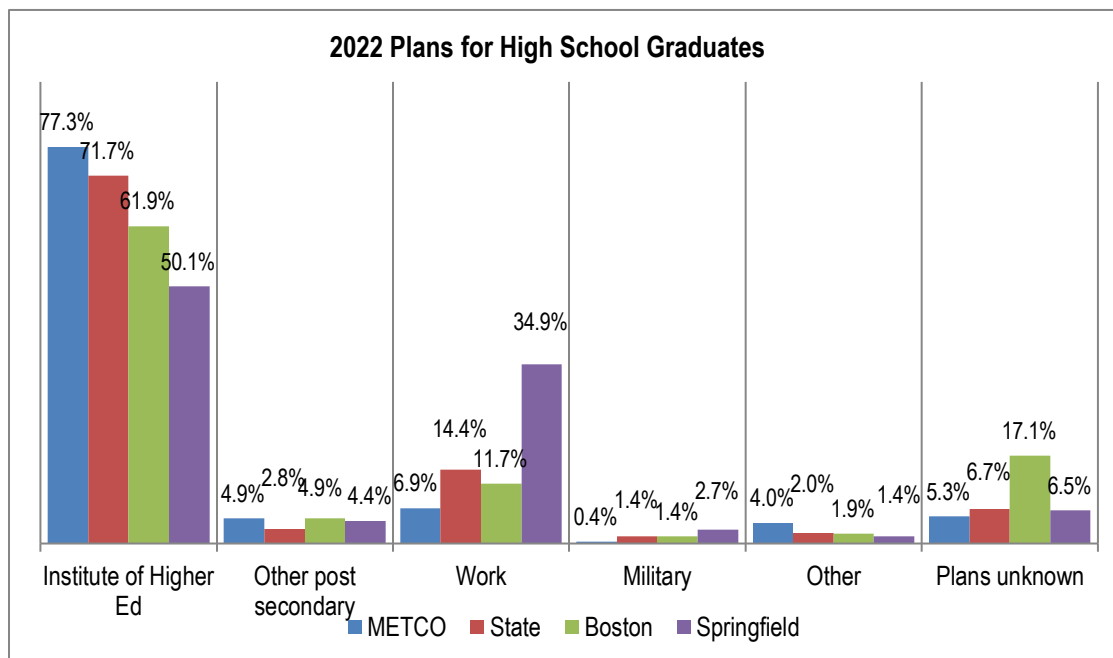
Graduation Rates and Post-Graduation Plans

The following charts reflect 2022 METCO student post-graduation plans as compared to the state, Boston Public Schools, and Springfield Public Schools.



Source:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Information Management System (SIMS)



Source:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Information Management System (SIMS)

School Districts Expenditure of Funds on METCO-Related Programming

The following data derives from EdGrants¹, the Department's online grant information system. The chart below is a snapshot of actual school district expenditure of funds during the 2021-2022 school year.

FY22 Fund Use	Admin	Professional Staff	Support Staff	Stipends	Fringe Benefits	Contractual Services	Supplies & Materials	Travel	Other Costs	Indirect Costs	Equipment	Total Funds Expended
Arlington P.S.	\$116,499	\$71,162	\$50,938	\$2,606		\$2,500	\$4,007	\$3,874	\$246,599			\$498,185
Bedford P.S.	\$170,386	\$30,000	\$97,818			\$56,282	\$1,898	\$4,539	\$335,631		\$6,205	\$702,759
Belmont P.S.	\$105,040	\$216,733	\$92,404	\$3,800		\$1,700	\$1,100	\$5,250	\$229,480			\$655,507
Braintree P.S.	\$47,616			\$11,107	\$4,285	\$5,498	\$3,631	\$2,950	\$61,951			\$137,038
Brookline P.S.	\$69,204	\$744,367	\$297,908	\$151,650		\$234,135	\$32,650	\$46,500	\$234,850	\$50,182		\$1,861,446
Cohasset P.S.	\$104,505		\$37,868						\$213,680			\$356,053
Concord P.S. *	\$48,000	\$155,466	\$179,750	\$7,375			\$500	\$200	\$283,108			\$674,399
East Longmeadow P.S. *		\$174,773	\$15,550			\$20,301	\$600		\$122,314			\$333,538
Foxborough P.S. *	\$50,000	\$84,880	\$33,000			\$3,478	\$8,840	\$2,835	\$78,905			\$261,938
Hingham P.S.	\$81,600	\$8,997	\$56,660			\$13,173	\$4,018	\$3,192	\$156,480			\$324,120
Lexington P.S. *	\$138,419	\$507,578	\$333,604	\$19,140		\$3,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$671,344			\$1,676,085
Lincoln P.S.	\$121,294	\$150,784	\$2,500			\$62,646	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$280,776			\$621,000
Longmeadow P.S.	\$3,000	\$63,440	\$41,927			\$15,167	\$7,570		\$122,981			\$254,085
Lynnfield P.S.	\$84,167		\$5,290						\$169,257			\$258,714.00
Marblehead P.S.	\$50,615	\$16,277	\$38,050	\$24,000	\$5,742	\$1,750	\$48,750	\$375	\$279,556			\$465,115
Melrose P.S. *	\$91,084	\$202,469	\$61,800			\$74,562	\$8,000	\$1,000	\$489,673			\$928,588
Natick P.S.	\$91,038	\$115,653			\$2,998		\$2,735		\$158,932			\$371,356
Needham P.S. *	\$298,688	\$213,893	\$413,495			\$5,800	\$3,310		\$428,827	\$15,748		\$1,379,761
Newton P.S.	\$141,529	\$1,450,636	\$194,040	\$2,420	\$113,070	\$161,065	\$29,448	\$43,402	\$993,513			\$3,129,123.00
Reading P.S.	\$100,000	\$60,000				\$20,308	\$9,292	\$5,000	\$357,403			\$552,003
Scituate P.S. *	\$110,000	\$150,000	\$17,340				\$5,000	\$4,250	\$219,860			\$506,450
Sharon P.S.	\$100,016		\$42,725			\$86,588	\$10,283	\$29,370	\$229,507			\$498,489
Springfield P.S. *			\$43,200		\$11,934		\$2,515			\$1,551		\$59,200

¹ <http://www.doe.mass.edu/Grants/edgrants.html>

Sudbury P.S.	\$97,234		\$140,911			\$20,000			\$221,618			\$479,763
Swampscott P.S. *	\$80,600	\$61,152							\$270,497			\$412,249
Wakefield P.S.	\$87,202		\$113,398			\$25,000	\$12,703	\$6,712	\$78,846			\$323,861
Walpole P.S. *	\$113,700	\$61,031				\$400	\$1,000	\$1,920	\$121,675			\$299,726
Wayland P.S.	\$164,994	\$344,421	\$41,596	\$31,551		\$70,387	\$6,749	\$6,500	\$303,035			\$969,233
Wellesley P.S.	\$115,717	\$200,433	\$181,361	\$2,000	\$57,154		\$1,352	\$925	\$534,732			\$1,093,674
Weston P.S. *	\$71,419	\$639,179	\$394,668	\$8,450			\$500		\$120,600			\$1,234,816
Westwood P.S.	\$122,412	\$24,385	\$100,771			\$42,018	\$16,863	\$7,589	\$114,938			\$428,975
Concord-Carlisle RSD *	\$75,830	\$164,381	\$69,726	\$2,500		\$2,000	\$10,341	\$4,115	\$136,111			\$465,004
Dover-Sherborn RSD *	\$87,077		\$42,633	\$4,218		\$54,099	\$3,516	\$4,300	\$128,150			\$323,993
Hampden-Wilbraham RSD *		\$80,265							\$50,229			\$130,494
Lincoln-Sudbury RSD	\$128,000	\$13,210	\$90,200	\$9,000		\$10,058	\$32,619	\$2,010	\$296,339			\$581,436
Southwick/ Tolland RSD *		\$31,738		\$23,386		\$30,000	\$3,697		\$60,000			\$148,821
Total	\$3,266,885	\$6,037,303	\$3,231,131	\$303,203	\$195,183	\$1,021,914	\$275,487	\$190,808	\$8,801,397	\$67,481	\$6,205	\$23,396,997

**The district's final financial report was not available at the time this report was drafted. As such, this information was compiled from the district's most current FY22 line-item totals in EdGrants.*

Transportation Services

METCO, Inc. contracts with three vendors (AA Transportation, First Student, and Eastern Bus) to provide bus transportation for METCO students traveling to and from 10 of the thirty-three receiving Boston METCO school districts.² The remaining 23 Boston METCO districts oversee their own transportation contracts.

METCO, Inc. provides contract and bid services in accordance with Chapter 30B, MGL and monitors the terms of the bid specifications and contracts to assess quality performance of the vendor to each contracted school district. Bus vendors are expected to supply quality service and are monitored for fiscal and operational compliance. METCO, Inc. meets and communicates with respective bus company management personnel when necessary. The management services provided by METCO, Inc. includes daily monitoring of service for both morning and afternoon commutes, working with school district business managers and METCO Directors to review invoices (when requested) and address inquiries when they arise. It is important to note that contracted districts receive monthly invoices for services performed and issue payment directly to the vendors including deductions for penalties. The transportation manager at METCO, Inc. may be consulted when requested/warranted to assist assessment of penalties to be deducted from invoices. METCO, Inc. provides planning and routing for contracted districts as well as consultation with other METCO Directors. The Transportation Manager of METCO, Inc. stays abreast of local, state, and national trends and concerns in the school bus industry in order to provide optimum service to districts.

Like the majority of Boston METCO districts, the four receiving Springfield METCO districts oversee their own transportation contracts and are responsible for monitoring student transportation services.³

² Arlington, Belmont, Braintree, Dover-Sherborn, Lexington, Lincoln, Lincoln/Sudbury, Natick, Sudbury, and Walpole.

³ East Longmeadow, Hampden Wilbraham, Longmeadow, and Southwick-Tolland.

Appendix: Demographic Report 2021-2022

Org Code	District Name	Total	Fem.	Male	AA	Asian	Hisp.	Multi-race	Native Amer.	Native Haw.	White	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
0010	Arlington	74	35	39	58	1	13	2	0	0	0	4	3	11	7	0	4	7	8	7	4	7	4	8
0023	Bedford	90	46	44	69	1	17	1	1	0	1	4	6	7	4	4	5	7	8	7	11	10	10	7
0026	Belmont	91	46	45	66	0	12	7	0	0	6	0	11	8	8	7	10	5	6	9	3	9	6	9
0040	Braintree	24	11	13	17	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	5	5	2	1	3	3
0046	Brookline	292	155	137	183	8	72	26	0	0	3	23	15	25	34	27	21	21	19	22	16	21	16	32
0065	Cohasset	46	31	15	37	0	3	3	1	0	2	1	6	4	4	4	2	5	3	5	4	4	3	1
0067	Concord	88	46	42	61	1	25	1	0	0	0	10	11	11	9	5	10	10	11	11	0	0	0	0
0078	Dover	8	5	3	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0099	Foxborough	33	17	16	18	0	13	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	7	5	5	5	3
0131	Hingham	53	26	27	36	0	15	1	0	0	1	5	0	4	5	6	4	6	3	3	8	3	2	4
0155	Lexington	216	126	90	161	3	45	7	0	0	0	9	12	15	20	21	19	24	21	13	24	5	22	11
0157	Lincoln	85	48	37	48	4	29	4	0	0	0	2	10	19	13	12	8	9	5	7	0	0	0	0
0164	Lynnfield	34	15	19	24	0	8	2	0	0	0	2	3	4	3	1	3	4	3	2	4	2	1	2
0168	Marblehead	55	26	29	46	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	4	8	4	2	10	8	4	6
0178	Melrose	116	59	57	88	0	24	3	0	0	1	0	2	6	8	12	3	9	19	15	20	11	6	5
0198	Natick	52	27	25	33	1	11	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	4	3	4	7	15	7
0199	Needham	180	99	81	88	10	71	11	0	0	0	10	24	19	18	22	18	18	14	9	12	8	4	4
0207	Newton	411	218	193	227	25	120	30	0	1	8	29	29	31	33	40	37	36	35	32	20	22	32	35
0246	Reading	61	32	29	47	0	13	1	0	0	0	4	2	10	4	2	6	4	5	7	10	2	1	4
0264	Scituate	66	36	30	44	0	20	2	0	0	0	4	0	4	3	6	10	8	6	6	4	1	8	6
0266	Sharon	65	33	32	33	2	27	2	0	1	0	0	3	4	5	5	5	6	6	3	9	6	7	6
0269	Sherborn	7	4	3	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0288	Sudbury	63	42	21	44	0	16	3	0	0	0	3	8	3	7	11	7	8	8	7	0	0	0	0
0291	Swampscott	51	28	23	35	0	14	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	10	2	7	4	8	10	7
0305	Wakefield	62	37	25	43	3	16	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	6	6	6	1	6	8	9	4	5	6
0307	Walpole	29	16	13	18	0	10	0	0	0	1	0	1	4	0	8	5	2	0	2	1	2	0	4
0315	Wayland	135	70	65	105	2	12	10	0	1	5	5	4	7	13	11	10	13	19	14	7	10	9	13
0317	Wellesley	152	82	70	99	6	27	15	0	1	4	10	9	18	9	21	16	13	10	15	5	8	12	6
0330	Weston	159	87	72	103	2	34	14	0	1	5	14	13	13	12	13	14	13	12	14	10	10	12	9
0335	Westwood	46	25	21	28	0	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	7	6	8	7	6
0640	Concord-Carlisle	61	31	30	47	1	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	14	15	15
0655	Dover-Sherborn	23	10	13	22	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	4	3	4	1	3
0695	Lincoln-Sudbury	90	48	42	58	1	29	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	18	33	19
0087	East Longmeadow	40	17	23	14	0	19	6	0	0	1	0	3	3	4	5	8	2	3	3	4	3	2	0
0159	Longmeadow	31	13	18	17	0	11	2	0	0	1	1	3	5	5	4	3	2	2	1	2	0	2	1
0680	Hampden-Wilbraham	9	7	2	5	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	5
0766	Southwick-Tolland-Granville Regional School District	19	10	9	13	0	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	1
	Total	3117	1664	1453	2047	71	778	168	4	6	43	148	183	246	242	260	251	275	261	260	258	222	262	248