



Dr. Ruben D. Carmona, *Superintendent of Schools*

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June 16, 2025

To: Somerville School Committee
From: Dr. Rubén Carmona, Superintendent
Date: June 16, 2025
Subject: End-of-Year Memorandum

Dear Members of the School Committee,

As we close out the 2024–2025 school year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the extraordinary work happening across our district and to express my deep gratitude for your continued partnership and support.

This year, we welcomed nearly 300 new preschoolers and more than 1,000 new students across all grades, enriching our vibrant community. Our commitment to quality instruction was reflected in the rollout of evidence-based curriculum for grades three through eight, and our staff showed their dedication through more than 60 concerts and theater productions that brought our students' talents to life.

Our school libraries flourished, lending out over 65,000 books, and our cafeterias served over one million free meals and snacks, providing critical nourishment for body and mind.

We witnessed students shine in countless ways—from automotive students repairing a car for a local resident to carpentry students whose work was auctioned at a Boston Bruins game. Our student-athletes brought home league championships and our academic indicators continued to show growth. I-Ready data reflects steady progress in both math and reading, and our Conditions for Learning survey showed improvements in students' ability to self-regulate.

This was also a milestone year for our district's future planning. We officially launched our Strategic Plan, paired with a real-time data dashboard that now helps us track progress toward our goals. And with nearly 20 free summer programs scheduled for July and August, we are continuing to provide high-quality learning opportunities beyond the school year.



Academics

Looking ahead, we will continue our curriculum rollout process with Illustrative Mathematics in grades K-2, Wit & Wisdom ELA Curriculum in grades 3 and 4, and Fishtank ELA Curriculum in grade 5. We are also very excited to continue to expand Digital Literacy and Computer Science, and pilot selected science units in grades 6-8. At Somerville High School, many subjects are continuing to embark on the curriculum development cycle. At Next Wave and Full Circle, educators continue to develop and refine their thematic and engaging project-based courses, aligned to their five competencies.

Multilingual Learner Education

As a district, we continue to center the cultural and linguistic assets of our students and focus on supporting our educators in implementing key [High-Quality Instructional Practices for Multilingual Learners](#). We look forward to our continued partnership and collaboration with educators and leaders as we enter next school year with a shared vision for equity and excellence for our multilingual learners in Somerville.

Special Education

The Special Education Department continues to support equitable and inclusive practices through key partnerships and tools to enhance staff capacity and student outcomes. Goalbook helps educators develop personalized, standards-aligned goals and monitor progress. Through Landmark Outreach, staff receive evidence-based strategies to support students with language-based disabilities. The Triumph Center provides coaching to our SEEK and AIM programs, promoting positive behaviors and inclusive practices. Together, these resources ensure that students with disabilities have the support they need to succeed in general education settings.

The ARIS Intervention Program and Sonday System were implemented to provide special education students with effective, evidence-based curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including specialized instruction tailored to build on individual strengths and meet specific learning needs. These programs support the district's goal of ensuring all students receive high-quality, personalized instruction that promotes meaningful academic progress.

Student Services

Next Year is an exciting year for the Student Services Department as we continue to roll out of our [SEL/MH Development Plan](#): Each k-8 building will continue to have the SEL Specialist position. These Specialists will lead K-8 buildings through the 2nd Step

Curriculum Training for new staff and facilitate the new internal training: Circle Keeper(RJ).

Facilities & Summer Programs

This year we continued to make strides in the [building project for the Winter Hill community](#). In partnership with the City, we've made it to phase 2 of the **Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funding program**, which will address the building needs of the Winter Hill School and potentially the Brown School.

- Phase 2 includes undertaking formal procurement processes to hire an Owner's Project Manager to oversee the project, and then a Design/Architecture firm. As a part of this process, a School Building Committee has been assembled which will oversee the technical aspects of the building project.
- In addition, the City convened a School Construction Advisory Group who will develop a recommendation on whether the project scope should focus solely on the Winter Hill School or if it should include the Brown School as well, and where a new school could be located. Overall, completion of construction is anticipated in late 2031.
- We cannot express how deeply inspired we are by the resilience of the Winter Hill community throughout this process!

In other facilities news, this summer we are excited to conclude construction of the **new district production kitchen** located at the Argenziano.

- The production kitchen will allow us to continue to deliver nutritious foods to our students across the district.

Looking ahead, **summer programming is set to begin July 7th** for some of our students. Planning for summer began back in January and we are extremely grateful for everyone's hard work and diligence in getting all programming in place for the summer.

SFLC

This year, we've witnessed just how much families trust our schools as places of safety and learning, and we remain committed to strengthening that trust and continuing to welcome families into our schools.

Building on the collaborative work we've accomplished this year, our plans include creating more resources, workshops, and learning spaces for families, continuing to host district-wide informational events, formalizing language access training, and expanding professional development offerings around family engagement for staff.

We'd also like to remind you that if families need support over the summer, SFLC staff are here. We can be reached at 617-625-6600 ext 6962 or families@k12.somerville.ma.us.

Thank you!

I extend my deepest gratitude to every paraprofessional, teacher, principal, counselor, administrator, and staff member, whose passion and dedication make all of this possible. To our students and families, thank you for being the heart of Somerville Public Schools. Your resilience and spirit inspire us every day.

As summer begins, I wish you all a safe, joyful, and restorative break. Together, we will continue to build a future where every student thrives.