

Memorandum

To: School Committee
From: Ayesha Farag, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education
Date: May 5, 2022
Re: Enrollment Update

Staffing Update

The Elementary Education Office continues to carefully monitor enrollment across the fifteen elementary schools in preparation for the 2022-23 school year. These numbers will continue to change and will be updated throughout the spring and summer.

The approved FY 2022-23 budget included three elementary reserve positions to be assigned as needed to maintain favorable class sizes where needed. Additional positions have been allocated as follows:

- Mason-Rice, Grade 1
- Memorial-Spaulling, Grade 1
- Peirce, Grade 4
- Underwood, Grade 5

Additionally, we have reduced one section of kindergarten at the Ward School on the basis of enrollment.

Enrollment Process

At this point we have placed newly registered students (K-5) residing in buffer zones; all have now been assigned a home school for FY 2022-23. We will continue to place new enrollees residing in buffer zones throughout the kindergarten registration window until June 3.

Any buffer zone students who enroll after June 3, 2022 will be assigned to a home school during the week of August 15. Additionally, we will hold decisions on all School Transfer Requests (except those with siblings already enrolled) until the week of August 15, as well. This will allow us to more effectively utilize our buffer zones to right-size classrooms and use the most current data to assess the feasibility of school transfer requests.

It is important to note that this is a change of practice, as decisions regarding School Transfer Requests have typically been made by June 1st, with buffer zone placements made on a rolling basis. The delay of school assignment decisions may be challenging for some families, particularly with regard to after-school program registration. I have reached out to the leadership of the Newton After School Program Association to alert them to this change and discuss what accommodations can be made for families in this situation. Postponing school assignments until August, however, will enable us to make more strategic and appropriate school placement decisions to maintain reasonable class sizes in our elementary schools and utilize staff resources as efficiently as possible.