



#FRANKLINPSNEWS

Franklin Public Schools Newsletter

~ March 2019

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FY20 Franklin Public Schools Budget

By Dr. Sara Ahern, Superintendent

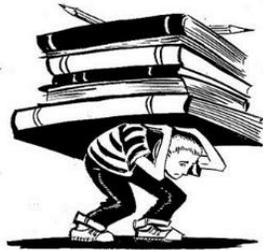
I want to keep the community informed about the FY20 school department budget including the development process and next steps.

The Administrative Team and the School Committee have been working for over two months to develop the current budget. On Tuesday, March 12, the School Committee approved a budget which is 5.68% increase over last year's budget at \$66,826,115. This budget includes "level service" plus some funding for a few additional areas we determined as "critical needs", including but not limited to adding adjustment counselors, some specialized program teachers, classroom teachers at FHS, and Kindergarten ESPs.

Homework

By Joyce Edwards, Ed.D.; Assistant Superintendent for Teaching & Learning

A Homework Study Group was formed in September of 2017, with the primary goal of aligning homework practices across the district to the revised and adopted [School Committee Policy](#) on homework. It had been identified that homework practices across the district varied widely and that a greater degree of consistency was warranted and desired by students, families, and teachers. The Homework Study Group encompassed teachers and administrators representing almost all of the schools, grades, and departments and that work has continued into the 2018-2019 year.



After much research and study about current best practices in the field, the Homework Study Group developed a draft of new proposed homework guidelines for the district. Our work was grounded in the research of Cathy Vatterot, among others. Cathy Vatterot is the author of *Rethinking Homework: Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs*, which served as a foundational text for the group. We also looked to many other Massachusetts districts to determine what homework guidelines might look like elsewhere. Together, we developed our own Franklin proposed guidelines in draft form and are now sharing that work in order to gather feedback from all interested stakeholders.

School Start Times Advisory Committee Update

By Dr. Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Schools



The School Start Times Advisory Committee is nearing the conclusion of a one-year study examining the prospect of adjusting school start times to be more consistent with what a multitude of research studies show about sleep and adolescents. See the video [HERE](#).

Recently, the committee hosted a parent/guardian education event where pediatricians and a sleep research expert shared important points about adolescent sleep schedules and the importance of good habits, including limiting technology and blue light before bedtime. See the video [HERE](#).

Tech Tips from the Director of Technology

By Tim Rapoza, Director of Technology



Greetings! This month I would like to share what I consider to be a valuable yet underutilized feature of the Google Suite: **Keyboard Shortcuts**.

FPS is on YouTube!



In an effort to expand our communication channels, the Franklin Public Schools now has a dedicated YouTube channel. We recently posted two videos -- one from the School Committee's Legislative Forum on February 5 and a video from the parent/guardian education event hosted by the School Start Times Advisory Committee. Please check it out! Click [HERE](#).

You're Invited!

By Dr. Sara Ahern, Superintendent of Schools

The Franklin Public Schools is engaging the community in an exciting VISIONING process of developing our "Portrait of A Graduate".



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