



# What is ESSA and How Can I be Involved?

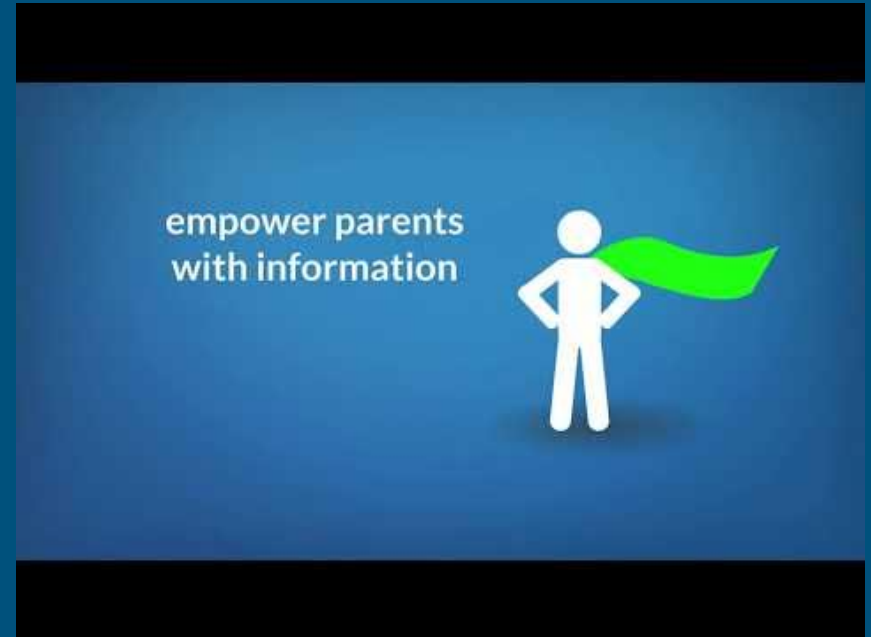
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Annual Meeting

Ralph C. Mahar Regional  
April 10, 2024

# ESSA is . . .

The [Every Student Succeeds Act](#) (ESSA) is the federal K-12 education law of the United States. ESSA was signed into law in 2015 and replaced the previous education law called "*No Child Left Behind.*" ESSA extended more flexibility to States in education and laid out expectations of transparency for parents and for communities.



[DESE School Profile](#)

[2023 School Report Card](#)

# What ESSA Funding Does the School Receive?

- **Title I** - provides funding to local school districts to **improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students** (ELA, Mathematics, Science, & ESL)
- **Title IIA** - provides funding to local educational districts to **improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders**
- **Title IV** - provides funding local educational district's to provide students with a **well-rounded education**, improve school conditions for student learning

# Definition of Title I:

- Title I provides federal funding to schools to help students who are low achieving or at most risk of falling behind.
- Title I is allocated to schools based on the percentage of student receiving free/reduced lunch.
- Schools with a percentage of at least 40% are eligible for a schoolwide program.

# Ralph C. Mahar Regional School operates a **Title I Schoolwide Program.**



# Schoolwide Means:

- The school uses Title I funds to upgrade the entire educational program of the school.
- Title I funds are used to serve all children in order to raise academic achievement.
- Title I funds will be used to provide additional assistance to all students who experience difficulties in meeting the State's performance targets.

# To be a “Schoolwide” School:

- The school must have a free/reduced lunch count of at least 40%.
- The school must collect and analyze data that affects student achievement.
- The school must develop a comprehensive site plan and annually review the effectiveness of the plan.

# Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Title I Schoolwide Program



# Planning Team:

- Marie Cole, Director of Curriculum
- Scott Hemlin, Principal
- David Messing, Director of Student Services
- Ashlee Bass, Title I Paraprofessional (Math)
- Caitlyn Squires-LaCoste, Teacher (ELA)
- Gretchen Lafferty, Teacher (Science)
- Danielle Boucher, Parent

# Summary:

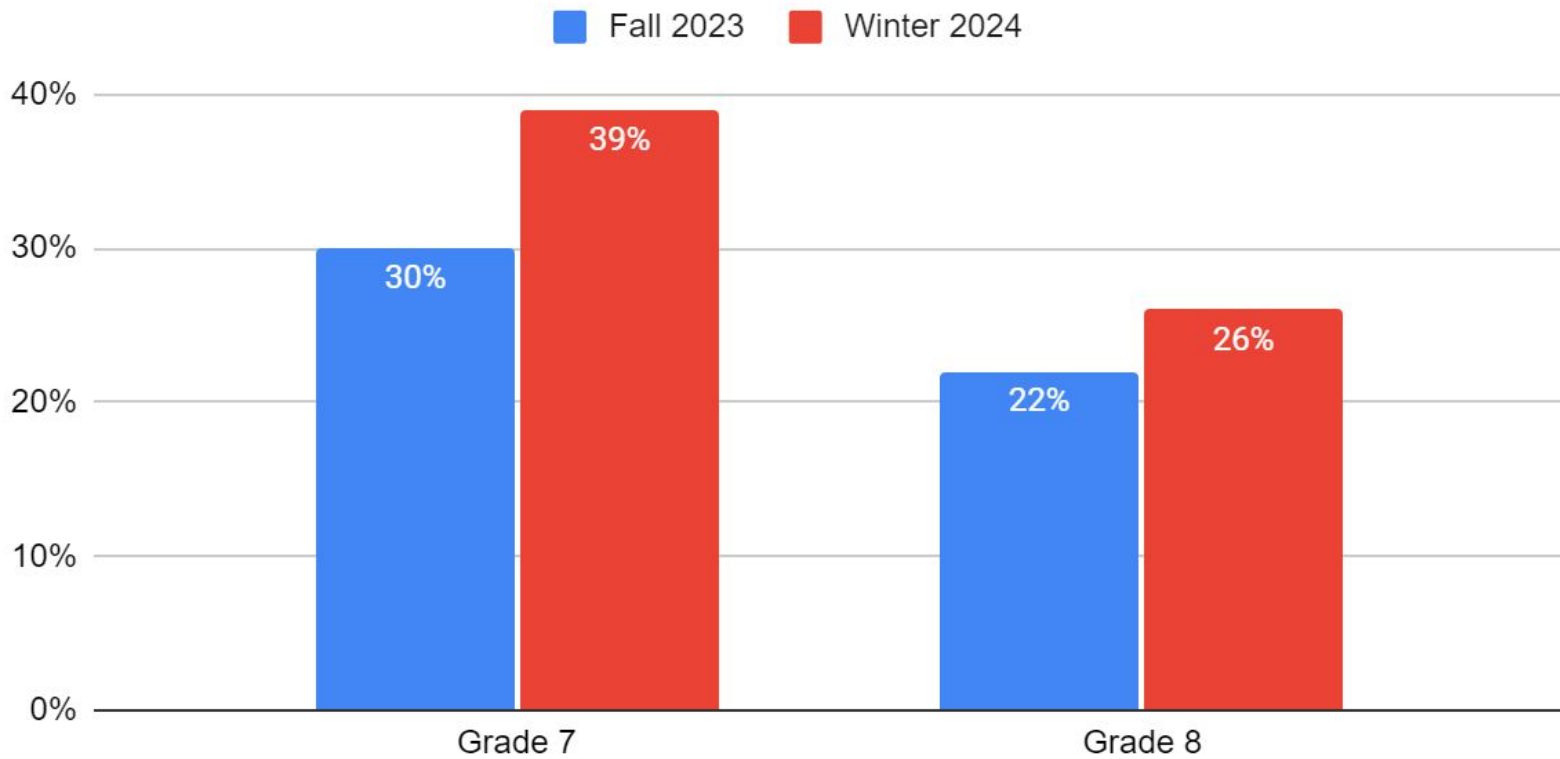
- Raise the Student Growth Percentile (SGP) to 50+
- Increase individual performance level to next band on the MCAS by 10% in ELA, Math, and Science from 7th to 8th and from 8th to HS (grade 10)
- Increase level of proficiency by 10% each year in ELA, mathematics, and science between from 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

# Focus Goals

- to move 10% of students in Grades 7 - 11 from up on performance level between beginning of year (BOY) and end of year (EOY) assessments in English language arts as measured by STAR Reading
- to move 10% of students in Grades 7 - 11 from up on performance level between beginning of year (BOY) and end of year (EOY) assessments in mathematics as measured by STAR Math

# Reading Data -- SY 2023 - 2024

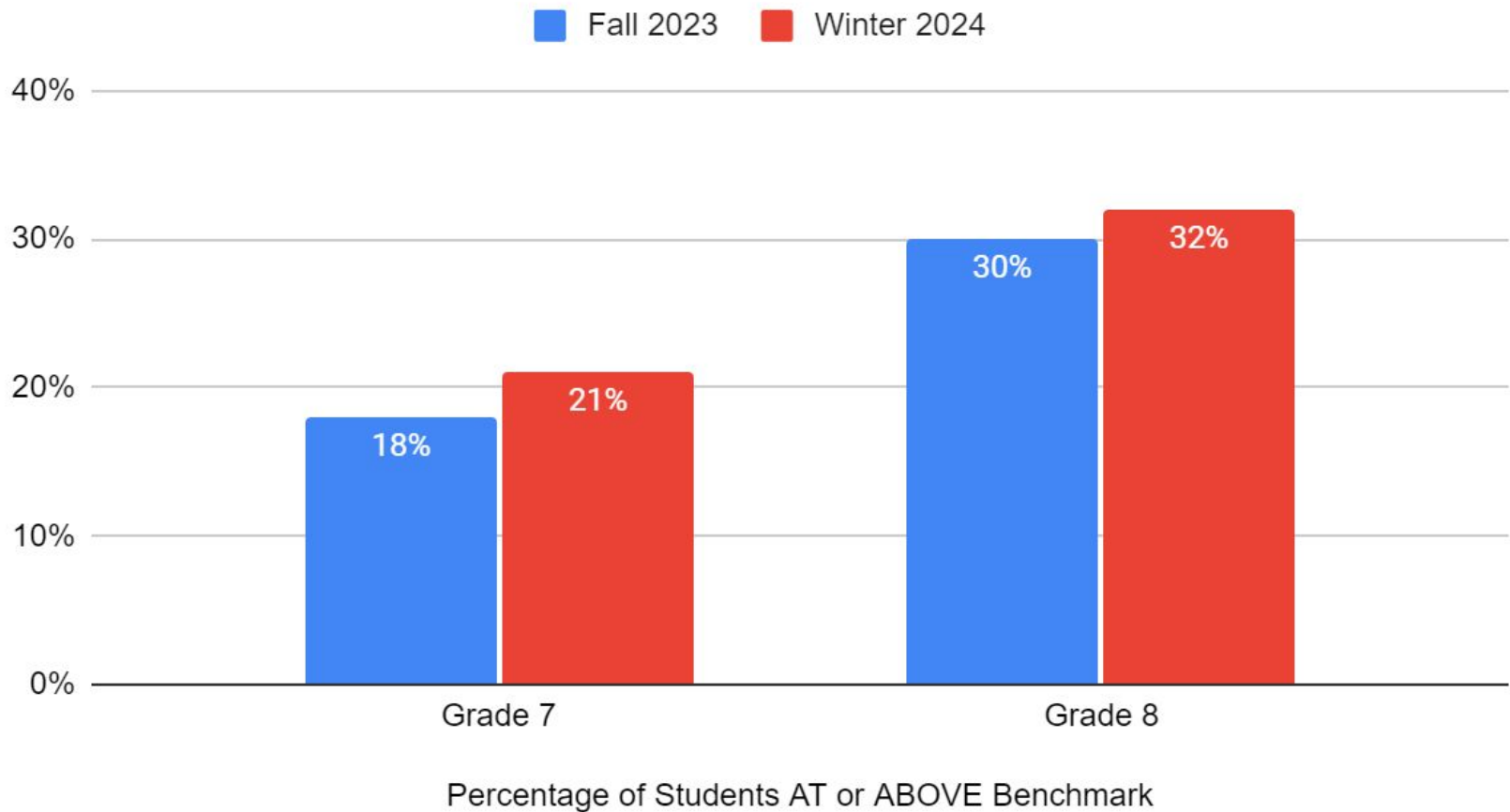
## STAR Reading



Percentage of Students AT or ABOVE Benchmark

# Math Data -- SY 2023 - 2024

## STAR Mathematics



# Curriculum and Instructional Strategies:

- To provide middle school students with supplemental mathematics support with a Title I mathematics paraprofessional
- To provide all middle school students with a supplemental science course as part of their Unified Arts (UAs) with a Project Lead the Way module (PLTW)
- To provide high school students with supplemental English support with an elective creative writing class
- To provide educators with supplemental instructional materials that allow them to support students with various learning styles
- To provide students with ASOST for additional support with academics -- tutoring

# Title I Math Support

**Ashlee Bass**

Supports MS students

Title 1

Provides

Math Paraprofessional

supplemental 1:1 and  
small group support  
during the school day

[abass@rcmahar.org](mailto:abass@rcmahar.org)



# Title I ELA Support

Caitlyn Squires-LaCoste

Title I

Creative Writing

[csquires-lacoste@rcmahar.org](mailto:csquires-lacoste@rcmahar.org)



MS & HS Students  
Supplemental Class

Provides explicit  
writing instructions  
for students:  
focusing on free  
response and  
response to texts



# Title I Science Support

Gretchen Lafferty

Title I

Science - PLTW

[glafferty@rcmahar.org](mailto:glafferty@rcmahar.org)



MS Students

Supplemental Class

Provides

supplemental

instruction for

students on the

Science

Technology and

Engineering

Standards

# Assessment:

- We assess all students in Grades 7-11 using the STAR Reading and the STAR Math assessment 3x per year: BOY, MOY, & EOY
- We will monitor students' attendance with the use of a new data dashboard to ensure that all students receive adequate instructional time

# 2023: DESE Accountability Level

## 2023 Official Accountability Report - Ralph C Mahar Regional

### Organization Information

**DISTRICT NAME**

Ralph C Mahar (07550000)

**TITLE I STATUS**

Title I School

**SCHOOL**

Ralph C Mahar Regional (07550505)

**GRADES SERVED**

07,08,09,10,11,12

**REGION**

West/Central

**FEDERAL DESIGNATION**

-

### Accountability Information

**Overall classification** Not requiring assistance or intervention

### Reason for classification

Moderate progress toward targets

**Progress toward improvement targets**

35% - Moderate progress toward targets

**Accountability percentile**

30

2023 accountability percentile is a 2 point increase over the 2022 accountability percentile of 28 and a 4 point increase over the 2021 accountability percentile of 26

# Title I Parent Notification Requirements

# Parent Involvement Policy

- The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School holds an annual ESSA/Title I presentation and families are provided with an overview of the ESSA services offered at the school
- In the spring, a Title I/Curriculum Night is offered to students and family. Students and their families come to the school to learn about the progress the Title I program has made in closing the achievement gap; all supplemental curricula is shared with parents/guardians at this time and expected benchmark attainment levels and the goals of the Title I program.
- Parents are informed of opportunities they have to become involved in the school and for their input and feedback. In addition, parents and students participate to learning activities and games that parents and children can participate in outside of school hours to enhance learning. After the event participants are sent a follow-up survey about the event. Results are shared with administration and Title I teachers. Information from this survey is used to adapt and change the services provided, support offered to parents, and outreach opportunities to families.
- Parents are also informed that they have the right to request a meeting at any time with their child's Title I teacher or the Title I director to discuss their child's progress or the Title I services being provided at the district/school.

# School-Parent Compact

## Ralph C. Mahar Regional School

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P.O. Box 680, 507 South Main Street • Orange, Massachusetts 01364

Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski  
Superintendent of Schools  
Tel: (978) 544-6763  
Fax: (978) 544-3450

### **School-Parent/Guardian Compact**

The Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and participating children and their parents/guardians, agree that this compact outlines how parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents/guardians will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards. As the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School is now a School-wide Title I Program, based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students in the district, all Title I students are receiving a copy of this compact.

This compact is in effect during school year 2023-2024

### **School Responsibilities:**

# Parent's Right to Know – Student Achievement

- Each fall, parents/caregivers will receive notification via USPS with their child's MCAS results from the previous spring assessments.
  - Students in Grades 3-8 & Grade 10 will participate in ELA and mathematics
  - Students in Grades 5, 8, and HS (based on course taken)

# Parent's Right to Know – Non-Highly Qualified Teachers

- Each year in the fall, all parents are notified if their child is receiving educational services from an individual that is not considered highly qualified by DESE
  - This may be educators with “pending” licenses
  - Educators that are teaching in areas outside their field -- i.e. an English teacher who is licensed (5-8) that is teaching a Grade 9 English course; DESE allows ALL educators to teach 20% out of their field



# How Can You Be Involved?

- Volunteer at your child's school
  - PTO
  - School Council
  - Athletic Boosters
  - Open House
  - Family Nights
  - Sporting Events
  - School Events



# Right to Request Meetings

- At any time, parents/caregivers have a right to request a meeting to discuss their child's progress and educational opportunities.
- Please reach out to you child's teacher(s) or guidance counselor to schedule a meeting
- Building administration is also available to meet to discuss issues with your regarding your child

## Title IIA

Provides funding to local educational districts to **improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers, principals, and other school leaders**

These funds school-wide, department, and individual PD opportunities for the district educators

# Title IIA Sponsored PD

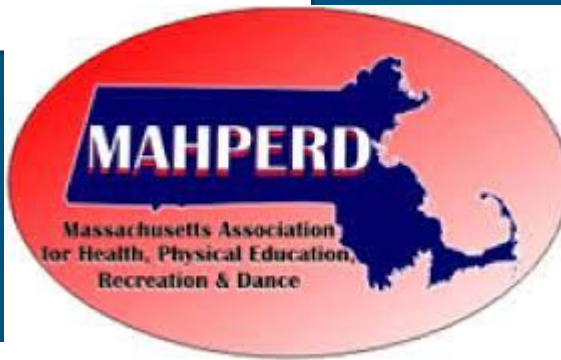


Igniting imagination and innovation through learning.

Green Building and Sustainable Architecture

A responsible approach to environmental and human health

PLTW - Training



Mentor Coaching for Teachers

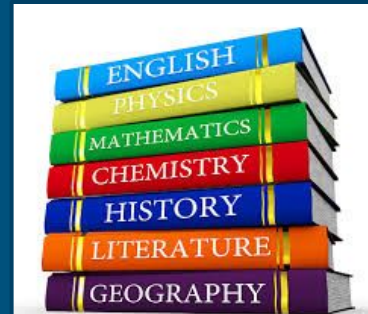


Foreign Language PD



Social Emotional Learning - SEL

Content Specific PD



# Title IV

Provides funding local educational district's to provide students with a **well-rounded education**, improve school conditions for student learning

## **Priorities of Title IV, Part A – Student Support and Academic Enrichment (SSAE):**

1. Provide all students with access to a well-rounded education;
2. Improve school conditions for learning to ensure safe and healthy students;
3. Improve the use of technology to improve academic achievement.

# Title IV Sponsored: Dual Enrollment Courses

- A Greenfield Community College professor works in concert with a Ralph C. Mahar content teacher. The students participate in an online dual enrollment course with the support of a RCM educator earning both high school and college credit. Dual enrollment courses are open to juniors and seniors and are held during the school day.
- We will be expanding our offering for the 2023-2024 school year from three courses to five courses. Students will be able to earn up to 16 college credits (an entire semester) prior to graduation.

SEMESTER	COURSE	GCC Credits	AVG. GRADE	# STUDENTS
Fall 2023	English 101	3	B+	9 Students
Fall 2023	Psychology 101	3	B+	13 Students
Spring 2023	Biology 132	4	A-	9 Students
Spring 2023	English 112	3	B+	5 Students
Fall 2022	English 101	3	A-	15 Students
Fall 2022	Psychology 101	3	A+	11 Students
Spring 2021	English 112	3	B+	16 Students
Fall 2021	Psychology 101	3	A	16 Students

Questions?

# Contact Information

Marie Cole,  
Director of Curriculum/Grants

[mcole@rcmahar.org](mailto:mcole@rcmahar.org)

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