

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT NO. 35

Serving the communities of ELIOT & SOUTH BERWICK

Caroline Arakelian, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

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Scott Reuning
Director of Special Services

October 9, 2026

Dear Marshwood Families and Colleagues,

It was a wonderful evening at our School Board meeting on Wednesday, October 7. We were especially pleased to welcome students from Central School, who shared a Morning Meeting with the Board. Opportunities like this are an important part of creating meaningful connections between our students and the work of our School Board. We are grateful to the students for sharing their voices and experiences, and we extend a sincere thank you to the teachers, administrators, and families who support and encourage this kind of student engagement.

Student voice and engagement are an important part of the work of the RSU 35 School Board. As we continue our work together, the Board remains committed to five core values that guide our decisions and priorities: **safety and wellness, academic excellence, student engagement, strong character, and resources and fiscal responsibility**. These values help us remain focused on what matters most, providing an excellent educational experience while supporting the whole child and being responsible stewards of our community's resources.

Director of Special Services

I also want to share an important staffing update with our community. Scott Reuning, our Director of Special Services, will be moving on to another position effective November 1, 2026. We are grateful to Scott for his service and contributions to our students, families, and staff, and we wish him well in his next position.

The Director of Special Services position has been posted, and our search process is beginning and will be underway in the coming weeks. We are committed to conducting a thoughtful search for the next leader of our district-level special services work.

In the meantime, families and staff who have questions or needs related to district-level special services matters should contact the RSU 35 Central Office. We will continue to provide support and ensure continuity of services throughout this transition.

Welcoming Our New Military School Liaison

I am also pleased to introduce **Erin Stock**, the new Military School Liaison for the Marshwood School District. Erin is from Eliot, which makes us particularly fortunate to have her as our liaison. Her regional role includes supporting military-connected families across Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, and we look forward to working closely with her.

Erin can be reached at **Erin.L.Stock.naf@us.navy.mil**. Families may contact Erin for assistance with school transfers, military and local support services, and information related to college and scholarships.

We are excited about the opportunity to work with Erin throughout this school year and to further integrate the resources and support she provides for children and families connected to the military. We know that military families can experience unique transitions and challenges, and having a dedicated resource and advocate is an important addition to our school community.

Inclement Weather Procedures

As we move into the colder months, I also want to remind families about our **RSU 35 inclement-weather procedures**. The district considers a number of factors when making decisions about school cancellations, delays, or changes to the school day. Because conditions can vary significantly across our communities — from South Eliot to South Berwick and along our rural roads — decisions are made carefully with student and staff safety as our highest priority. The district works with local emergency management officials, police, fire, and public works departments as part of this process.

When a decision is necessary, the district aims to communicate a change in the school schedule by **5:45 a.m.** This early notification is important because some school bus routes begin as early as 5:50 a.m., with some students being picked up as early as approximately 6:20 a.m.

Weather-related announcements will be communicated through several channels, including the **RSU 35 website, the district's Facebook page, WCSH Channel 6, WMTW Channel 8, WGME Channel 13, and phone and email notifications through Thrillshare.**

If a **two-hour delay** is announced, all schools will begin two hours later than their normal start time, and bus pickup times will also be delayed by two hours. Morning Pre-K and morning specialized programming for three-year-olds will be canceled on a two-hour delay. On a Thursday delayed-start day, a two-hour weather delay means schools will begin two hours later than the already-adjusted Thursday schedule, while elementary schools will continue to have their usual Thursday early-release time. Morning Pre-K and morning specialized programming for three-year-olds will also be canceled.

We also recognize that weather conditions may vary within our communities. If a family determines that it is not safe for their child to travel to school, families may choose to keep their child home. The district supports that decision, and the absence will be considered excused, with an opportunity for the student to make up missed work within a reasonable timeframe.

Families can find the district's full **Inclement Weather Protocol** on the RSU 35 website. [RSU 35 Inclement Weather Protocol Policy](#).

Thank you, as always, for your partnership and support of our students and schools. The strength of our district comes from the collaboration among students, families, educators, administrators, the School Board, and our broader community. I look forward to the continued work we will do together this year in support of every child in the Marshwood community.

Warmly,



Caroline Arakelian, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Marshwood School District
MSAD/RSU 35

Marshwood Hall of Fame Weekend | November 14–15, 2026

Join the Marshwood community for a special weekend celebrating the people and teams who have made lasting contributions to our schools and community. The weekend begins Saturday, November 14, with the **first annual Marshwood Hall of Fame & Excellence Golf Classic** at Links at Outlook. The nine-hole tournament begins with a 10:00 a.m. shotgun start, followed by lunch, a raffle, prizes, and fellowship. Registration is \$95 per player through November 1 and \$110 thereafter.

The celebration continues Sunday, November 15, at 11:00 a.m. at the **Links Red Barn in South Berwick** with the **2026 Marshwood Hall of Fame & Excellence Induction Ceremony**. This year's inductees are Kent Lamson, Catrina Rainey, Joey Santos, Roger Dionne, Renee Martin, Carlton Spring, Tom Howarth, Ed Moriarty, Gary Parmley, Colby Lamson, and the 2015 Wrestling Team. Together, we will honor their accomplishments and contributions under this year's theme, **"Honor • Inspire • Celebrate — Honoring our past, inspiring our future."** Tickets are available through Krystal Sbrizza at krystal.sbrizza@rsu35.org.

We hope you will join us for this special Marshwood tradition as we celebrate the people and accomplishments that continue to make our community strong. Once a Hawk, Always a Hawk!