



October 16, 2026

Dear Tiverton Families,

Happy Principals Month!

October is a time to recognize and celebrate the school leaders who work each day to support our students, staff, and families. Please join me in thanking our principals and assistant principals for their leadership, dedication, and commitment to Tiverton Public Schools: Joe Battaglia, Principal, Tiverton High School; Joao Arruda, Assistant Principal, Tiverton High School; Scott Kellett, Assistant Principal, Tiverton Middle School; Jennifer Pushee, Principal, Pocasset Elementary School; and, Gail Ponte, Principal, Ranger Elementary School.

Their leadership helps create welcoming school communities where students are supported, challenged, and encouraged to reach their full potential. We are grateful for the important work they do on behalf of our students and families.

Middle School Principal Update

The Middle School Principal Search Committee, composed of teachers, administrators, and parents, has interviewed six highly qualified candidates and recommended three finalists. Finalist interviews with the Superintendent's Cabinet have been completed, and I am pleased to report that I anticipate bringing forward a recommendation for the appointment of the new Tiverton Middle School principal at the next School Committee meeting. In the meantime, I want to thank Assistant Principal Scott Kellett and all Tiverton Middle School staff members who have stepped up to support the school during this transition. Their dedication, flexibility, and continued commitment to our students and families have been greatly appreciated.

Distance Learning Update

The School Committee recently voted to discontinue distance learning on weather-related school closure days. As a result, when weather conditions require schools to close, students and staff will not be expected to participate in remote instruction. This decision provides greater consistency in how we approach weather-related closures and allows students and staff to use these days as traditional school closure days.

Strategic Plan for 2026-2029

I am proud to share our newly approved [Strategic Plan for 2026-2029](#), which serves as a shared framework for district improvement through the end of the 2028-2029 school year. Grounded in our commitment to delivering an exceptional education through high-quality instruction and positive relationships, this work is anchored by a unified vision: *Every Tiverton Student Known, Valued, and Believed In.*

This strategic plan translates extensive community input into clear priorities and actionable goals. During the planning process, 37 stakeholder representatives, including 17 parents, 12 teachers and staff members, six

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administrators, and two School Committee members, collaborated to help shape the future of our schools. Our strategy builds upon core district strengths, including our Portrait of a Tiverton Graduate, structured literacy and the science of reading, ongoing professional learning, project-based learning, and long-term facilities planning. Through our Portrait of a Graduate, we reinforce five key student competencies: communication, responsibility, empathy, collaboration, and critical thinking.

The three-year plan establishes four interconnected priorities to guide our work through June 2029:

1. Academic Excellence for All: We are focused on strengthening Tier 1 instruction, our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), collaborative data reviews, and college and career pathways. We will examine and share the instructional practices that contributed to Ranger Elementary's significant gains while targeting improvements in mathematical reasoning, secondary literacy, and science inquiry. By the end of the 2028-2029 school year, our goals are to increase overall proficiency in English Language Arts from 47.1% to 57%, mathematics from 41.4% to 51%, and science from 41.9% to 52%.
2. Belonging and Well-Being: Creating safe, welcoming, and inclusive schools is essential to student success. We will continue expanding social-emotional learning, student voice, tiered behavioral supports, and early attendance interventions. Our goal is to increase positive student perceptions of school climate from 31% to 45%.
3. Family and Community Partnerships: Student growth depends on strong connections among schools, families, and the broader community. We will strengthen two-way communication, improve access to family resources, expand mental health partnerships, and develop work-based learning opportunities with local employers. Our goal is to increase family support and engagement metrics from 27% to 42%.
4. Financial Sustainability: Maintaining educational quality requires responsible, transparent, and forward-looking financial management. Through June 2029, we will connect instructional priorities to sustainable budgeting by establishing a School Committee Finance and Financial Sustainability Subcommittee, maintaining a rolling five-year financial model, benchmarking staffing and expenditures against five to seven comparable Rhode Island school districts, and publishing an annual Financial Sustainability and Equity Report.

Our Strategic Planning Implementation Team will monitor progress using student achievement data, school climate and family surveys, attendance metrics, curriculum reviews, career and technical education indicators, and financial reports. We will provide regular progress updates to the School Committee and adjust our strategies when evidence indicates that changes are needed.

Recent 2025-2026 State Assessment Results

As we begin implementing the strategic plan, our latest state assessment data provides an important baseline, highlighting significant achievements to celebrate and areas requiring targeted attention. Overall, Tiverton students continue to outperform Rhode Island statewide averages across several major assessment areas.

Elementary Growth and District Highlights:

- Ranger Elementary School demonstrated extraordinary gains, with Grade 3 RICAS ELA proficiency increasing by 21.8 percentage points, from 54.0% to 75.8%, and mathematics proficiency increasing by 11.7 percentage points, from 60.9% to 72.6%.
- Grade 8 science proficiency on the NGSA increased by 5.8 percentage points, reaching 46.6%.
- District Grade 11 SAT ELA proficiency reached 56.0%, exceeding the state average of 47.8%. Overall district proficiency in RICAS ELA (42.1%), RICAS mathematics (39.3%), and NGSA science (40.0%) also remains ahead of statewide averages.

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Areas for Targeted Focus:

- Despite these strengths, the data reveal district-wide declines in RICAS ELA and mathematics proficiency of 4.2 and 4.9 percentage points, respectively.
- Performance also declined at Tiverton Middle School in ELA (39.3%) and mathematics (35.3%), while Grade 10 PSAT ELA proficiency decreased by 7.0 percentage points to 57.5%.
- Secondary mathematics scores, PSAT mathematics at 25.6% and SAT mathematics at 22.0%, remain areas of concern. Science proficiency also declined in Grade 5 (34.2%) and Grade 11 (37.5%).

These results reinforce the importance of our strategic priorities and the need to use assessment data to guide instruction, strengthen student support, and monitor progress across all schools. By examining assessment data, sharing effective practices across schools, and maintaining high expectations for all learners, we will build on our strengths and address areas where students need additional support. Our goal is to ensure every student develops the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to succeed in school and beyond.

Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to Tiverton Public Schools. Together, we will continue working toward our shared commitment: *Every Tiverton Student Known, Valued, and Believed In.*

Sincerely,

Christopher Haskins
Superintendent

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