MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER

STATE OF THE MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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MANCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026 STATE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

District Welcome Center, French Hall – October 1, 2026

MANCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Heather McGrail

Greater Manchester Chamber

President & CEO

MANCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mayor Jay Ruais

City of Manchester

MANCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Barry Brensinger

Community Champion

MANCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vance Freymann

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MANCHESTER
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Jennifer Chmiel

Superintendent of Schools

Our “Why”




GREEN ACRES
SCHOOL
IN MEMORY OF JOHN "JACK" DEVINE




LUNCH ROOM LEADER
MICRO ROCKSTAR

Meet the

E-Team

- Dr. Jennifer Chmiel- Superintendent of Schools
- Nicole Doherty- Assistant Superintendent, Elementary Schools & Teaching & Learning
- Dr. Kelly Espinola- Assistant Superintendent High Schools & Operations
- Ryan Roth- Assistant Superintendent, Middle Schools & Student Services
- Aisha Weaver- Exec. Dir. Student Services & Wellness
- Stacey Champey- Exec. Dir. Safe & Supportive Schools
- Steve Cross- Exec. Dir. of Technology
- Karen DeFrancis- Executive Director of Finance
- Matt Upton- Exec. Dir. Legal & Policy
- Michelle Evans- Exec. Dir. Human Resources
- Amadou Hamady- Exec. Dir. Student Engagement, Outcomes & Success
- Joyce Lewis- Dir. Comprehensive School Counseling
- Wendy Nassar Perron- Exec. Dir. Multilingual Learner Education
- Anna Sabato- Creative Dir. Communications & Social Media
- Leslie Whitney- Exec. Dir. Teaching & Learning

Welcome Center

- 367 students registered this school year
- 122 families supported through food pantry
- 2,000+ backpacks distributed
- Food pantry & backpack program supported 100% through donations



State of the District 2026





The Whole Human

- Learning
- Family
- Belonging
- Wellness
- Identity
- Opportunity
- Community



The Three-Legged Stool

- **GROW OUR STUDENTS**
  Educational Programming
- **GROW OUR EDUCATORS**
  High-Quality Staffing
- **GROW OUR SYSTEMS**
  21st-Century Learning Environments







Grow Our Students

A

Attendance

B

Behavior

C

Curriculum



Grow Our Educators





Grow Our Educators





Human Resources

- Approximately 2,200 Employees
- 182 replacement hires between May & September



Grow Our Systems

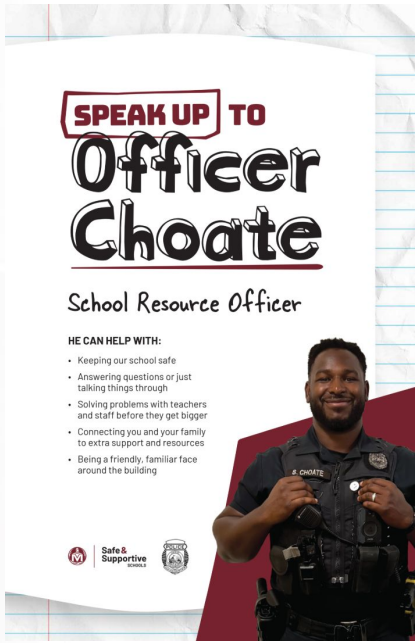
- Priority One Projects: $306 Million
- McLaughlin: $35.4 Million
- Hillside: $57.7 Million
- Parkside: $46.5 Million
- Southside: $59.4 Million
- Beech: $81.5 Million



Safe & Supportive Schools

- $10 million in funding to build framework
- 20 MTSS-B Tier 1 teams
- 20 MTSS-B Intervention teams
- 1,100+ staff responded positively about safety in their schools





Counseling

- Freshman Academy expanded to all four high schools; 100 student participants
- Wayfinder Future-Ready Skills curriculum adopted in all four middle schools
- Building on partnership with Friends of Aine; Tentative expansion to 13 schools



Dual Language Immersion

- French DLI program doubled enrollment this year
- 60+ languages spoken in MSD
- 2,400 EL students



Finance

- FY27 budget: $238,492,749
- Food & Nutrition Services budget: $6,300,000
- Approximately 50% of students receive Free & Reduced Meals



Communications

- Social media followers: 15,000+
- Increase in TV, radio & newspaper interviews
- Increasingly positive public perception







Student Engagement, Outcomes & Success

- School Connect events: Approximately 400 attendees
- Students participating in SBLI: 17



Transportation

- Number of buses: 50+
- Number of students transported daily: 3,000
- Number of routes: 107





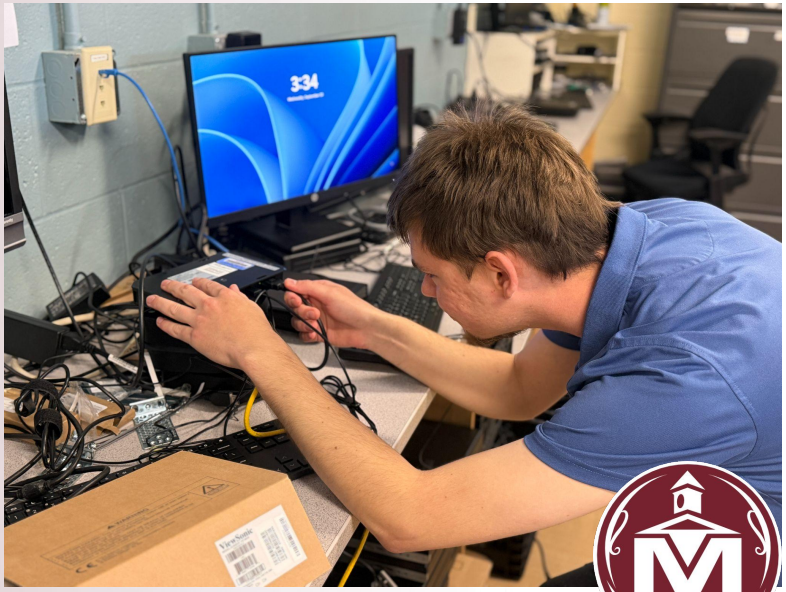
Specialized Transportation

- Number of students receiving specialized transportation: 844
- Increasingly managed internally
- Established driver-recruitment pathway to CDL-B licensing



Technology

- Number of cyber attacks stopped: 141,000+
- Mailboxes protected: 19,060+



Legal

- First-of-its-kind, nationally recognized Artificial Intelligence policy
- Revised & reorganized policies of the BOSC
- Worked with the Education Legislation subcommittee on legislative initiatives



Fine Arts

- Ensemble enrollment: Up 17%
- Summer jazz program on Hanover Street: 60 student participants
- Substantial instrument donations will benefit students



Athletics

- **Fall athletes:**
  453 high school
  305 middle school

- **Winter athletes:**
  573 high school
  240 middle school

- **Spring athletes:**
  432 high school
  210 middle school





Special Education

- Reading proficiency increased to 90%
- 93% of students with literacy goals demonstrating progress
- Expanded LEA support for special education teachers



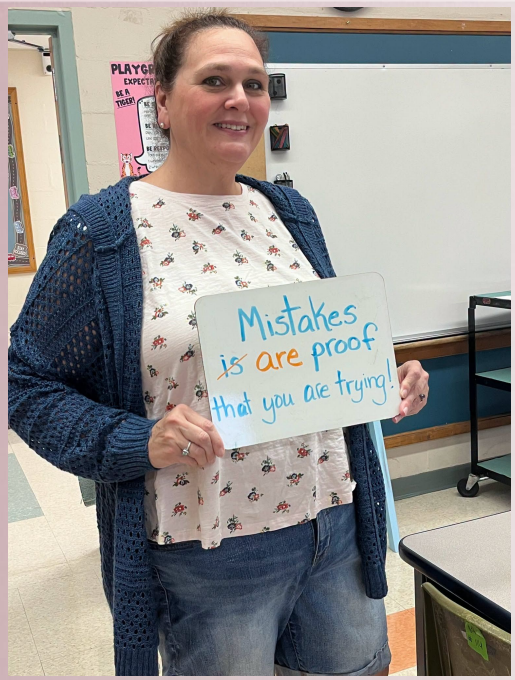
State Assessment Results

- **Reading & writing: 31%**
  Up 3 points from 2025
- **Math: 20%**
  Up 2 points from 2025
- **Science: 17%**
  Up 3 points from 2025
- **Participation: 96%**



We still have work to do







Adult Education Program

- 62 credit hours earned towards high school diplomas during 2025-2026 school year





State of the District 2026







City Year Opening











Youth Leadership Greater Manchester

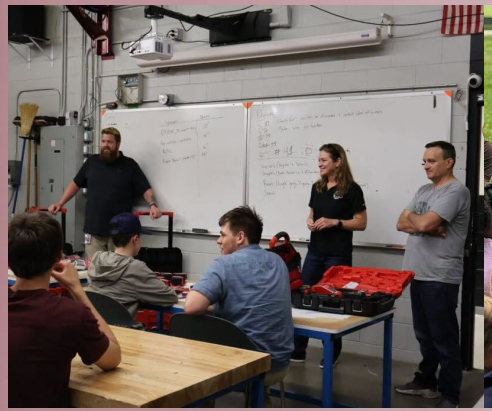


- Second year of the program
- Participation more than doubled from last year



GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER

What's At Stake?















Q & A with Dr. Chmiel

Moderator: Heather McGrail, Greater Manchester Chamber

MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE STATE OF THE MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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