



Franklin Public Schools

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Superintendent's Report to School Committee

January 13, 2026

New Year's Message

As we begin a new calendar year, I want to wish our students, staff, families, and community partners a very happy and healthy New Year. I hope the winter break offered time to rest, reconnect, and recharge. We are grateful for the strong partnership we share with our community as we kick off 2026 together.

FHS Cheer State Champions

We are fortunate to recognize the Franklin High School Cheer Team for another extraordinary season. This is certainly not their first recognition.

This fall, 11 student-athletes competed in the MSSA Large Co-Ed Division and delivered an exceptional performance throughout the season. The team captured the Hockomock League Championship, the South Regionals Championship, and went on to win the MSAA Large Co-Ed State Championship, held at Worcester State University this past November. Remarkably, this marks the sixth consecutive state championship for the Franklin Cheer Program and the 17th state championship overall—a truly historic accomplishment.

Congratulations to our student-athletes, Coach Doni Gill and our coaching staff, and families on sustaining such a high level of excellence year after year.

Poetry Out Loud

I'd like to recognize Franklin High School students who recently participated in the Poetry Out Loud competition. This is a wonderful example of student voice, confidence, and authentic learning in action.

Congratulations to **Marina Zaki**, a freshman and this year's school winner, and **Penny Keenan**, a junior and first runner-up. Penny will represent Franklin at the regional competition at the Huntington Theatre during the weekend of February 7th and 8th, should Marina be unable to attend.

Thank you again to School Committee members and staff who took the time to help judge—we truly appreciate your support of student learning beyond the classroom.

DECA

This year, **166 FHS students** competed in a regional DECA competition against more than 1,000 students from across the region. Students competed in one of 50 business-related categories, including role-play scenarios and written business plans. Those placing in the top five in their category qualify for the state level, and I'm proud to share that **54 FHS students** will advance to

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compete at the upcoming state competition in Boston. A full press release is forthcoming, and I want to thank advisors **Emily Rosborough** and **Brian Healy** for their leadership and support of this outstanding program.

AP

Franklin High School has been recognized on the **AP School Honor Roll** by the **College Board**. This recognition honors schools that expand access to Advanced Placement coursework while supporting student success. It reflects a true schoolwide effort—from teachers, counselors, and administrators to students and families—and affirms our commitment to both opportunity and achievement.

These accomplishments speak to the depth of learning, leadership, and preparation happening every day at Franklin High School, and we're very proud of our students and staff.

Grades 3-10 MCAS Dates

The Office of Teaching and Learning will finalize and share the selected 2026 MCAS dates. The English/Language Arts MCAS will begin in March, with Math and STEM following in April and May. It is important for students to be in school, but especially on these days so they can maximize their performance and have the ideal testing environment.

Title 1 Update

Washington K-2 and Washington 3-5 Schools have qualified for Title 1 services through the federal government. Literacy Specialists have worked to identify eligible students to participate in an after-school program two days per week and an in-school program during the school day. The after-school program began last week and we have 21 staff members (teachers and ESPs) and over 65 students participating in the program. This week, the inschool program began with five staff members working to identify students to participate in the interventions.

Adjusted Student Dismissal – Wednesday, January 14

Lastly, I want to provide context for the adjusted student dismissal scheduled for Wednesday, January 14, due to funeral services for a fallen Uxbridge Police Officer, Stephen LaPorta, being held at St. Mary's Church.

In coordination with the Franklin Police Department, we anticipate planned road closures and traffic congestion beginning at 11:00 a.m., around the Town Common and surrounding neighborhoods. To prioritize student safety and transportation reliability, we will implement adjusted dismissal times across the district.

Key points I want to highlight:

- Families have already received direct communication via email, text, voicemail, website, social media, and from each school, including a road closure map.
- Transportation adjustments are in place, including direct outreach to affected neighborhoods
- After-school providers have been notified and will follow adjusted schedules

- While we expect longer bus ride times and heavier traffic, these decisions were made carefully, considering wake time, student drivers, early childhood schedules, bus and van routing, and traffic flow

At this time, we do not anticipate any schedule changes for Thursday, January 15, as funeral services are anticipated to conclude during the day on Wednesday.

We appreciate the community's patience and understanding as we work closely with public safety officials to ensure student safety during this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Laporta family, and we are deeply sorry for their loss.