

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:

***Arlington School Committee
Curriculum Instruction Accountability and Assessment
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
3:30 PM***

***Via Zoom:
Zoom Link Here***

***In Person:
Arlington Public Schools District Office
14 Mill Brook Drive
2nd Floor, Superintendent's Office
Arlington, MA 02476***

Open Meeting (L. Exton)

Math Pathways Task Force Update

- *January CIAA Presentation Math Pathways Planning Task Force Presentation*

Superintendent Evaluation Discussion/Schedule Future Meeting

Approve Minutes

- *CIAA Draft Minutes 10-30-25*
- *CIAA Draft Minutes 06-02-2025*

Future Agenda Items - Meeting Dates

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment (L. Exton)

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.

Submitted by Liz Exton

Massachusetts law requires all open session meetings of public bodies to be accessible to members of the public, including those with disabilities. If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact the Administrative Assistant to the Arlington School Committee Liz Diggins at ediggins@arlington.k12.ma.us.



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Meeting Location - Hybrid

Summary:

Via Zoom:

[Zoom Link Here](#)

In Person:

Arlington Public Schools District Office
14 Mill Brook Drive
2nd Floor, Superintendent's Office
Arlington, MA 02476



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Open Meeting (L. Exton)



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Math Pathways Task Force Update

Summary:

- January CIAA Presentation Math Pathways Planning Task Force Presentation

ATTACHMENTS:

| Type | File Name | Description |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Presentation January_CIAA_Presentation_Math_Pathways_Planning_Task_Force_Presentation.pdf | January CIAA Presentation Math Pathways Planning Task Force Presentation |

Math Pathways Planning Task Force Update



CIAA SubCommittee Meeting

**Dr. Mona Ford Walker, Deputy Superintendent of Teaching and Learning
Octavia Brauner, Director of Math and Computer Science
January 6, 2026**

Agenda



1. Math Pathways Planning Task Force Work-to-Date
2. Math Pathways Planning Task Force Commitments
3. Preliminary Recommendations and Budget Implications
4. Next Steps

APS Math Pathways

Task Force Members



Arlington Public Schools
Education That Empowers

- ❖ Mona Ford Walker, Ed.L.D. (APS Staff)
- ❖ Octavia Brauner (APS Staff)
- ❖ Kevin Casey (APS Staff)
- ❖ Sarah Langer (APS Staff)
- ❖ Tom McCauley (APS Staff)
- ❖ Rochelle Rubino (APS Staff)
- ❖ Gretchen Vice (APS Staff)
- ❖ Ayse Asatekin (Community Member)
- ❖ Shaun Berry (Community Member)
- ❖ Laura Gitelson (APS SC Member)
- ❖ Sam Hasson (Community Member)
- ❖ Olga Papaemmanouil (Community Member)
- ❖ Victor Pontes (Community Member)
- ❖ Rachael Turkington (Community Member)
- ❖ Edith Wun (Community Member)



Math Task Force Charge

Develop recommendations for the next steps APS needs to take in order to ensure pathways through math coursework that:

- 1. Provide students with opportunities to access courses that align with their learning goals;*
- 2. Align with existing APS Commitments to MTSS, challenge-by-choice, and building foundational knowledge in core content; and*
- 3. Will be sustainable and efficient enough for the system to support financially, contractually, and structurally.*

MPP Task Force Work-to-Date

- Clarifying the charge of the task force
- Learning the current APS pathways and math course options, K-12
- Learning what the research says about tracking, advanced math enrollment, etc.
- Evaluating preliminary district cohort data and state assessment data
- Reviewing pathways options in other districts and states
- Survey: Gather feedback from students, staff, and families regarding APS math experiences

Develop recommendations for the next steps APS needs to take in order to implement pathways through math coursework that:

1. *Provide students with opportunities to access courses that align with their learning goals;*
2. *Align with existing APS Commitments to MTSS, challenge-by-choice, and building foundational knowledge in core content; and*
3. *Will be sustainable and efficient enough for the system to support financially, contractually, and structurally.*



Commitments

Math Pathways Planning Task Force will work to develop recommendations that support:

- **Challenge-by-choice:** Students have the ability to move fluidly into more or less rigorous coursework based on their needs.
- **Informed agency:** When making important decisions about coursework, parents and students should have information about their student as a learner in that content area that is both contextually-informed and objective.
- **Strong foundational knowledge:** Some content and concepts are foundational to later learning; if they are not fluid, automatic, and deeply understood, the student will struggle in later coursework. APS is ethically bound to providing a strong educational foundation for all students.



Commitments

- **Flexible interventions:** All students should be able to receive support or challenge when they need it, from experts qualified to provide it, and not at the expense of access to rigorous Tier I (core) instruction.

Foundational to this commitment is the belief that at some point in time,

- *all students require support - whether light or intensive.*
- *At the same time, all students are ready to accelerate in their learning in some subject area(s) throughout their academic careers.*
- *APS structures should be designed to facilitate and support in any direction as immediately and responsively as possible within reason and within the constraints of the system.*

Preliminary Recommendations

2025 - 2026 School Year

Our current work includes...

- Developing opportunities to gather feedback from families, students, and teachers to learn more about their APS math experiences (and plan for continued feedback) through surveys and a feedback forum
- Compiling more literature and research around tracking and leveling in math and student outcomes
- Compiling and evaluating data for different student cohorts and focal groups, including
 - Accelerate path vs. grade level path outcomes short and long term
 - Long term outcomes of bypassing math 6
- Reviewing current Math Pathways, K-8, to identify strengths and opportunities for growth

Preliminary Recommendations

2025 - 2026 School Year

- Focusing on identifying pathways and structures in grades 6-8
 - Support - Tier II instruction to reach grade level
 - Acceleration - Move through the pathway/courses at an accelerated pace
 - Extension - Opportunities to go deeper and/or move beyond grade level
 - Flexible for students to enter/exit at different points during the school year
 - Define criteria and what data is collected



Preliminary Recommendations

2025 - 2026 School Year

- Finalizing options for students who are below grade level and for those ready to extend beyond grade level in 6th & 7th Grades (Winter 2026)
 - Math Support for those in the accelerated track
 - Offer acceleration and support in WIN (6th grade)
- *Explore the possibility of Acceleration for All*, and in which grade level (resulting in Algebra I for all in 8th grade)
 - What does the research say; what have other districts tried?
 - What have been the current experiences in APS; cohort data?



Preliminary Recommendations

2026 - 2027 School Year

- Curriculum Review (K-8)
 - *Investigations 3.0* (Grades K-5)
 - Amplify Desmos Math (Grade 6-8)
 - What other curriculum is available? What extensions and interventions are available?
- Review scope and sequence alignment within courses grades 6-12 and between the progression of courses
- Learning Walks K-12 (similar to EL learning walks)
- Review Assessment and data systems in place to measure student progress and outcomes

Preliminary Recommendations

2026 - 2027 School Year

- Offer a “parent/family university” to
 - Support understanding of pathway options and their connection to APS mission and values
 - Explain how the Standards for Mathematical Practice are foundational to (deeper) learning and understanding
 - Explain why building numeracy over memorizing facts and algorithms lays the foundation for deep understanding, flexible thinking, and creative problem solving
 - Support course selection process



Preliminary Recommendations

2026 - 2027 School Year

- Evaluate Year 2 of 7th Grade Math Enrichment (students excelling in math and seeking enrichment)
- Evaluate Year 2 of 8th Grade Math Enrichment (students excelling in math and seeking enrichment)
- Continue to fund the Math Support Teaching positions
 - One each in grades 6 - 8
 - Grades 7 and 8 educators teach 2×0.5 sections math enrichment

Preliminary Recommendations

2026 - 2027 School Year

- Teacher professional learning
 - Collecting and analyzing data to identify needs for and gaps in student learning (data and assessment platforms)
 - Tier I instruction, heterogeneous instructional strategies and structures
 - Other identified needs

Need: Teacher professional development (anticipate \$5000 in expenses)

Budget Costs (Preliminary)



2026-2027 School Year:

1. Curriculum Review Team - **\$8000**
 - $\$40 \times 20 \text{ hours} = \800 each for 10 teachers
2. Educator Professional Learning - **\$5000** (estimate)
3. 6th Grade Post-Math 6 Bypass Team - **\$7500** (estimate)
 - a. Spring Planning, Summer Planning and SY 26-27 planning
4. Data Collection & Assessment Platform - **\$1500**
5. Consultant Fee - **\$5000**
 - a. Curriculum Review, learning walks, post-math 6 bypass planning, heterogeneous instruction, differentiation support, etc.
6. Continue funding for the OMS Math Support Role x 2

Next Steps

MPP Task Force will continue to...

- Work on the charge to the Task Force (ensure pathways through math coursework)
- Explore research
- Meet with admin/leaders in other districts to learn of best practices
- Gather feedback from APS students, staff, and families
- Create post-Math Bypass program options and enrichment opportunities
- Work on the areas shared
- May 2026 CIAA & SC Update

Remaining Meeting Dates:

- January 12, 2026 (Zoom)
5:00pm - 6:30pm
- February 2, 2026 (Zoom)
5:00pm - 6:30pm
- March 2, 2026 (In-Person)
4:30pm - 6:30pm
- April 6, 2026 (In-Person)
4:30pm - 6:30pm



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Superintendent Evaluation Discussion/Schedule Future Meeting



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Approve Minutes

Summary:

- CIAA Draft Minutes 10-30-25
- CIAA Draft Minutes 06-02-2025

ATTACHMENTS:

| Type | File Name | Description |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes | CIAA_Draft_Minutes_10-30-25.pdf | CIAA Draft Minutes 10-30-25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minutes | CIAA_DRAFT_Minutes_June_2__2025.pdf | CIAA DRAFT Minutes June 2, 2025 |

Arlington School Committee
Curriculum, Instruction, Accountability, and Assessment
Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, October 30, 2025
3:30 PM

Attendees:

School Committee Members: Liz Exton, Paul Schlichtman (remote), Len Kardon (remote - joined the meeting at 4:05pm)

APS Administration and Staff: Dr. Homan (Superintendent), Dr. Ford-Walker (Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning), Dr. Janger (AHS Principal), Christina Cooney (K-12 ELA Director), Lianna Bissette (10th English teacher)

Members of the public were present in person and on Zoom.

Open Meeting

Liz Exton opened the meeting at 3:32 pm.

HGI Expansion Discussion

Dr. Janger presented slide show included in NOVUS.

With 75% students taking honors. If AHS were to return to leveled English, Level A classes would have more than 50% of students on IEPs. They are currently running into this issue in tenth grade. There are currently 4 co-taught 9th grade English classes.

Scheduling is easier with heterogeneous because there are fewer constraints on a student's schedule.

AHS/ELA department is exploring expanding HGI to 10th grade next school year. They have a good blue print based on 9th grade. Format would be the same as 9th grade. There is a team of 10th grade teachers who have been discussing and planning for this since at least summer of 2024.

Questions from subcommittee members:

Len Kardon: How to encourage teachers to implement the program in the "manner in which it's designed"?

Dr. Janger: Sometimes the students' interpretation of the assignment presents as "Honors writes two pages, Curriculum A writes one page," when it's more nuanced than that.

Paul Schlichtman: How would staffing in the department change if we did this? Who are the teachers in 10th grade and would they be on board?

Ms. Cooney: Teachers are eager to implement this. She doesn't anticipate any significant shifts in staffing.

Dr. Janger: A committee has been working on this for the last two years. Teachers self-select into the committees, per new contract, and many/most 10th grade English teachers are on the HGI committee.

Liz Exton : How will co-taught classes be staffed? Will there be a similar co-taught model to 9th grade?

Ms. Cooney: There will be 4 co-taught classes; some students have co-taught on their IEP and will have to be in one of those sections.

Question from a community member around support and placement for students with small group instruction on their IEP.

Access for some students is limited based on IEP. Intention is that this should not cut off access for any students whose needs/services are written in the IEP. AHS has tried to remove barriers from access to Honors coursework.

Community member question: Where do parents fit into this conversation? Reviewing previous years of this pilot there were a number of forums when this started. What about now? How do parents communicate with the SC/Schools?

Dr. Homan will be bringing this to full committee for approval to begin HGI in 10th grade English for the 2026-2027. She made it clear that AHS is not exploring this for Math.

Approval of Meeting Minutes - *August 5, 2025 and October 7, 2025*

On a motion by Paul Schlichtman, seconded by Len Kardon, it was voted to approve the Minutes of *August 5, 2025 and October 7, 2025*.

3-0 vote in the affirmative.

Adjournment

On a motion by Paul Schlichtman, seconded by Len Kardon, it was voted to adjourn the meeting. 3-0 vote in the affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm.

**Arlington School Committee
Curriculum Instruction Accountability and Assessment
Subcommittee Meeting
Monday, June 2, 2025
3:30 PM**

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members: Liz Exton, Paul Schlichtman, Len Kardon

Administration: Dr. Homan, Dr. Ford-Walker, Dr. Janger, Ms. Cooney

OMS Students: S. Simister, C. Fenner,

L. Exton opened the meeting at 3:41pm.

OMS Civics Project - Student Presentation

Three OMS students presented their civics project around reducing graffiti in the bathrooms. Ideas included painting the bathroom walls a darker color and using graffiti resistant paint.

The subcommittee members and Dr. Homan and Dr. Janger asked questions and provided some feedback. Dr. Homan will follow-up with their group.

Heterogeneous Grouping Initiative Update

Dr. Janger and Dr. Homan presented data on outcomes for students who have taken Heterogeneous English (Foundations of English) in 9th grade.

Data on enrollment, grades, and MCAS scores for focal groups was included in the presentation.

Dr. Janger would like to return to this subcommittee in the fall of 2025 to discuss where, if at all, to potentially expand heterogeneous grouping.

Student Services Review Update

Dr. Homan highlighted a few key pieces of feedback from the review as they pertain to the 2025-2026 District Goals.

District Goals 2025-2026 Draft

Members have shared feedback over the last two weeks. Dr. Homan will incorporate this feedback into the draft with the goal of approving the District Goals at the Jun 4, 2025 full committee meeting.

Minutes from May 12, 2025 meeting for approval

Motion to approve by Paul Schlichtman, second by Len Kardon.

Minutes approved by a vote of 3-0.

Future Agenda Items

Updates on Math
HGI Updates and next steps
Updates on DCAP/MTSS process

Schedule Future Meetings

Liz Exton will connect with Liz Diggins to preschedule meetings for 25-26SY.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by **Paul Schlichtman** , second by Len Kardon

Meeting adjourned 3-0 at 5:07pm.



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Future Agenda Items - Meeting Dates



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Old Business



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

New Business



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Adjournment (L. Exton)



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Submitted by Liz Exton