

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 10, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Bueno, Mr. Andersen, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Monroe, Mr. Veitch, Ms. Pickup

STAFF PRESENT: Mrs. Kohler, Mrs. Potter, Mr. Balestracci, Mrs. Souza, Ms. Bouchard

OTHERS PRESENT: Members of the community and staff; Ms. Silva and Mrs. Perrotti from East Fairhaven Elementary, students Carson Broome and Anna Chen from East Elementary, Ms. DaCunha, Student Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Veitch at 6:30pm.

Roll Call of Committee Members: Mr. Andersen, Ms. Pickup, Mr. Bueno, Mr. Monroe, Ms. McKenna, Mr. Veitch

Mrs. Kohler welcomed Ms. Silva, Mrs. Perrotti, and students Carson Broome and Anna Chen from East Fairhaven Elementary who will be doing a presentation on the Innovation Program. Mrs. Kohler introduced Mrs. Sheri Souza as the new Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Mrs. Kohler thanked Ms. Melissa Bouchard for her time and service with the School Department. Each of the committee member took a moment to thank Mrs. Bouchard for all her hard work and dedication to the Fairhaven School Department and Committee.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from April 26, 2023 was made by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Monroe, approved (5-0-1). Mr. Monroe abstained.

A motion to approve the minutes from May 6, 2023 was made by Mr. Bueno, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, unanimously (6-0).

Report of the Student Advisory Committee:

Ms. DaCunha reported on Spring Sports, upcoming Senior activities. Junior Spirit week was approved and will be happening next week. The Girl Up club also had the opportunity to meet with the co-founder of a Bio Tech company that works with genetic engineering.

Reports and Recommendations of the Superintendent:

Innovation Update:

Mrs. Kohler asked to take the 2nd bullet, presentation from East Fairhaven Elementary, out of order. The Chair and committee agreed. Mrs. Kohler introduced Mrs. Perrotti and the Innovation Program. Mrs. Perrotti presented the growth and success of the Innovation Program via a slide show (Attachment A). Students Anna Chen and Carson Broome shared their experiences within the Innovation Program with the Committee. The Committee as well as Mrs. Kohler commended Mrs. Perrotti, Mr. Broome, and Ms. Chen for their presentations and success within the program.

FY24 Budget Update:

Mrs. Kohler advised the committee she presented the budget request at the Town Meeting. She provided a Chapter 70 document on enrollment for the committee to review (Attachment B) to ensure facts given to the public are correct. Fairhaven is down approximately 20 students, equivalent to 1.19 percent. That number is taken into account when building our base budget. That being said we should have a 6.58 percent increase to our budget. The needs of our kids is much higher than realized. Chapter 70 is righting a wrong. Mrs. Kohler stated she will not be taking her foot off the gas regarding this topic. The Governor, the Senate, and House Committee on Ways and Means are demonstrating a commitment to this money for education. Her fight is long term and having Chapter 70 funds earmarked, then go where they are supposed to, never mind maintaining funding for programs like Innovation. Mrs. Kohler's hope is working together with the Committee over the next year to problem solve and make sure people understand the needs of our kids and the needs of our District. She will be gathering some data in terms of kids who are going into crisis. She would rather pay now to help prevent issues rather than pay later. Mrs. Kohler then shared a page from State's website showing the municipalities contributions. Mrs. Kohler presented a graph Mr. Veitch created to reiterate the data (Attachment C).

Mrs. Kohler recapped the Town Meeting recommendations. The vote was in the School Department's favor with a contingent and a non-contingent budget. If the over-ride does not happen, we will be cut \$200,000 and have to have hard conversations moving forward. Mrs. Kohler has run some ideas and numbers regarding where that money will come from if that is the case. She will present them to the Committee if needed after the vote has taken place.

Mr. Monroe stated he would like to have a speaker from DESE or MASC come and speak to this committee, the Finance Committee, as well as the Select Board in order to educate on this topic so people are not misinformed. Mrs. Kohler will look into this. She re-iterated this is a longer fight. Mrs. Kohler anticipates the same type of increase for two more years. Mrs. Kohler noted Mr. Veitch's idea of presenting information on a consistent basis throughout the year and not just at budget season. SPED costs are up approximately \$200,000 more than originally reported. The deficit will be greater than originally thought. Mrs. Kohler reports that we will need to utilize the Stabilization Account that we have with the Town to help. She would like to ask for a Special Town meeting in the fall to refill the account. The Committee continued to discuss budgeting situation and agree that people need to be educated that the needs of the children in school today are far greater than they ever have been.

Update Regarding GNBVT School Committee:

Mrs. Kohler spoke to Superintendent Watson at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. She explained to him the Committee's concerns about transparency regarding the School Committee posting. There will be a meeting tomorrow where they will go over the one applicant, Mr. Wayne Oliveira. Mr. Watson agreed to give more notice and work with what we need in the future. Mrs. Kohler stated she believes Mr. Oliveira has been a great resource and representative. Mr. Monroe stated he would like to look into the process of making this position elected rather than appointed. Mrs. Kohler will look into the process. Mr. Veitch is checking in with the Town Administrator's office to clarify the process of appointing someone to a Board and if it was followed here. He will follow up. The School Committee would like to be more involved in asking the

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candidates questions, etc. Mrs. Kohler reiterated they are willing to work with us and suggested that Mr. Watson and Mr. Oliveira be invited to a Fairhaven School Committee meeting in the future.

Overview of End of the Year Activities:

Mr. Balestracci presented electronically a list of upcoming events (Attachment D). He invited and encouraged the Committee to attend any and all events they please.

Upcoming Events:

Next meeting: May 24, 2023

New Business

Motion made to accept a donation of \$35.91 in the form of an Ocean State Job Lot gift card for the FHS Looming Club to purchase yarn by Ms. McKenna, seconded by Mr. Bueno, approved, unanimously (6-0).

Questions from Individual Committee Members:

Mr. Monroe noted he was approached about reopening regionalization with Acushnet. Mrs. Kohler stated if something more formal comes regarding the topic we will put it on the agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Bueno stated it is National Public Service week and thanked everyone for their public service.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Monroe, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved, unanimously (6-0).

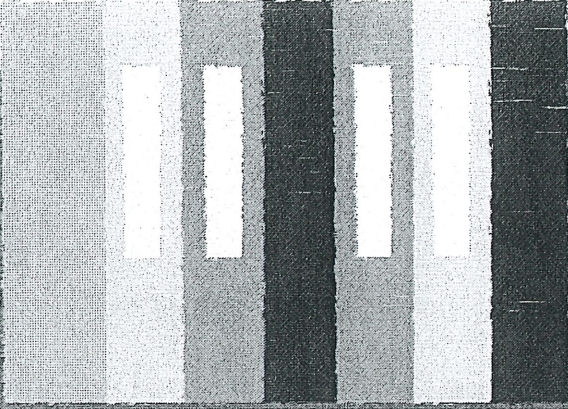
Adjourned at 7:59pm.

Attachments:

- A. East Fairhaven Elementary Innovation Program, Mrs. Perrotti
- B. Chapter 70 Enrollment Document
- C. Chapter 70 Aide vs Town Contribution Graph
- D. End of Year Schedule

Tara M. Kohler
Secretary to the School Committee
Fairhaven Public Schools

Approved
May 24, 2023



SCAN QR CODES TO SEE PICTURES AND VIDEOS

Shark Tank Projects



Coding and Robots



Kindergarten Weather



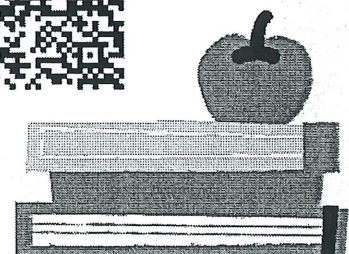
Kindness Week videos



Science Projects



All Innovation
Videos/Photos



Grade 1

Describing Patterns

In grade 1, students have more fluency with language, number sense, and inquiry skills. This allows them to describe patterns of motion between the Sun, Moon, and stars in relation to the Earth. From this understanding they can identify seasonal patterns from sunrise and sunset data that will allow them to predict future patterns. Building from their experiences in pre-K and kindergarten observing and describing daily weather, they can now examine seasonal data on temperature and rainfall to describe patterns over time. Grade 1 students investigate sound and light through various materials. They describe patterns in how light passes through and sounds differ from different types of materials and use this to design and build a device to send a signal. Students compare the ways different animals and plants use their body parts and senses to do the things they need to do to grow and survive, including typical ways parents keep their young safe so they will survive to adulthood. They notice that though there are differences between plants or animals of the same type, the similarities of behavior and appearance are what allow us to identify them as belonging to a group. Grade 1 students begin to understand the power of patterns to predict future events in the natural and designed world.

Grade 1: Earth and Space Sciences

1-ESS

ESS1. Earth's Place in the Universe

1-ESS1-1. Use observations of the Sun, Moon, and stars to describe that each appears to rise in one part of the sky, appears to move across the sky, and appears to set.

1-ESS1-2. Analyze provided data to identify relationships among seasonal patterns of change, including relative sunrise and sunset time changes, seasonal temperature and rainfall or snowfall patterns, and seasonal changes to the environment.

Clarification Statement:

- Examples of seasonal changes to the environment can include foliage changes, bird migration, and differences in amount of insect activity.

Grade 1: Life Science

1-LS

LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

1-LS1-1. Use evidence to explain that (a) different animals use their body parts and senses in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air, and (b) plants have roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits that are used to take in water, air, and other nutrients, and produce food for the plant.

Clarification Statement:

- Descriptions are not expected to include mechanisms such as the process of photosynthesis.

1-LS1-2. Obtain information to compare ways in which the behavior of different animal parents and their offspring help the offspring to survive.

Clarification Statement:

- Examples of behaviors could include the signals that offspring make (such as crying, cheeping, and other vocalizations) and the responses of the parents (such as feeding, comforting, and protecting the offspring).

Perrotti, Jennifer M <aspen-sysadmin@myfollett.com>

Wed, Mar 15,
9:28 AM

to me

Good morning, East Families!

Here is an overview of this month's lessons in Innovation Class by grade level:

Kindergarten: K students learned all about patterning and how it relates to patterns when we code robots. We are now starting a unit on how to tell if something is living or non-living. We will then do some more lessons on weather and weather solutions.

1: First graders engineered a tool to use as a back scratcher that went along with the book Big Smelly Bear. We also learned about how potatoes grow and will be sprouting potatoes very soon. We are also learning about how living things grow, change and adapt to their environments.

2: 2nd grade has been learning about properties of materials and testing out what materials are best for different jobs. We also engineered leprechaun traps and will be learning to code our Sphero Bolt robots with block coding. Our next several lessons will be on how materials used to build things or materials when cut up maintain their weight and other properties.

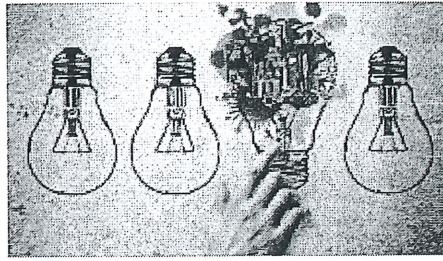
3: 3rd grade students designed their dream room this month. We are also working on an Arctic engineering unit where students design items needed to escape the arctic circle. We will be starting work on animal traits and adaptations soon.

4: 4th grade has been busy learning about types of codes such as morse and binary code. They also learned the difference between encoding and decoding messages and were able to create their own secret code. Then they created binary code bracelets with their initials. Next, we are starting a unit on animal and plant adaptations.

5: 5th grade is learning to use block code to code our Sphero Bolt robots. They are also starting several lessons on Food Webs and composting. We will be creating composting bottles which we will observe over the next several weeks.

All the best,

Mrs Perrotti, Innovation Teacher



Dear East Families,

I am so excited to be teaching your student at East Fairhaven Elementary School. My name is Mrs. Jennifer Perrotti and I have taught in the Fairhaven School system since 2004. I was a first grade teacher at Oxford and East from 2004-2019, and I am now so lucky to be the Innovation Specialist for East Fairhaven, grades K-5. We will be exploring the national Next Generation Science Standards that Massachusetts has adopted. They combine science, technology, engineering, art, and math to help our scholars be well-rounded, flexible thinkers.

What is innovation class?

- Lessons are based on the national science standards for each grade.
- Students will be inventing, building, creating, conducting research and engineering.
- Students will be guided through critical thinking when faced with a challenge or mistake.
- Students will show what they know in new ways.

Why is active learning and STEAM education important?

- Active learning is so important because students are engaging with the content. This promotes a deeper understanding and a better recall of the information.
- The critical thinking required in STEAM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math) education will prepare our students to become valuable players in a global and ever changing world. Students are gaining problem solving and task management skills while covering important curriculum standards.

Innovation class aims to help students in their daily lives and prepare them for the future.

- Students practice teamwork, making decisions, and respectful disagreement.
- Students must work through a problem without having all the answers and outcomes pre-planned.
- Students practice problem solving in each class and learn how to see problems from a different perspective.
- Students learn patience and that some projects cannot have an immediate answer, outcome, or completion date.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME WITH QUESTIONS OR IDEAS AT jperrotti@fairhavenps.net. Follow our class on twitter @jperrotti_efs
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AND YOUR SCHOLARS!

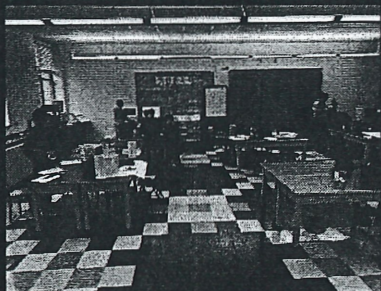
DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING



Students get a chance to explore with robots and create their own coding paths.

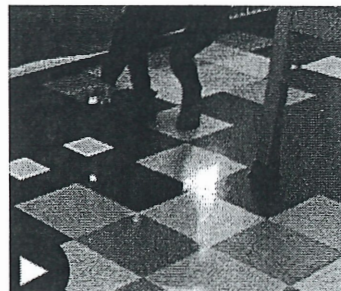


Students can show what they have learned with a video.



Students are encouraged to explore their own ideas and interests with projects like Shark Tank inventions.

Students are sometimes able to choose the learning they will do that day, such as robots, constructing with items from class, or making a video.



Projects can be a physical item, like this boat, a written document, a video, or a variety of options.

Students explore important science concepts in a space where they can explore and create their own connections and understanding.



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
 FY24 Chapter 70 Summary

94 Fairhaven



Aid Calculation FY24

Comparison to FY23

			FY23	FY24	Change	Pct Chg
Prior Year Aid		Enrollment	1,679	1,659	-20	-1.19%
1 Chapter 70 FY23	9,027,153	Foundation budget	22,300,571	23,768,493	1,467,922	6.58%
		Required district contribution	13,273,418	14,136,790	863,372	6.50%
Foundation Aid		Chapter 70 aid	9,027,153	9,631,703	604,550	6.70%
2 Foundation budget FY24	23,768,493	Required net school spending (NSS)	22,300,571	23,768,493	1,467,922	6.58%
3 Required district contribution FY24	14,136,790					
4 Foundation aid (2 -3)	9,631,703	Target aid share	35.49%	33.45%		
5 increase over FY23 (4 - 1)	604,550	C70 % of foundation	40.48%	40.52%		
		Required NSS % of foundation	100.00%	100.00%		
Minimum Aid						
6 Minimum \$30 per pupil increase	49,770					
7 Minimum aid amount (if line 6 - line5 > 0, then line 6 - line5, otherwise 0)	0					
Subtotal						
8 Sum of 1,5,7	9,631,703					
Minimum Aid Adjustment						
9 Minimum aid adjustment	9,076,923					
10 Aid adjustment increment (if line 9 - line 8 > 0, then line 9 - line 8, otherwise 0)	0					

Five Year Trend



Student Opportunity Act

Overview

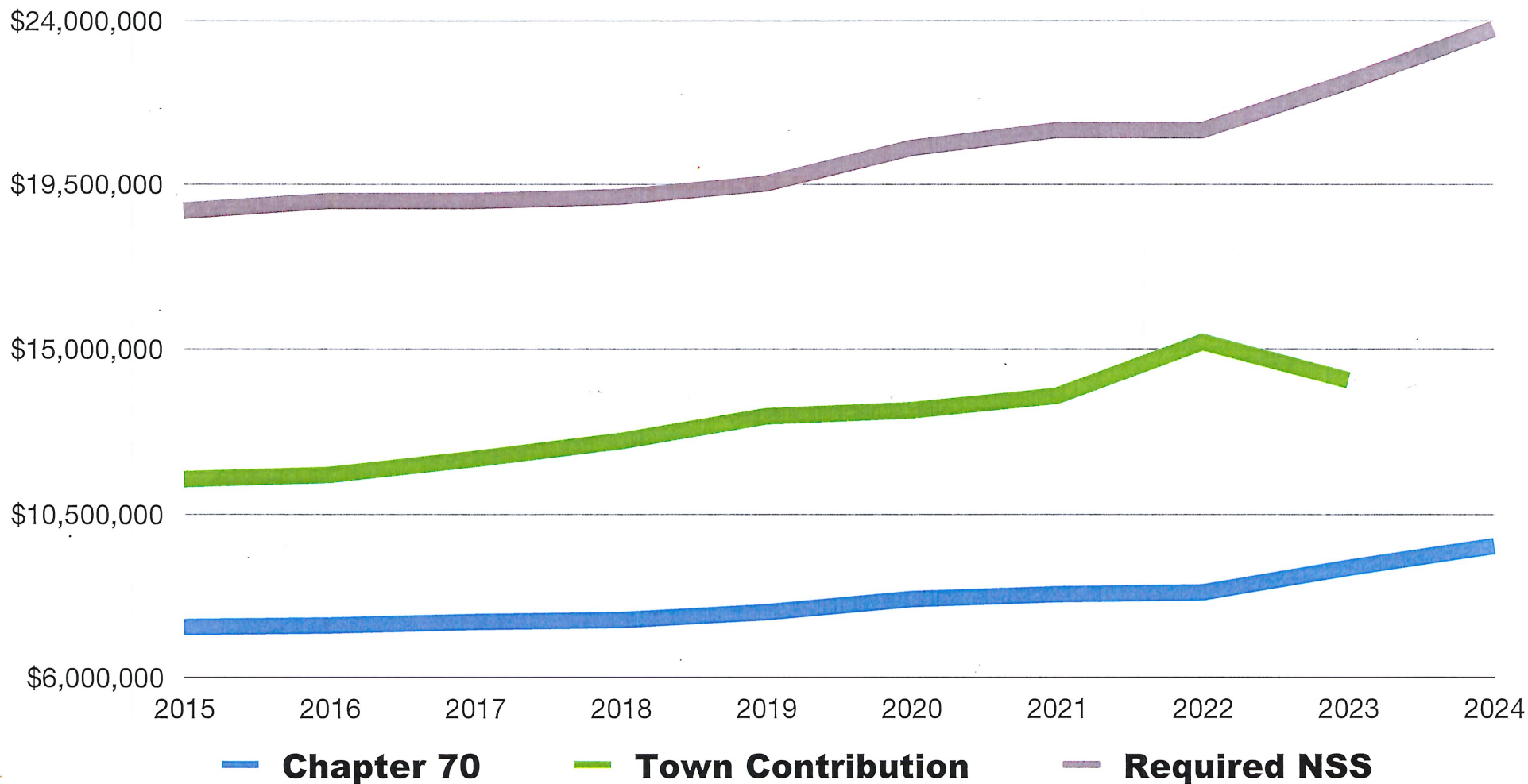
The [Student Opportunity Act](#) (Chapter 132 of the Acts of 2019) ushered in a new phase in the Commonwealth's commitment to ensuring that **every** student in the state experiences high-quality learning opportunities that lead to success in school and in postsecondary success.

Background and Context

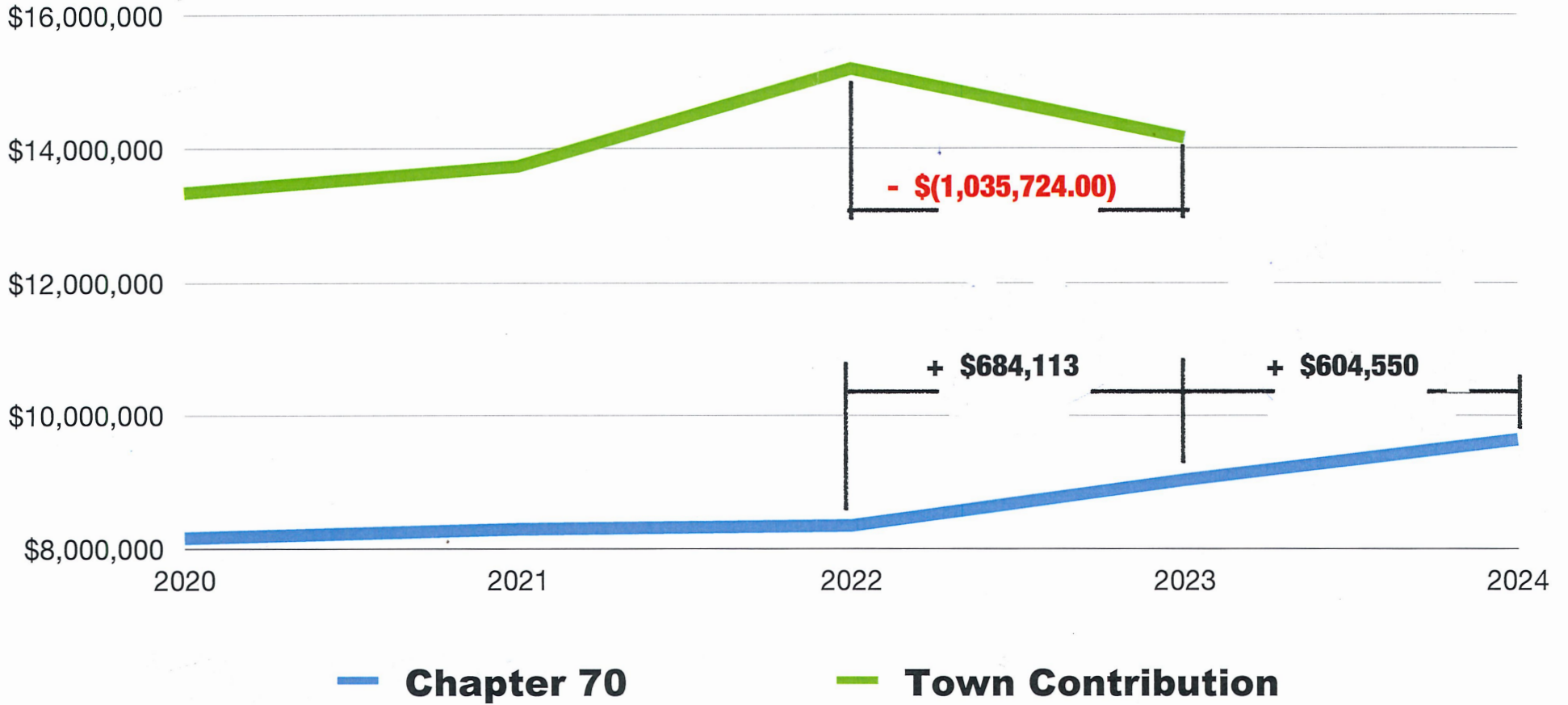
Overall, Massachusetts leads the nation on many measures of student learning experiences, student achievement, and postsecondary success for its students. However, a closer look reveals **inequitable gaps in experiences and outcomes across racial and ethnic groups, in economically disadvantaged communities compared to higher income communities, for students with disabilities relative to their non-disabled peers, and for English learners compared to students whose first language is English.**

"Closing these gaps is our collective work for the next decade, and the SOA will fuel our efforts to ensure all students achieve at high levels and are prepared for success after high school." — Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley

Chapter 70 State Aid vs Town Contribution



Chapter 70 State Aid vs Town Contribution



**Fairhaven Public Schools
End of Year Events Schedule
SY 2022-2023**

East Fairhaven Elementary School

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wednesday, May 31, 2023	Field Day K-5	9 AM - 2 PM	EFS: outside
Thursday, June 1, 2023	Senior Walk	12:00 PM	Schoolwide
Monday, June 12, 2023	Fifth Grade Fun Day	9 AM - 2 PM	EFS: outside
Friday, June 9, 2023	All-School Picnic	11:00 AM	EFS
Tuesday, June 13, 2023	Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony	5:30 PM	EFS Gymnasium
Wednesday, June 14, 2023	Moving Up Day	1:30 PM	EFS

LeRoy Wood School

Date	Event	Time	Location
Tuesday, May 30, 2023	Field Day K-5	9 AM - 2 PM	Wood School outside
Thursday, June 1, 2023	Senior Walk	12:00 PM	Wood School
Thursday, June 8, 2023	Fifth Grade Fun Day	9 AM - 2 PM	Wood School outside
Monday, June 12, 2023	Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony	5:30 PM	Wood School Gymnasium
Tuesday June 13, 2023	Moving Up Day	1:30 PM	Wood School

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School

Date	Event	Time	Location
Thursday, May 18, 2023	NJHS Induction	5:30 PM	EHMS Auditorium
Thursday, May 18, 2023	Unified Arts Exhibition	6:00 PM	EHMS Gymnasium
Tuesday, May 23, 2023	Spring Concert	6:30 PM	EHMS Cafeteria
Thursday, June 1, 2023	Senior Walk	12:00 PM	EHMS
Monday, June 5, 2023	Grade 5 Step-Up Day	9:00 AM	EHMS
Monday, June 5, 2023	Grade 8 Field Trip	7:45 AM	YMCA-RI
Thursday, June 7, 2023	8th Grade Graduation	5:00 PM	EHMS Gymnasium
Wednesday, June 14, 2023	Field Day	8:00 AM	Schoolwide

Fairhaven High School

Date	Event	Time	Location
Tuesday, May 16, 2023	Spring Music Concert	7:00 PM	FHS PAC (\$5 admission)
Friday, May 19, 2023	Senior/Junior Prom	5-10 PM	US Naval Base Newport, RI
Friday May 19- Saturday May 20	After Prom	11:00 PM -5:00 AM	FHS PAC/Gym
Tuesday May 30, 2023	Senior Field Night	7:00 PM	FHS Alumni Stadium
Wednesday, May 31, 2023	Senior Class Trip	7:30 AM - 7:00 PM	Six Flags
Thursday, June 1, 2023	Senior Walk	9:30 AM-2:00 PM	Feeder and elementary schools (includes Acushnet)
Thursday, June 1, 2023	National Honor Society Induction	7:00 PM	FHS Gymnasium
Friday, June 2, 2023	Jr. Day	7:30-11:25 AM	FHS Gymnasium

Friday, June 2, 2023	Yearbook Distribution/Pizza party	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	FHS Cafeteria
Sunday, June 4, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Breakfast• FHS Vespers• Graduation	9:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM	FHS Cafeteria PAC FHS Alumni Stadium