



**To:** School Committee of the Newton Public Schools  
**From:** Renee McCall, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning  
**Date:** January 4, 2024  
**Re:** Teaching and Learning Update

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Teaching and learning is the center of what we do in the Newton Public Schools, and we engage in an ongoing curriculum review to ensure that the needs of all learners are met. In alignment with our commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences and remaining current with educational best practices, a comprehensive review helps us to center students' unique needs, address shifts in teaching practices, and incorporate revisions in content standards.

Cultural responsiveness is a central tenet in our approach to curriculum and instruction that increases rigor and relevance of content reflective of diverse perspectives and experiences. We also incorporate opportunities to build future readiness in our students through learning experiences that foster creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication. Additionally, we are in the process of selecting assessment data to populate our district's performance dashboard to work in tandem with our curriculum reviews. This process will help us determine the degree to which we are reaching mastery of standards and whether our curricula are the most aligned to current research and established expectations. The dashboard will also be used to help inform our budgetary decision-making in the coming months—both in terms of curricular needs, intervention needs, training and staffing needs.

A detailed update at our 1/8/24 school committee meeting will provide you with a comprehensive overview by content area contained on the new family-facing K-8 curriculum site. A proposed, phased curriculum review timeline will also be presented that consists of: assessing, researching, and developing a plan; piloting and providing professional development; implementing curriculum; and evaluating its rollout. This cycle will be replicated for all subject areas on a continuous cycle.

Lastly, we are strategically addressing the need to fine-tune systems and structures to support an effective multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) model that has strong tier 1 instruction and effective intervention and enrichment systems across the district to address our students' specific academic, social, and emotional needs.

I look forward to sharing our progress and insights with you during the meeting. Your support is appreciated as we continue to refine the learning experience for all Newton Public Schools students.