

Early Childhood Education

Why do we need additional educational space?

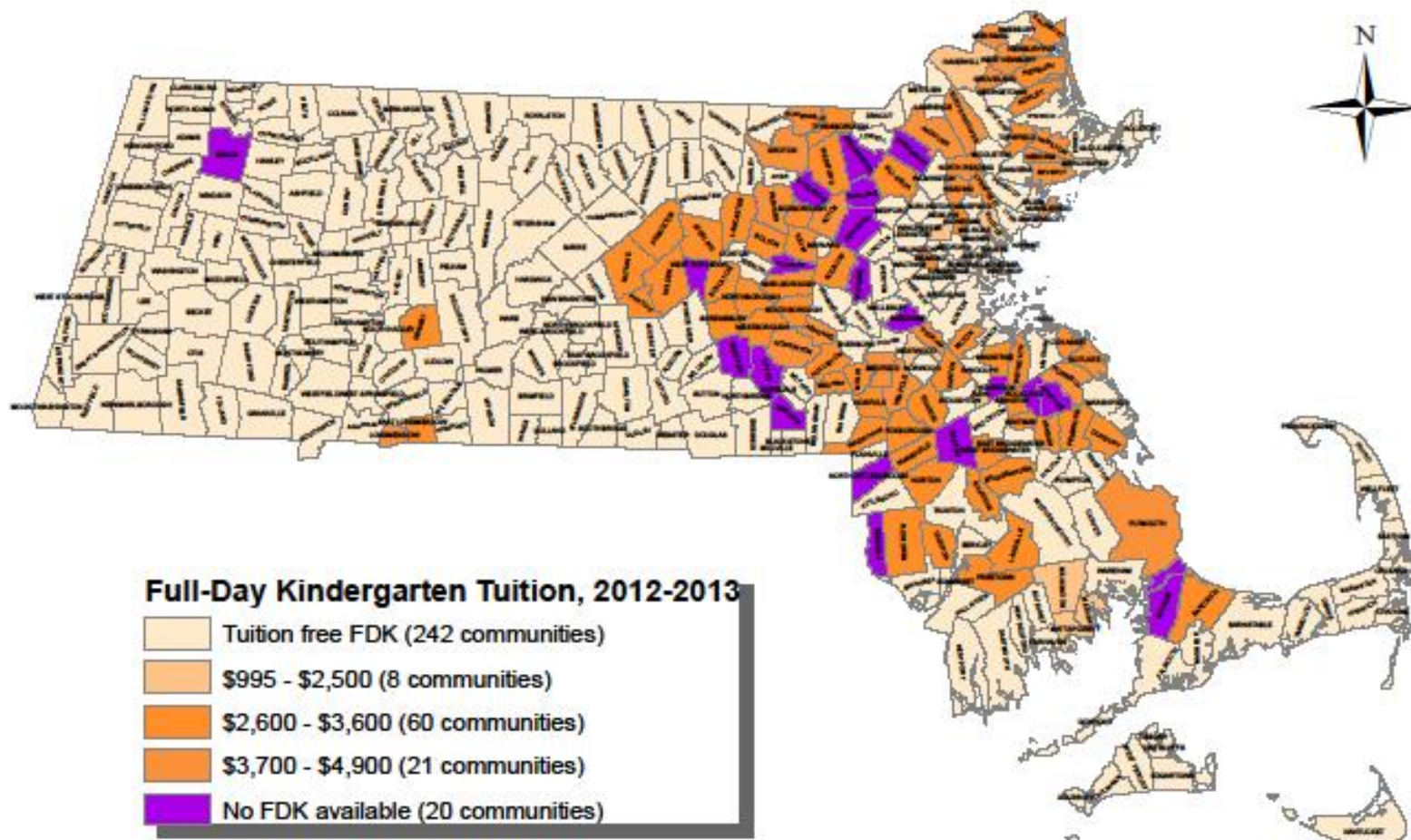


Space Needs Driven By

- Full Day Kindergarten
- RISE Preschool
- Special Education
- Art and Music



Tuition Rates for Full-Day Kindergarten by City/Town, 2012-2013 School Year



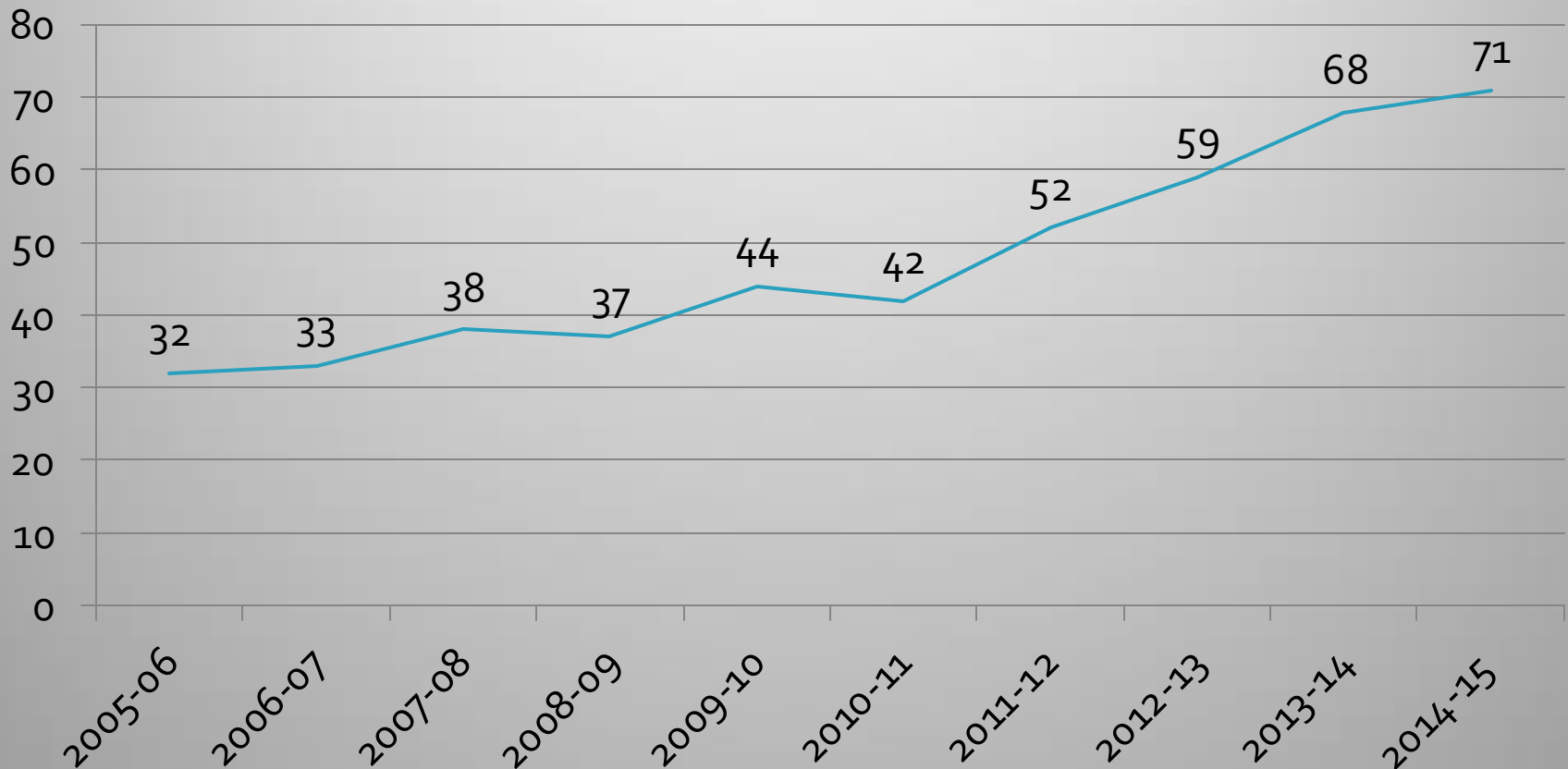
73 school districts (serving 89 cities/towns) charge tuition for full-day kindergarten. Average annual tuition is \$3,240. Statewide, 87% of public school kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day kindergarten.
Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

FDK Enrollment (2005-2014)

School Year	FDK Enrollment	Total	% Attending FDK
2005-06	92	287	32%
2006-07	106	325	33%
2007-08	123	324	38%
2008-09	120	324	37%
2009-10	123	280	44%
2010-11	145	348	42%
2011-12	166	319	52%
2012-13	177	302	59%
2013-14	195	287	68%
2014-15	228	322	71%

FDK Enrollment

Percent of Full Day Kindergarten Students (2005-2014)



RISE preschool space needs

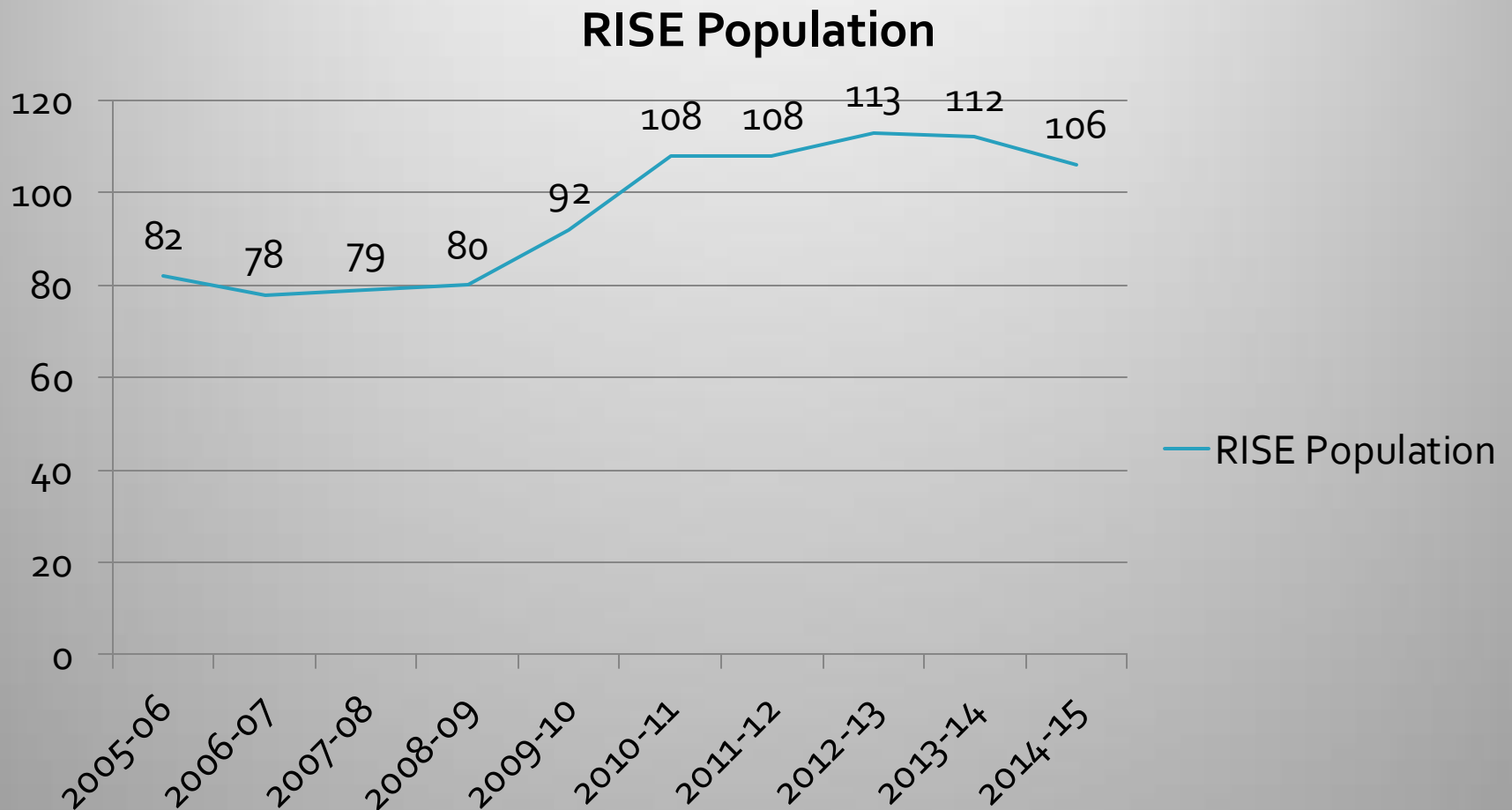


RISE Population

(June 1st Enrollment)

Year	General Education	Special Education	Number of Classrooms	Total
2005-06	46	36	4	82
2006-07	43	35	4	78
2007-08	42	37	4	79
2008-09	45	35	4	80
2009-10	49	43	5	92
2010-11	56	52	5	108
2011-12	52	56	5	108
2012-13	60	56	7	116
2013-14	66	46	7	112
2014-15 (As of 10/1/14)	73	43	7	106

RISE Population



What are current space needs at RISE?

Since 2005, we have increased from 4 to 7 RISE classrooms due to

- Increased special education referrals
- State mandated student ratio at integrated schools

Increasing enrollment has led to inadequate space for

- Music education
- Student services and therapies
- Private meeting space for teachers, parents, and therapists
- Storage
- One central location for preschool

Why increase enrollment at RISE to meet parent demand?

1. Improve the learning environment for all students
2. Reduce our risk of being out of compliance with state regulations
3. Create equal access to public education
4. Increase revenue to support preschool program

Programmatic Changes and Space Needs



PreK-5 Program Changes Since 2005

Program Change	Classrooms Allocated in 2005-06	Classrooms allocated in 2014-15
Full Day Kindergarten	5	12 (Including 2 Integrated K Schools)
Special Education Programs (DLC, ILP, SSP, LLD)	1	7
RISE Preschool	4	7
Art/Music	10	7

Classrooms Usage

(2014-15)

Program/Type	Barrows	Eaton	Birch Meadow	Wood End	Killam	RISE
Total General Classrooms	17	20	18	18	22	4
Classrooms Used	18	21	18	18	22	7 (2 from WE)
Art	1	1	1	1/2 size	1	0
Music	0	0	1	1/2 size	0	0
Special Education	1	2	2	2	1	0
Other Spaces Used as General Classrooms	1	1	0	0	2	1

Program/Type	Barrows	Eaton	Birch Meadow	Wood End	Killam	RISE
Existing FDK/RISE Classrooms	2	3	3	2	2	4
Existing HDK Classrooms	1 (Music Room)	0 (Integrated)	0 (Integrated)	1	1	0
Existing Special Education Classrooms	1 (LC)	2 (LC; P)	2 (LC; P)	2 (LC;P)	1 (LC)	0
Existing Overflow Classroom Spaces for population increases	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total RISE spaces currently used				2		5
Total FDK Classrooms Needed if FDK was fully implemented	3	4	3	3	4	
Additional FDK Classrooms Needed Above Existing Classrooms if FDK Fully Implemented	1	2	0	0	2	
Additional RISE Classrooms Needed to meet demand						3
Additional Special Education Classrooms Needed to have a K-2 and 3-5 LC and a K-2 and 3-5 program space	1	2	2	2	2	
Additional Art/Music Classrooms Needed if FDK Classrooms are added	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Additional Classrooms Needed for Space Needs, RISE and FDK	2	4	2	2	4	4

Current strategies to address FDK and RISE space needs

- Added 2 satellite RISE classrooms at Wood End
 - Next year we have a waiting list of 25 preschool students for RISE
- Reduced number of Art and Music Rooms at four of five schools
- Assigned students to schools outside of their district
- Created ad-hoc, inconsistent solutions
 - Integrated FDK/HDK classrooms at some schools
 - Reduced HDK class sizes at Barrows

Chronology of Process



Summary of Early Childhood Discussion

- **January, 2011-**
Discussions began on elementary space needs and FDK discussions
- **November, 2011-**
Elementary Space Study approved by Town Meeting
- **June, 2012-**Elementary Space Study Completed (Locker Report)



Summary of Early Childhood Discussion

- **July, 2012-November, 2012**-Space options studied
- **October, 2012**-School Committee vote to support implementation of FDK
- **April, 2013**-LOI reached with St. Agnes for Woburn Street



Summary of Early Childhood Discussion (Continued)

- **April, 2013**-Al3 begins Feasibility study on Woburn Street
- **May, 2013-August, 2013**- Meetings with Community and Town Officials on Woburn Street
- **August, 2013**-Financial Forum to Discuss Project
 - Woburn Street no longer an option
- **October, 2013**-Working group formed
- **October, 2013-March, 2014**- Working group identifies options and makes recommendations



Summary of Early Childhood Discussion (Continued)

- **April, 2014**-Town Meeting does not approve design for early childhood center
- **May, 2014-August, 2014**-Geotechnical Study completed on Oakland Road site and 5 school conceptual study completed
- **October, 2014**-Early Childhood Space Needs Working Group Formed



Community Involvement Since 2011

- 26 School Committee Meetings
- Town Day 2013
- 2 Town Meeting Updates
- 3 Financial Forums
- 10 Working Group Sessions
- 8 Community Informational Sessions

Review of Options



Matrix Used By Working Group

■ Education

- Adequate Program and Classroom Space
- Optimize educational resources (staffing and materials)
- Allows for Innovative 21st Century Environment
- Outdoor Play Space and educational opportunities
- Increase educational opportunities for all Pre-K-K Age children
- Relieve program space at other levels (i.e. elementary and high school)
- Avoids disruption to current educational settings
- Can be executed in a timely fashion

Factors Used By Working Group

■ Parents

- Improvement to current or future learning environments
- More centrally located
- Improves early childhood education

Factors Used By Working Group

■ Community

- Provides additional indoor recreational space
- Provides outdoor space
- Provides other community benefits
- Represents sustainable design options
- Represents good community wide planning

Factors Used By Working Group

■ Site

- Convenient for parents, teachers, and students
- Capable of supporting adequate parking
- Located in an area where abutters will be supported
- Convenient for walkers
- Capable of adequate bus and car circulation
- Acceptable to local Town Departments
- Minimize traffic impacts

Options Considered

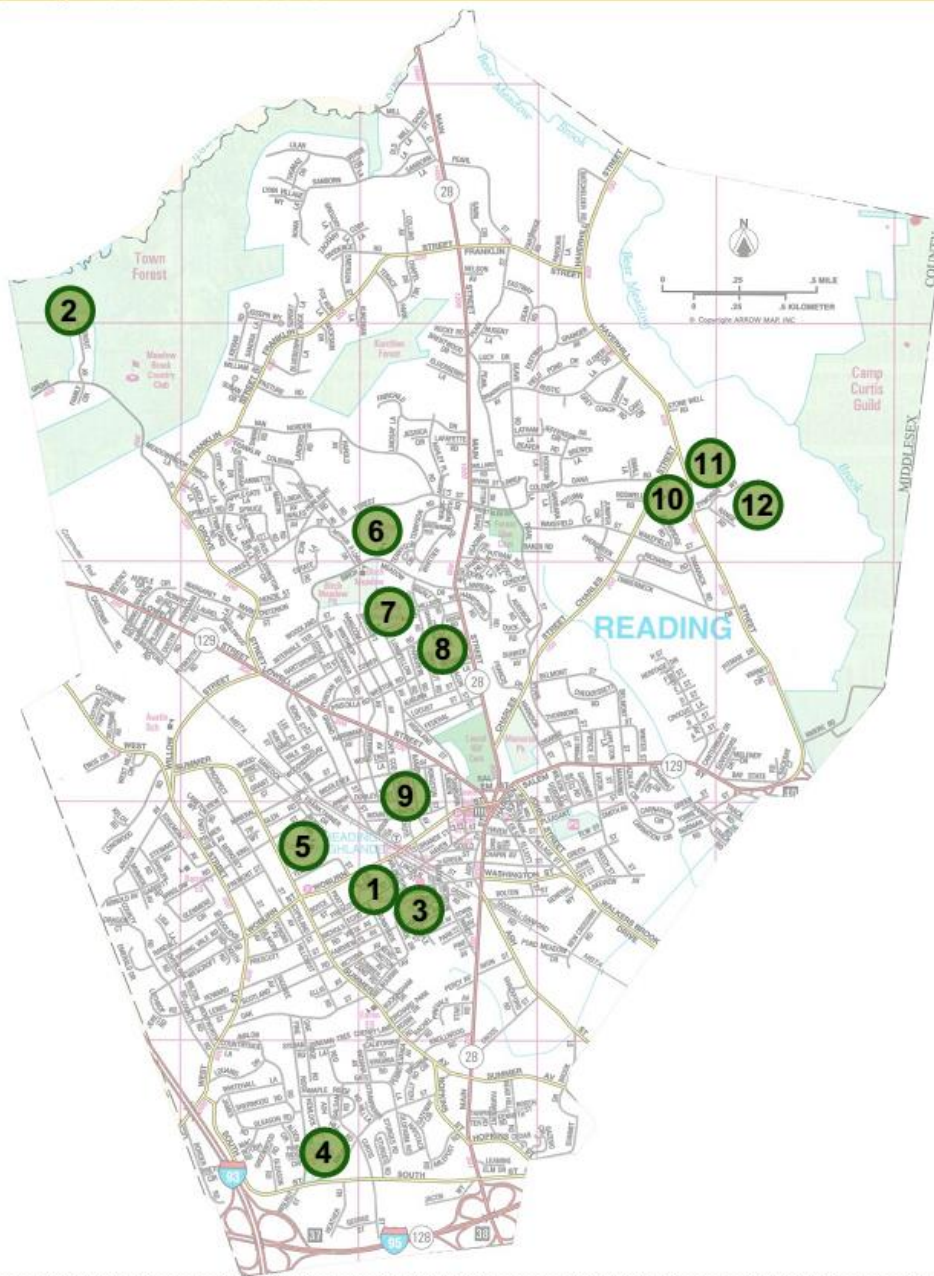


Major Options Reviewed By Working Group (Over 30 Discussed)

- Rent space
- Purchasing and renovating existing space (i.e. Woburn Street)
- Adding on to each elementary school
- Moving grade 5 to Middle Schools
- Building two smaller Early Childhood Centers
- Building a new full size Early Childhood Center
 - Just Kindergarten
 - Pre-K and Kindergarten
 - Pre-K and Kindergarten with Central Office

12 Sites Analyzed:

1. Woburn Street School Site
2. Reading Water Treatment Site
3. Washington Park
4. Sturges Park
5. Parker Middle School
6. Coolidge Middle School
7. Existing High School Site
8. Oakland Street Site(s)
9. Reading Public Library
10. Killam Elementary School
11. 453 Haverhill Street
12. Symonds Way Parcel



12 Building Options Analyzed

OPTIONS: 1,2,3 & 7

67,802sf Early Childhood Learning Center

OPTION 4:

(2) 49,697sf Early Childhood Learning Center

OPTION 5:

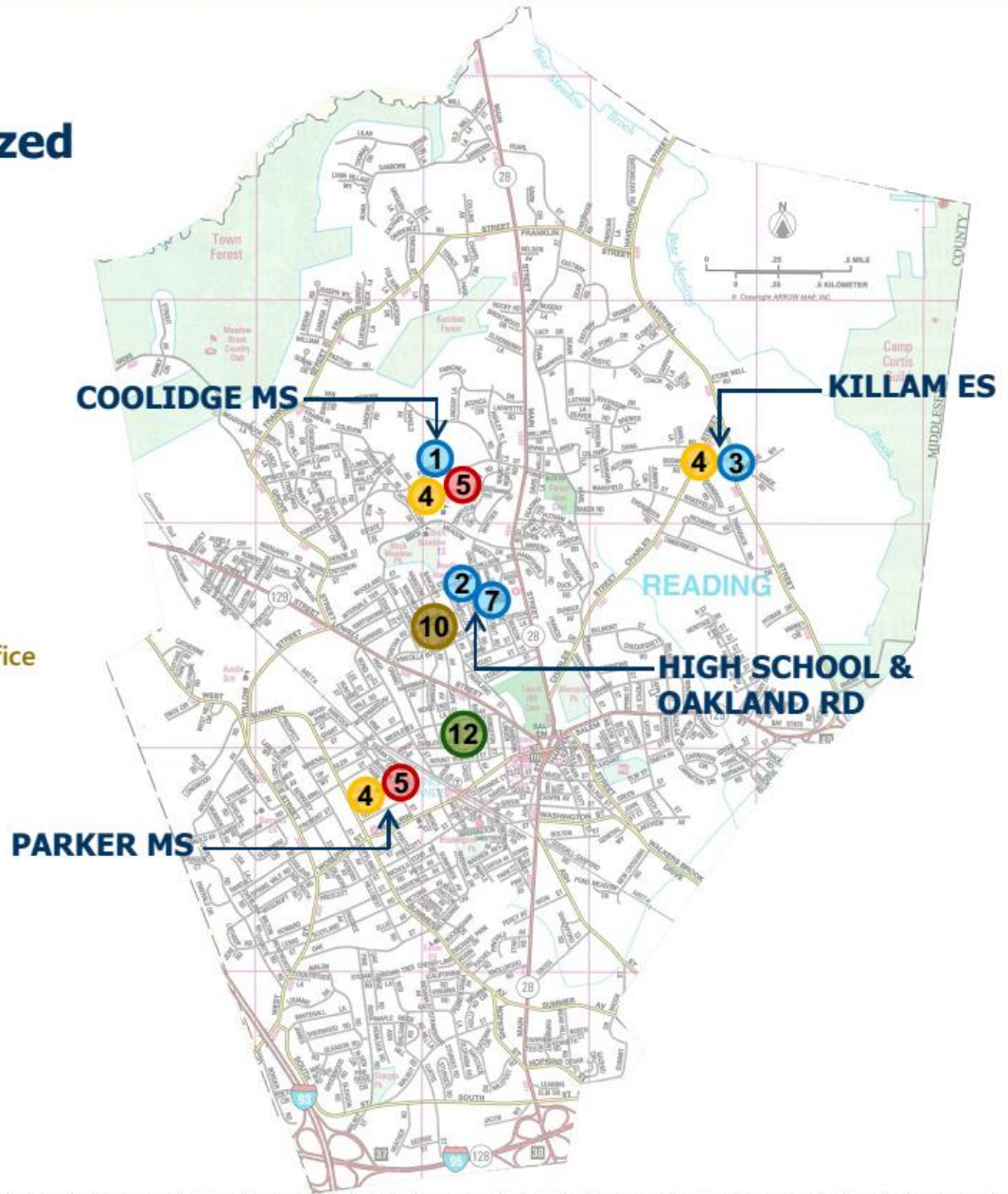
Additions @ Coolidge & Parker for 5th Grade

OPTION 10:

77,952sf Early Childhood Learning Center
with new Central Offices & Renovated Central Office
High School Space

OPTION 12:

Reading Public Library



Early Childhood Learning Center Reading Public Schools

Feasibility Study

SITE	OPTION	TOTAL of All Construction Costs	Building Cost	Site Cost	** Mark Ups
1 New 67,802sf ECLC @ Coolidge HS & Soccer Field @ High School	Option 1 Pre-K & K ECLC 67,802sf Coolidge HS Site Coolidge Replace Soccer Field @ HS Site- Option 1a Coolidge Replace Soccer Field @ HS Site- Option 1b	\$25,700,687 - \$27,358,765			
2 New 67,802sf ECLC @ High School Site	Option 2 Pre-K & K ECLC 67,802sf High School Site	\$25,757,985	\$15,594,460	\$2,239,386	\$8,904,039
3 New 67,802sf ECLC @ Killam School Site	Option 3 Pre-K & K ECLC 67,802sf Killam HS Site	\$22,952,824	\$15,594,460	\$1,640,400	\$5,708,744
4 Small ECLC @ Coolidge, Parker, & Killam Schools	Option 4 [1] Pre-K & K Smaller facilities Coolidge HS Site Coolidge Replace Soccer Field @ HS Site- Option 1a Coolidge Replace Soccer Field @ HS Site- Option 1b Parker HS Site Killam HS Site	\$36,376,679 - \$41,085,157	\$11,937,280	\$2,025,969 \$2,291,992 \$8,960,059 \$2,796,354	\$4,618,596 \$2,291,992 \$8,960,059 \$4,703,232
5 Additions @ Coolidge & Parker School Sites	Option 5 Additions for 5th Grade Coolidge HS Site Coolidge Replace Soccer Field @ HS Site- Option 1a Coolidge Replace Soccer Field @ HS Site- Option 1b Parker HS Site	\$21,812,126 - \$25,678,504	\$5,581,960	\$1,696,059 \$2,291,992 \$8,960,059	\$2,363,767 \$2,291,992 \$8,960,059
6 Parking @ Oakland Road Site	Option 6 Parking Lot at Oakland Road Site	\$1,985,783			
7a New 67,802sf ECLC @ Oakland Road Site	Option 7a Pre-K & K ECLC 67,802sf Oakland Road Site	\$25,569,362	\$15,594,460	\$8,615,176	\$6,359,626
7b New ECLC @ Oakland Road Site	Option 7b Pre-K & K ECLC 67,802sf Oakland Road Site	\$25,656,792	\$15,594,460	\$1,681,503	\$8,351,829
8 Kindergarten Only ECLC @ HS Site	Option 8 Kindergarten Only ECLC 52,577sf Assumes High School Site	\$19,574,439		\$12,638,995	\$2,289,886
9 Kindergarten ECLC, & Central Offices @ HS Site	Option 9 Kindergarten Only ECLC & Central Offices 76,179sf Assumes High School Site	\$29,811,779		\$13,137,895	\$2,289,886
10 Pre-K & K ECLC, Central Offices in new Building & Renovate HS Central Offices for HS space	Option 10 Pre-K & K ECLC & Central Offices (10,590sf) 77,52sf Assumes High School Site Renovation of Existing Central Offices @ Existing High School 1,502 sf @ 50166 / sf	\$27,791,488	\$17,938,960	\$2,239,386	\$8,804,588
11 Pre-K & K ECLC, Parking Under & Bridge @ HS Site	Option 11 Pre-K & K ECLC & Parking Under New School w/ Pedestrian Bridge 68,852sf Building & Bridge Assumes High School Site	\$35,808,450	\$17,231,900	\$2,239,386	\$8,377,564
12 Reading Public Library	Option 12 Reading Public Library 88,588sf under program requirement Existing Building Only (no addition included)	\$12,592,513		\$0	NA

* Assumes High School Parking Lot

** Includes General Conditions, excavation, loads, insurance, overhead & profit, design & pricing contingency

OPTION

2

Construction Cost
w/ additional parking
& site amenities:
\$26,239,037

OPTION

10

Construction Cost
w/ additional
parking & site
amenities:
\$30,292,540

Further Review of More Discussed Options

Why not add on to elementary schools?

- Only 2 of the 5 elementary school sites (Birch, Eaton) are rated as “good” candidates for expansion, one school (Wood End) is rated fair, and the other two (Killam, Barrows) are rated poor
- Total cost for construction only (not other fees) would be over 12 million dollars
- No available space for temporary re-location during construction
- Logistics and timeline for simultaneous construction projects
- Would not address preschool space issue

(Source: KBA Report, 2013)

Why modular classrooms at Elementary are not an option

- Only 3 of the 5 school sites are suitable for modular installations
- Would need 3 to 4 modular classrooms per school (if all five sites were suitable)
- If modular units were connected to any of the three schools, schools would have to have full fire sprinkler protection, adding \$1.6 to \$2.0 million to the cost
- Parent and community survey indicates that over 60% of respondents are opposed to modular classrooms
- Would not address other challenges such as high school space or growth of pre-school
- Not a permanent solution

Why Grade 5 Option is Not Feasible

- Disrupt current middle school structure and philosophy
- Does not address preschool space issues
- Current core spaces (cafeteria, gym, library, art, music) would not be able to accommodate an additional grade of students
- Parking and traffic flow issues at Parker

Why building a 6th Elementary School is not feasible

- Proximity to Birch Meadow
- Redistricting
- Operating costs increased
 - More personnel needed for specialists
- Only 2 teachers per grade
 - Less educator collaboration
 - Possible fluctuations in class size
- Preschool distributed throughout all six schools

Why Woburn Street Site did not work

- Cost estimates significantly higher than originally anticipated (15.1 million dollars)
- Parking and traffic during drop off and pick up times
- Tight site space with no alternative street access
- Concern that students from only two school districts (Barrows and Eaton) would attend

Additional Information

How will the additional elementary classroom space be used?

- Separate art and music classrooms
- Additional special education program and learning center space that is currently needed
- Address unanticipated class size issues and “bubbles”
- Space use for other innovative early childhood interventions, such as extended kindergarten (an additional year of kindergarten for students not quite ready for Grade 1)

Factors to Consider for Operational Costs (Separate ECC versus Building Based)

- Staffing
 - Teachers/Specialists
 - Paraeducators
 - Administrators
 - Support Staff (Secretary, Custodian
- Furniture, Curriculum Materials, Technology
- Utilities
- Maintenance

Operational Costs

- Most staffing already exists
 - RISE Director/Principal
 - Rise Secretary
 - RISE Staff
 - FDK Staff for 72% of Kindergarten population; HDK for remaining 28%
- Additional costs that may be needed depending on option
 - Staffing
 - Custodian, school nurse, clerical support staff, and incremental increases to specialists (reading, OT, PT, speech)
 - Full day staff for remaining half day kindergarten classes
 - Utility, repair, and maintenance costs
 - Additional transportation costs
 - Minimized because of location
- Most will be offset by additional Chapter 70 Funding
 - For 320 Full Day Students = 1.1 million dollars
 - Current offset to budget = \$825,000

Other Possible Thoughts

- Moving Superintendent's/Administration Office elsewhere and expanding RISE
- Oakland Road Site
- Building separate spaces at each elementary school
- Revisiting other options

Final Thoughts



What if we do nothing?

- Achievement gap issues will continue
 - Increased operational costs to address those gaps
- FDK for will continue to be a tuition-based program available only to students whose families can afford it
- Some students will not have access to tuition based FDK
 - Less tuition revenue
- Other programmatic demands (i.e. special education programs) will require us to use more classroom space
- Special education compliance issues will not get addressed
Students will continue to be assigned to schools outside their home district
- Class sizes will increase due to lack of classroom space

Thank You

