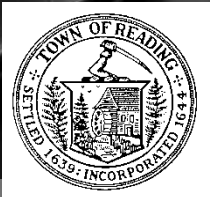


State of the Schools

Town Meeting

Fall 2015

Reading Public Schools



Massachusetts Association of
School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.)
Superintendent Award for
Academic Excellence

Superintendent's Award

Paul Chong
Class of 2016

Reading Public Schools



Superintendent's Awards

Isabel Azevedo

Class of 2016

Reading Public Schools



Highlights and Accomplishments

Reading Public Schools



Accomplishments

- PreK-12 Effort
- Post Secondary Education-93%
- 16 National Merit Commended Scholars
- Strong MCAS Scores

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Technology and Engineering

- Over 1200 Devices in District
- Upgraded Wireless Infrastructure at Middle Schools and High School
- Piloting Science Program in K-5
- Engineering Classes in Grades 7-12
- Robotics Teams in Each School
- RMHS Hosted First Robotics Event Last March

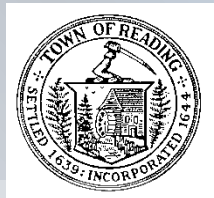
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Co-Curricular, Extra-curricular, Athletics

- Strong participation (over 400 students) in Extended Day Program
- RMHS has 87 Clubs and Athletic Teams
- 85% of students participate in at least 1 activity
- 5 Middlesex League Championships
- Girls Hockey Team: Division 1 State Championship
- Gold Medal Marching Band, Jazz Band and Color Guard
- Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards
- Six different shows in 2014-15 school year

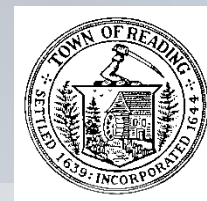
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Mary Poppins



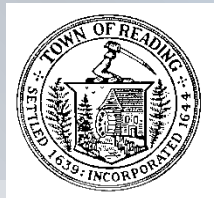
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Leader in State

- National, State, and Regional Presentations
- 2 Administrators on Safe Schools Commission
- Curriculum Framework Implementation
- Behavioral Health
- Technology Integration

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Finance and Operations

- Center for American Progress Report
 - 4th Highest Educational Productivity Rating in Our Commonwealth
- Collaboration with the Town
 - Analysis of Revolving Accounts
 - Facilities Restructuring
 - Human Resources
 - Technology and Networking

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Modular Classrooms

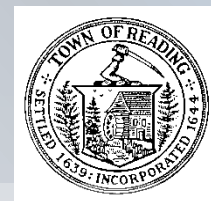
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Data Sources/Methods Used

- Community Forum Discussions
- Walker Associates Special Education Report (March-June)
- RPS Student Survey (Administered in February/March)
- RPS Staff Survey (Administered in January)
- 2015 MCAS Data
- Staff Exit Interview Information
- Some YRBS Data (Full Presentation on October 19th)
- District “Rankings” from Other Publications
- Other Documents and Presentations

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Community Forums and Data Collection

■ Strengths

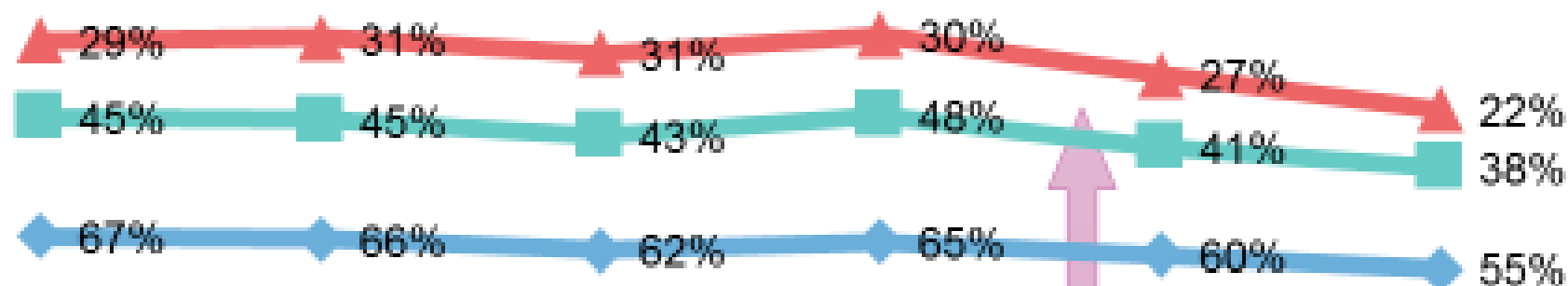
- Quality and dedication of teaching staff
- Students
- Parents
- Special Education Programs
- Extracurricular Activities and Athletics
- Access to Technology
- Extended Field Trips

Reading Public Schools



Underage Drinking Rates & Policy Implementation

Ever Used Alcohol Recent Alcohol Use Recent Binge Drinking



2009-2010
Town Liquor Policy
Implemented
& HSD Compliance
Checks

2011-2012
School Chemical
Health Policy &
Police Zero Tolerance
Policy
Implemented

Big Picture: Substance Use

From 2005*-2015, the following areas slightly increased negatively:

Areas to Watch

Ever used Ecstasy by 1%

Rx, Cocaine, Smokeless Tobacco recent use by 2%

Ever used Heroin, Meth, Steroids by 2%

Ever used Hallucinogens by 3%

Ever used Inhalants by 6%

*2005 represents a smaller sample (9-11).

Areas of Concern

- Emotional Health of Students
 - YRBS Increases in depression, long term feelings of sadness, suicidality
 - 55 Students Hospitalized (2014-15 School Year at RMHS)

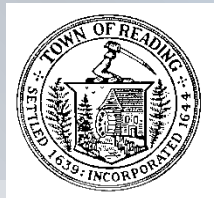
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How we are addressing concerns

- School Transformation Grant
 - Multi-tiered systems of Support
- Mental Health First Aid Grant
 - Over 250 Staff Trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid
- RCASA Grant

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Partners in School Safety



School Funding

- Reading ranks 305 out of 326 Communities in Massachusetts in Per Pupil Expenditure
 - 118 out 125 communities in Metro Boston

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Time of Transition

When Resources Are Necessary

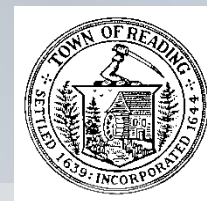
- Updating our science curriculum
- Providing time and support for staff to implement new curricula
- Improve special education services and programs
- Need additional tutorial and social emotional support for struggling students
- Have dedicated health education classes at elementary and middle school
- Provide Tuition Free Full Day Kindergarten
- Increase Advanced Placement and elective offerings
- Changing the High School Graduation Requirements
- Attract Quality Candidates and Retain Top Staff

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Thank You.

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