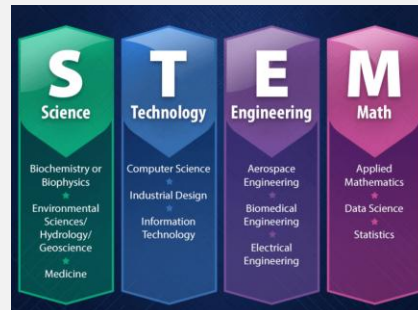


CONCORD EDUCATION UPDATE



September 2025

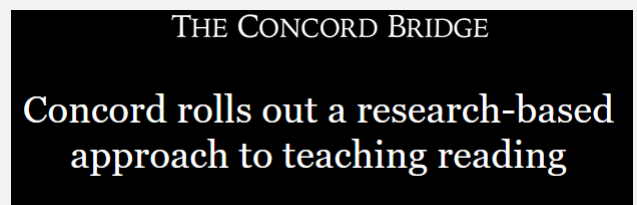
CCHS Ranked #1 in STEM...Again!



For the second year in a row, CCHS was ranked the #1 STEM high school in the state by U.S. News and World Report, and 16th in the nation. Over-all Concord received a score of 96.17/100, with a ranking of 30th in the State, putting CCHS ahead of 92% of other ranked high schools in MA.

New K-5 Reading Curriculum Rolled Out, \$367K in Grants Received

The roll-out of the **new** CPS K-5 reading curriculum has begun. [EL Education](#) is replacing the current program and will be phased-in over time. Dr. Hunter recently announced the application for and awarding of a \$376K grant to help defray costs. Rooted in the science of reading, the goal is to increase literacy proficiency via this new approach. Read the Bridge coverage [here](#).



\$70K in Grants to Combat Antisemitism and Anti-Racism Received, Complaint Update

According to an [update](#) from Superintendent Hunter, \$70K in grants were applied for/awarded to, “support our anti-Semitism action plan as well as our goals in LGBTQ and anti-racism this year. Training, programming, and materials will allow us to further the work and promote discussions with students and staff about creating a welcoming and safe environment where everyone feels that they belong.”

As many are aware, an [ADL complaint](#) was filed June 30th, “alleging that administrators’ mishandling of antisemitic abuse allowed the targeting of Jewish students and forced at least one to transfer out of the district.” Superintendent Hunter sent several progress updates (example from [August 1](#)) over the summer and there has been ongoing community/school cooperation to address this issue. Read [this letter](#) from the rabbi at Kerem Shalom.

Amenities Building at CCHS: August 19 Vote Failed

The project passed at Town Meeting on June 2, with 72% voting yes. However, despite broad support for this \$1.4M project, **voters rejected the question at the polls August 19**, effectively killing funding for the project as a borrowing article. Bridge [coverage](#).

The unheated, rented, unlit plastic porta-potties at this 1700-seat community-use facility (CCHS Memorial Fields) continue to violate the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (and plumbing codes). **What's Next:** Superintendent Hunter is planning to file an application to the CPC for funding, to avoid taxpayer impact. Hopefully the schools/town will find another way to fund/build this much-needed facility.



SC Supports/Praises Plan For New Training Facility To Honor Maisey O'Donnell

As reported in the [Bridge](#), "The O'Donnells went before the School Committee last week, as The Beede Swim and Fitness Center is on the CCHS campus...School board members unanimously praised the O'Donnells' plan, which would add space and equipment for divers to practice maneuvers safely, with trampolines and harnesses, before transitioning to the pool."

Funds are being raised to support this project, honoring the CCHS senior who tragically lost her life in a car accident with two other CCHS seniors April 21. Learn more at communityfoundationmw.org/maisey-odonnell-fund/.

CCGS: JOIN US!

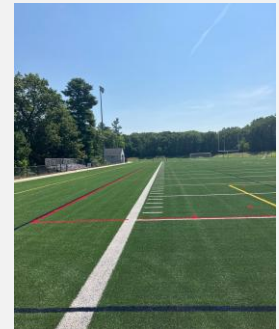
Please forward this email to anyone interested in supporting our schools and ask them to sign up for this email newsletter. Here is the [LINK to subscribe](#).

We are seeking involved Concordians and fellow parents looking to be more-informed so they can help support our Great Concord Schools! Learn more about CCGS [here](#).

New Turf Installed at Doug White Fields at CCHS, No Impact to Taxpayers

Using \$1.49M donated by the non-profit Friends of Concord-Carlisle Playing Fields, the town has completed the artificial turf replacement. This is great news and shows how public/private partnerships can benefit our schools/town.

As reported in the [Bridge](#): "A replacement project at the Doug White Fields wrapped up last month — just in time for fall sports... Town Manager Kerry Lafleur hailed the success. "The facility is beautiful," she said."



New Thoreau Playground Nearing Completion, Community Fundraising Goals Exceeded

\$637,041 raised of **\$610,000** goal



The new playground is almost done! With a design focused on inclusivity, inspiration from nature and fun, the "Thoreau's Backyard" project was funded via community donations, which exceeded a \$610K fundraising goal. According to the [Bridge](#), Principal "Sparks said officials planning Thoreau's campus upgrades were "trying to be creative with funding sources," understanding that the school budget could not absorb all the costs."

GET INVOLVED!

Here are some things you can do to involve yourself and learn about the issues that impact our schools/town:

- **Please attend the next SC meeting TOMORROW NIGHT, Wednesday September 10.** 6:00PM at the Ripley Building. Agenda and zoom link [here](#).
- **Join us!** Our goal is to inform and educate on issues related to education in Concord. Please pass this newsletter on to involved parents and fellow Concordians and [join our mailing list here](#).