

 **Source Reference:** 2026-03-01_Ron_Hoga

 **Original File:**

20260301125237RonHoganrhogan@CITYOFMALDENORG_PiazzaPeter_ppiazza@maldenpsorg_16.en

From: Ron Hogan
To: "Piazza, Peter"
Date: Sun, 01 Mar 2026 17:52:37 +0000
Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

Hi Peter,

No worries about questions....all are welcome and help develop the level of understanding necessary on this important topic.

We've been above NSS for quite a few years until 2025. One challenge is that the calculation of where you land relative to actual spend can't be done until after the year is over because you need actuals....and you are 'guessing' at things like health insurance, and even things like charter school tuition and reimbursement which change a LOT from early estimates.

As for the future, and I've said this publicly....at some point, mathematically the city will not be able to meet this minimum spend. We are struggling now greatly, and the formula says we SHOULD be able to take another \$ 10 million from other areas of the budget and put it toward schools (and the state would reduce chapter 70 by the same). How that all plays out is really the question. Councillor Spadafora had talked in the past about court challenges. That's a big swing but who knows. But to answer your question, it's naive to believe that the city can just keep blindly meeting a number so flawed while crushing every other service. Just a matter of how that manifests itself I guess!

Hope that helps a bit.

Best

Ronald B. Hogan
Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148
rhogan@cityofmalden.org
(617) 548-9256

From: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 12:46 PM
To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

Hi again Ron,

One more (hopefully quick) question: Am I correct in assuming that Malden has funded its schools below its RLC in the past and we might have to do that again going forward without a Prop 2.5 override? I've heard that argument that schools will be untouched if the override doesn't pass, and I want to understand if that is a reasonable assumption- e.g., without an override, we'd still meet the RLC therefore: no cuts to schools, but collateral cuts to other city services.

Does that seem right? Many, many thanks for all your help/expertise on this!

Best,
Peter

On Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 12:35 PM Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org> wrote:

Great- thanks, again!

On Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 12:31 PM Ron Hogan <rhogan@cityofmalden.org> wrote:

>

> Yes July 1!

>

> Ronald B. Hogan

> Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

> 7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148

> rhogan@cityofmalden.org

> (617) 548-9256

> _____
> From: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>
> Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 11:32 AM
> To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
> Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo
>
> Thanks again, Ron. Super helpful. One last quick question (for now):
> Am I correct in thinking that the new budget year begins July 1, 2026?
> Many thanks and good luck with this storm!
>
> On Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 9:39AM Ron Hogan <rhogan@cityofmalden.org>
wrote:
> >
> > Hi Peter,
> >
> > Yes that's correct on the \$501k....it's basically what's called 'minimum aid'
largely driven by the decrease in enrollment at MPS.
> >
> > On the deficit, it's a timing issue. We don't know what actual NSS
spending/compliance is until we are into the next budget year. So we found
out after the FY26 budget was in progress that FY25 came up short....and if
FY25 is short, then it's reasonable to think FY26 is by at least the same
because we use the prior year as a foundation in trying to determine the
increase needed to keep up with NSS.
> >
> > Hope that makes sense!
> >
> > Ronald B. Hogan
> > Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer
> > 7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148
> > rhogan@cityofmalden.org
> > (617) 548-9256
> > _____
> > From: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>
> > Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 2:21 PM
> > To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
> > Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

> >

> > Thanks, Ron! Good to have an in-house expert in something so important

> > and yet also so opaque. Along those lines, I did have a few questions:

> >

> > -- Am I right in understanding that: state aid for Malden schools is

> > expected to increase by only \$501,000 in fiscal year 2027, which is

> > \$5.3 million less than the state received in increased aid during

> > fiscal year 2026.

> > -- And, I'm also wondering about this line: "We know we have a \$1.6

> > million deficit from FY25 and that immediately gets added to the FY27

> > required net school spending at 2X to account for the reasonable

> > expectation that the FY25 deficit will also need to be made up for

> > FY26 at a minimum." Does this mean that we'll be on the hook for \$3.2

> > million in FY27? I'm just trying to understand what the "2x" part of

> > that sentence means.

> >

> > Many, many thanks!

> >

> > Peter

> >

> >

> > On Wed, Feb 18, 2026 at 1:04 PM Ron Hogan

<rhogan@cityofmalden.org> wrote:

> > >

> > > Thanks Peter, and welcome! I am a bit passionate about the topic and have become sadly an expert, so if you ever want more reading I can probably bore you to death!

> > >

> > > Always happy to help!

> > >

> > > Best

> > >

> > > Ronald B. Hogan

> > > Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

> > > 7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148

> > > rhogan@cityofmalden.org

> > > (617) 548-9256

> > >

> > > From: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>

> > > Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:56 PM

> > > To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>

> > > Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

> > >

> > > Hi Ron,

> > >

> > > I am the new school committee rep for Ward 6, and I just wanted to thank you for putting together this enormously helpful memo. I've also learned a lot from your previous memos about the Required Local Contribution. I definitely find it all interesting (as well as concerning).

> > >

> > > So, just wanted to thank you and to make sure you had my email address. All the best!

> > >

> > > Peter

> > >

> > > On Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 5:10 PM Sippel, Timothy
<tsippel@maldenps.org> wrote:

> > >

> > > Greetings, Mayor Christenson and Members of the School Committee.

> > >

> > > I am forwarding the attached memorandum at the request of Ron Hogan, Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer for the City of Malden.

> > >

> > > Thank you as always for your support.

> > >

> > > Sincerely,

> > >

> > > Tim

> > >

> > > --

> > >

> > > Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.

> > > Superintendent of Schools

> > > Malden Public Schools

> > >

> > >

> > > ----- Forwarded message -----

> > > From: Ron Hogan <rhogan@cityofmaiden.org>

> > > Date: Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:28 PM

> > > Subject: FY27 School Funding Memo

> > > To: Gary J. Christenson <gchristenson@cityofmaiden.org>, Amanda Linehan <alinehan@cityofmaiden.org>, Peg Crowe

<pcrowe@cityofmaiden.org>, Paul Condon <pcondon@cityofmaiden.org>,

Ryan O'Malley <romalley@cityofmaiden.org>, Ari Taylor

<ataylor@cityofmaiden.org>, Stephen Winslow

<swinslow@cityofmaiden.org>, Chris Simonelli

<csimonelli@cityofmaiden.org>, Jadeane Sica <jsica@cityofmaiden.org>,

Michelle Luong <mluong@cityofmaiden.org>, Karen Colón Hayes

<kcolonhayes@cityofmaiden.org>, Carey McDonald

<cmcdonald@cityofmaiden.org>, Jennifer Spadafora

<jspadafora@maidenps.org>

> > > Cc: Maria Luise <mluise@cityofmaiden.org>, Charles A. Ranaghan

<cranaghan@cityofmaiden.org>, Daniel Grover

<dgrover@cityofmaiden.org>, Tim Sippel <TSippel@maidenps.org>, Mertz,

Toni <tmertz@maidenps.org>

> > >

> > >

> > > Hi,

> > >

> > > Attached please find a memo reviewing FY27 school funding in light of the recently released DESE worksheets. I hope you find it helpful and as always happy to answer questions.

> > >

> > > Best

> > > Ron

> > >

> > > Tim/Toni: Would you be so kind as to forward to the school committee as the only two MPS emails for school committee showing as choices for me are the Mayor and Jen who I've copied here.

> > >

> > > Ronald B. Hogan

> > > Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer
> > > 7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148
> > > rhogan@cityofmalden.org
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