
FY27 School Funding Memo

rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 4:28:02 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: gchristenson@cityofmalden.org Gary J. Christenson, alinehan@cityofmalden.org Amanda Linehan, pcrowe@cityofmalden.org Peg Crowe, pcondon@cityofmalden.org Paul Condon, romalley@cityofmalden.org Ryan O'Malley, ataylor@cityofmalden.org Ari Taylor, swinslow@cityofmalden.org Stephen Winslow, csimonelli@cityofmalden.org Chris Simonelli, jsica@cityofmalden.org Jadeane Sica, mluong@cityofmalden.org Michelle Luong, kcolonhayes@cityofmalden.org Karen Colón Hayes, cmcdonald@cityofmalden.org Carey McDonald, jspadafora@malDENPS.org Jennifer Spadafora
Cc: mluise@cityofmalden.org Maria Luise, cranaghan@cityofmalden.org Charles A. Ranaghan, dgrover@cityofmalden.org Daniel Grover, TSippel@malDENPS.org Tim Sippel, tmertz@malDENPS.org Mertz, Toni

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
(617) 548-9256

Attachments:

FY27FundingOverviewMayorCouncilSchoolComm.docx 120k

tsippel@malDENPS.org Sippel, Timothy

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 5:10:10 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: ehorte@malDENPS.org Elizabeth Hortie, mikedrummey@malDENPS.org Michael Drummey, robmccarthy227@gmail.com Robert McCarthy, gchristenson@cityofmalden.org Gary J. Christenson, dmacklin@malDENPS.org Dawn Macklin, ppiazza@malDENPS.org Peter Piazza, srose-zeiberg@malDENPS.org Sharyn Rose-Zeiberg, kbernard@malDENPS.org Keith Bernard, jspadafora@malDENPS.org Jennifer Spadafora
Cc: alangston@malDENPS.org Ariana Langston, tmertz@malDENPS.org Toni Mertz, rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

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

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Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Malden Public Schools

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ron Hogan** <rhogan@cityofmalden.org>
Date: Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:28 PM

Subject: FY27 School Funding Memo

To: Gary J. Christenson <gchristenson@cityofmalden.org>, Amanda Linehan <alinehan@cityofmalden.org>, Peg Crowe <pcrowe@cityofmalden.org>, Paul Condon <pcondon@cityofmalden.org>, Ryan O'Malley <romalley@cityofmalden.org>, Ari Taylor <ataylor@cityofmalden.org>, Stephen Winslow <swinslow@cityofmalden.org>, Chris Simonelli <csimonelli@cityofmalden.org>, Jadeane Sica <jsica@cityofmalden.org>, Michelle Luong <mluong@cityofmalden.org>, Karen Colón Hayes <kcolonhayes@cityofmalden.org>, Carey McDonald <cmcdonald@cityofmalden.org>, Jennifer Spadafora <jspadafora@maldenps.org>

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tsippel@maldenps.org Sippel, Timothy

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To: tmertz@maldenps.org Toni Mertz, tmeagher@maldenps.org Tess Meagher, smclaughlin@maldenps.org Sarah McLaughlin, alangston@maldenps.org Ariana Langston, pmacdonald@maldenps.org Pamela Macdonald, kbhasin@maldenps.org Komal Bhasin

FYI

--

Timothy Sippel, Ed.L.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Malden Public Schools

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sippel, Timothy** <tsippel@maldenps.org>

Date: Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 5:10 PM

Subject: Fwd: FY27 School Funding Memo

To: Elizabeth Hortie <ehortie@maldenps.org>, Michael Drummey <mikedrummey@maldenps.org>, Robert McCarthy <robmccarthy227@gmail.com>, Gary J. Christenson <gchristenson@cityofmalden.org>, Dawn Macklin <dmacklin@maldenps.org>, Peter Piazza <ppiazza@maldenps.org>, Sharyn Rose-Zeiberg <srose-zeiberg@maldenps.org>, Keith Bernard <kbernard@maldenps.org>, Jennifer Spadafora <jspadafora@maldenps.org>

Cc: Ariana Langston <alangston@maldenps.org>, Toni Mertz <tmertz@maldenps.org>, Ron Hogan <rhogan@cityofmalden.org>

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: rhogan@cityofmalden.org

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 12:56:08 PM Eastern Standard Time

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rhogan@cityofmalDEN.org Ron Hogan

To: ppiazza@malDENps.org Piazza, Peter

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 1:04:16 PM Eastern Standard Time

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Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 12:56 PM
To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

Friday, February 20, 2026 at 2:21:23 PM Eastern Standard Time

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 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 > ----- Forwarded message ----- > From: Ron Hogan > Date: Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:28 PM > Subject: FY27 School Funding Memo > To: Gary J. Christenson , Amanda Linehan , Peg Crowe , Paul Condon , Ryan O'Malley , Ari Taylor , Stephen Winslow , Chris Simonelli , Jadeane Sica , Michelle Luong , Karen Colón Hayes , Carey McDonald , Jennifer Spadafora > Cc: Maria Luise , Charles A. Ranaghan , Daniel Grover , Tim Sippel , Mertz, Toni > > > 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 > (617) 548-9256

rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan
To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 9:39:44 AM Eastern Standard Time

Hi Peter,

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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.

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To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>
Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

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ppiazza@maidenps.org Piazza, Peter
 To: rhogan@cityofmaiden.org Ron Hogan

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 11:32:51 AM Eastern Standard Time

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 9:39 AM Ron Hogan wrote: >
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rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan
To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 12:31:07 PM Eastern Standard Time

Yes July 1!

Ronald B. Hogan
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7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148
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From: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>
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> > 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
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ppiazza@maidenps.org Piazza, Peter
 To: rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 12:35:09 PM Eastern Standard Time

Great- thanks, again! On Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 12:31 PM Ron Hogan 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 > Sent: Monday, February 23, 2026 11:32 AM > To: Ron Hogan > 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 9:39 AM Ron Hogan wrote: > > > > Hi Peter, > > > > Yes that's correct on the

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
To: rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 12:46:48 PM Eastern Standard Time

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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.

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rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 12:52:37 PM Eastern Standard Time

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

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ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter
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Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 8:42:34 PM Eastern Standard Time

Thank you, Ron. This is again enormously helpful. I particularly appreciate you responding on a Sunday. As you may have seen, I've have a prop 2.5 override resolution on the agenda for tomorrow's school committee meeting- I've relied heavily on your memos (about the RLC and about more recently about the preliminary budget #s) and your email feedback to help me understand the issue. I've tried to summarize/reiterate those points in my resolution and in the comments I've planned for tomorrow. We'll see how it goes!

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 > > > 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
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 > > To: Gary J. Christenson <gchristenson@cityofmalden.org>, Amanda Linehan <alinehan@cityofmalden.org>, Peg Crowe <pcrowe@cityofmalden.org>, Paul Condon <pcondon@cityofmalden.org>, Ryan O'Malley <romalley@cityofmalden.org>, Ari Taylor <ataylor@cityofmalden.org>, Stephen Winslow <swinslow@cityofmalden.org>, Chris Simonelli <csimonelli@cityofmalden.org>, Jadeane Sica <jsica@cityofmalden.org>, Michelle Luong <mluong@cityofmalden.org>, Karen Colón Hayes <kcolonhayes@cityofmalden.org>, Carey McDonald <cmcdonald@cityofmalden.org>, Jennifer Spadafora <jspadafora@maldenps.org>
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rhogan@cityofmalden.org Ron Hogan

Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:25:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

To: ppiazza@maldenps.org Piazza, Peter

Thanks Peter for diving in and wanting to understand this. There's no doubt that this entire 'thing' has to all work together....and no one should be thinking 'not us' in terms of the impact if this formula doesn't get addressed. It's natural to think that we would be biased, and we are, toward Malden....BUT in this case there are just so many objective measurements to show just how much this community is being treated unfairly by this. This override is a stopgap....it won't replace a fix for this thing. Thank you again!

Ronald B. Hogan
 Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer
 7 Jackson Street Malden, MA 02148
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From: Piazza, Peter <ppiazza@maldenps.org>

Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 8:42 PM

To: Ron Hogan <rhogan@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG>

Subject: Re: FY27 School Funding Memo

Thank you, Ron. This is again enormously helpful. I particularly appreciate you responding on a Sunday. As you may have seen, I've have a prop 2.5 override resolution on the agenda for tomorrow's school committee meeting- I've relied heavily on your memos (about the RLC and about more recently about the preliminary budget #s) and your email

feedback to help me understand the issue. I've tried to summarize/reiterate those points in my resolution and in the comments I've planned for tomorrow. We'll see how it goes!

On Sun, Mar 1, 2026 at 12:52 PM Ron Hogan <rhogan@cityofmalden.org> wrote:

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
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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

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> 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 9:39 AM 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!

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>> Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 2:21 PM

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