

# K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee

July 21, 2022 Presentation  
7:00 PM @ Francis Farm



Committee Members	
Mike McBride	Chair
Jay Crandall	Vice-Chair
T J Maynard	Clerk
Susan Ohsberg	Member
Kelly Doran	Member

# Presentation Agenda

- Introduction of Committee Members
- Dighton-Rehoboth Regionalization History
- What would happen if the town votes to withdraw our K-8 from the District?
- How would it affect our current faculty?
- Potential benefits to Rehoboth Students
- Special Education Programs
- Financial considerations
- Summary
- Question from the public

# Key Events Rehoboth Schools 1952 - 2022

**1952** - Palmer River Elementary School is built by the Town of Rehoboth. Expanded in 1960.

**1958** - Rehoboth and Dighton enter into an agreement to jointly build and share a new High School. K-8 are separate and remain the responsibility of each Town. Costs are divided on a “Cost per student basis”.

**1969** – Beckwith Middle School is built by the Town of Rehoboth Expanded in 1997.

**1987** - Dighton and Rehoboth regionalize their K-8; mainly to take advantage of the State funding on transportation.

**1993** - Massachusetts institutes Chapter 70 to ensure sufficient funding is available to meet minimum education standards for each student. This would be the basis for how schools receive State Aid. The State determined each municipality’s minimum contribution amount toward its foundation budget.

**2007** - Massachusetts issued guidance for Regional School Districts which allowed each District to use either the statutory or alternative method to calculate the assessment of each member. Unless all District members agree to use an alternative method, the District must use the statutory method by default.

**2014** - This statutory method was first implemented by Dighton-Rehoboth Regional District. The “cost per student” method, which we had originally agreed upon with Dighton, was now replaced with an assessment based on wealth. This increased Rehoboth’s share of the “operating budget” to 65% and Dighton’s share to 35% which no longer reflected actual enrollment.

**2018** - Rehoboth passed a \$2.1M override to fund the District.

**2019** - DESE assumed financial control of the District after Rehoboth rejected the District’s assessment at three separate Town meetings. DESE then forced the Town to pay a higher assessment than the one the residents approved.

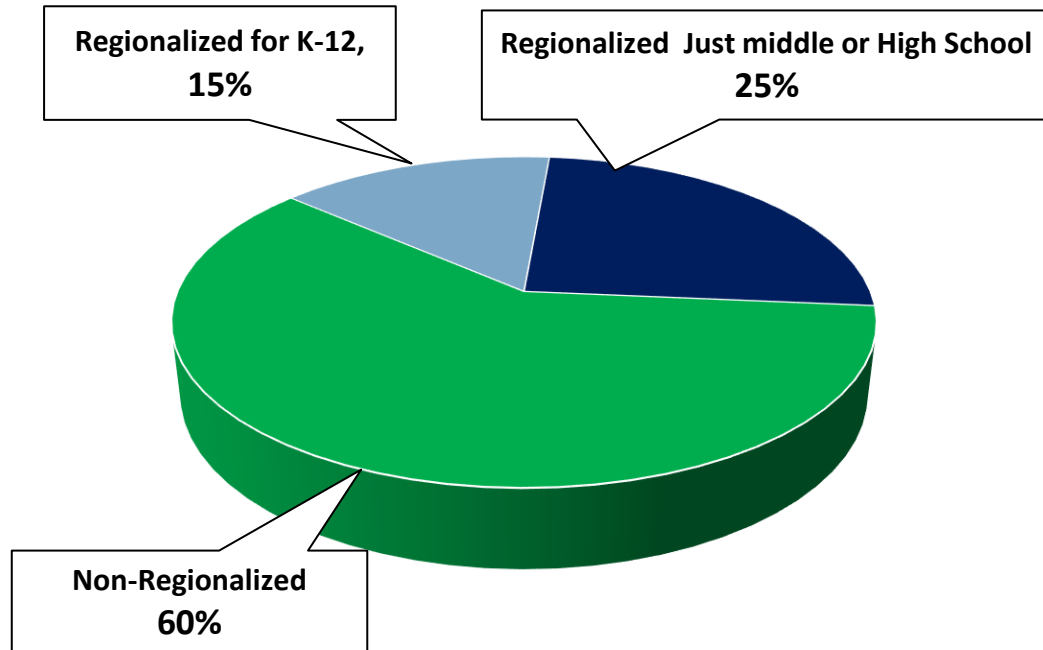
**2022** - The District had a state-certified excess fund of \$5.738M

# Regionalization in Eastern Massachusetts



## HOW POPULAR IS REGIONALIZATION?

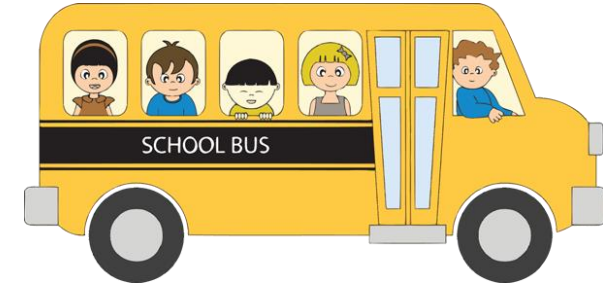
Regionalization of Schools in Eastern Massachusetts



### School Districts where K-8 independently controlled by the individual towns

Somerset, Berkley, Carlisle, Aquinnah, West Tisbury, Northborough, Sudbury, Concord  
Oak Bluffs, Chilmark, Acushnet, Lincoln, Provincetown, Edgartown, Tisbury, Southborough

## QUICK FACTS



- There are 160 towns east of the 495 corridor and in Southeast Massachusetts.
- 96 towns of the 160 are not regionalized at all.
- 40 towns of the 160 independently run their K-5 or K-6 or K-8 schools and are part of a regional district for either middle school and high school or just high school.
- 24 towns are regionalized for K-12. Dighton and Rehoboth are two of those towns.

# What would the withdrawal of K-8 mean? How would it work?

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE VOTE?

- The District would continue to administer Rehoboth's K-8 during the 2022-2023 school year.
- During this time the Town of Rehoboth would elect a School Committee. They will be dedicated to providing the best educational experience possible to the students in Rehoboth's K-8.
- The Rehoboth School Committee (RSC) will put in place an administrative structure to fill the roles of Superintendent, Special Education Director and others as needed.
- The RSC will set policies that the School system will follow. Bylaws and or *Rules of order* the RSC will follow.
- The RSC with input from all stakeholders, will develop, set goals and standards in education. Superintendent goals, Department goals, school improvement plans, and student handbooks just to name a few.
- Institute a DESE approved curriculum that would prepare Rehoboth's K-8 population for its eventual progression to DR High school.
- The RSC will negotiate new contracts with existing vendors that provide services to Beckwith and Palmer River schools.
- The RSC will work to retain as much of the teaching staff, assistants, building staff, and others that would like to continue on in their current roles.
- Financial Projections indicate a surplus of ~\$3.4 million that can be used to fund any new administrative costs.

# What would the withdrawal of K-8 mean? How would it work?

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER THE VOTE TO CURRENT STAFF AT BECKWITH AND PALMER RIVER?

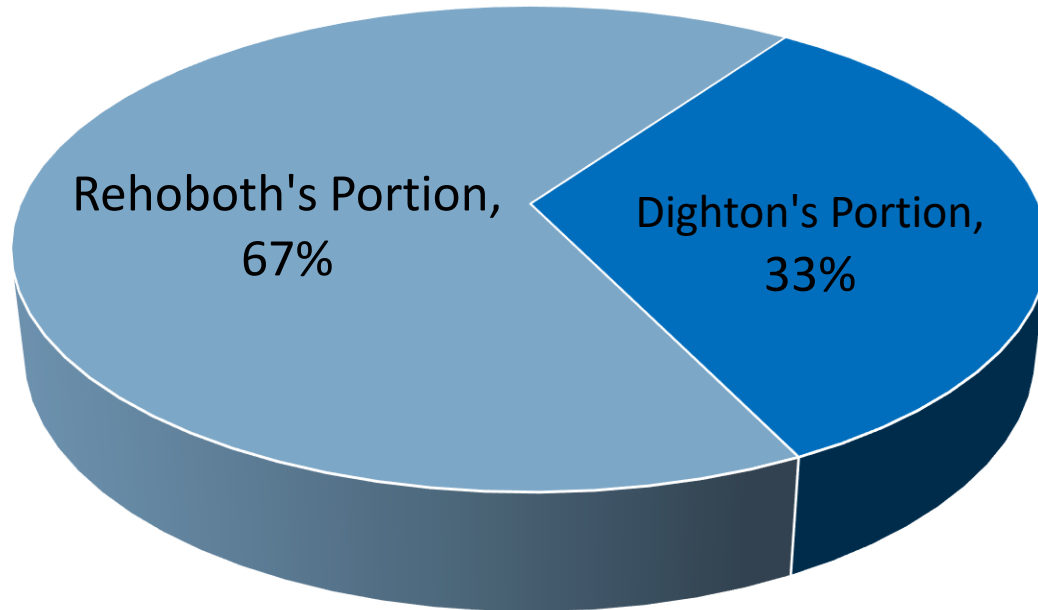
- Rehoboth recognizes the Importance of keeping staff in place. We feel we have a strong sense of community with our teachers. Many of the teachers and staff have taught in Rehoboth for generations. Others may be more recent college graduates who bring new ideas and innovative teaching styles.
- The RSC would negotiate with a newly formed “bargaining unit” that the teachers and other staff would form.
- The Town would hire “professional services” to ensure that payroll, healthcare and retirement funding is properly handled. As these responsibilities would now fall on the Town and not the District.

## WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS?

- The RSC sole focus will be on Rehoboth’s K-8. No longer will we have to provide the same improvements to Dighton.
- The RSC would have greater accountability to Rehoboth voters.
- Rehoboth’s K-8 would receive 100% of Rehoboth’s funding. As it would no longer be part of the District’s “Operating Budget” and not subject to the “wealth factor” where we pay 65% of all expenses, including schools in Dighton.
- Tailor transportation to better match the needs of Rehoboth’s K-8 Students.

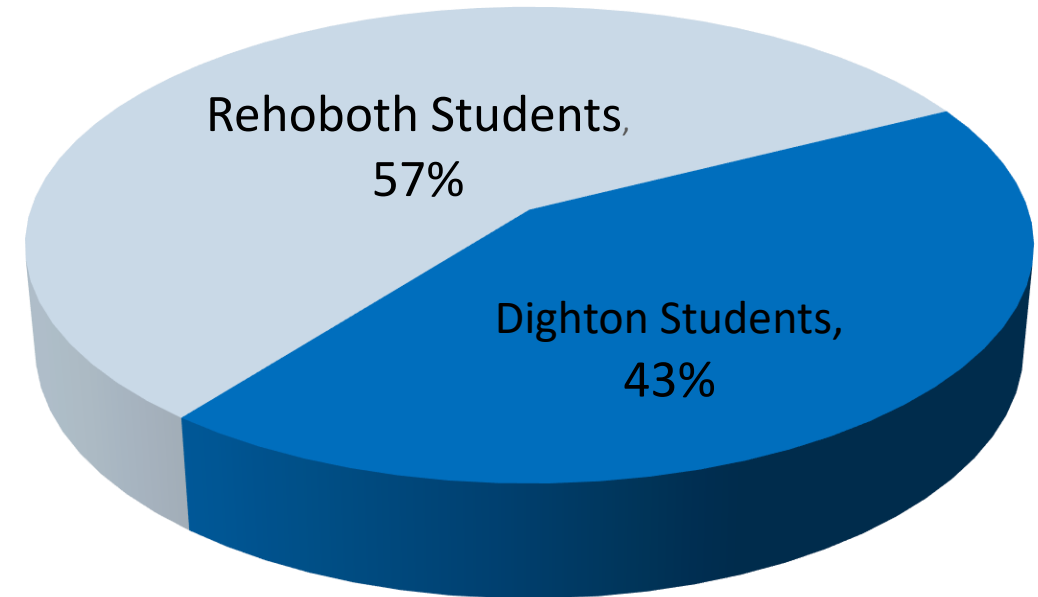
# State Mandated Budget Requirements

K-12 FY 23 Minimum Required Contribution  
\$21,814,425



Rehoboth \$14,610,032 or 67%  
Dighton \$7,204,393 or 33%

K-12 FY 23 Enrollment  
2546 Students

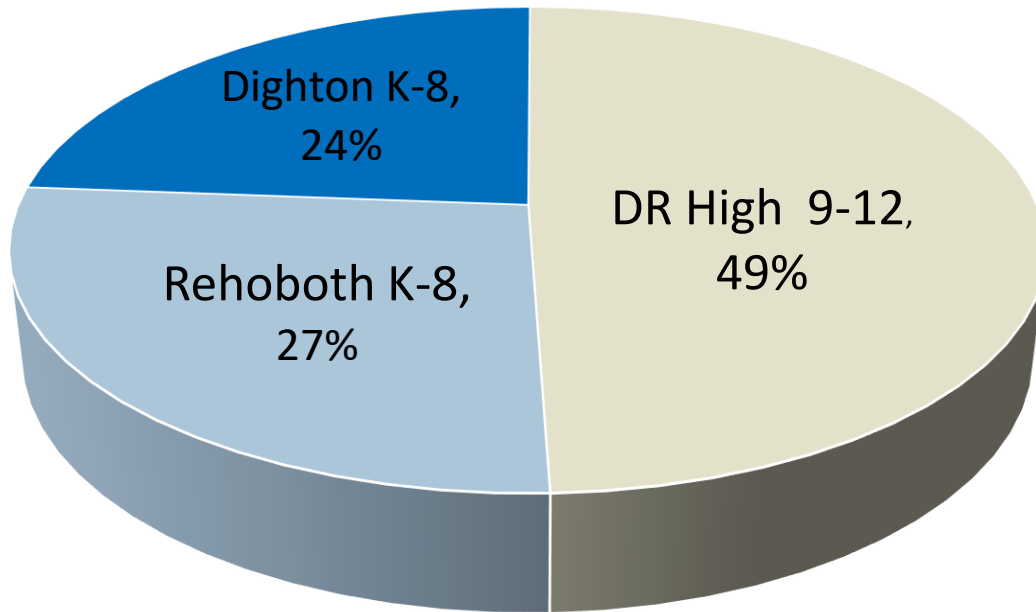


Rehoboth 1440 Students or 57%  
Dighton 1106 Students or 43%



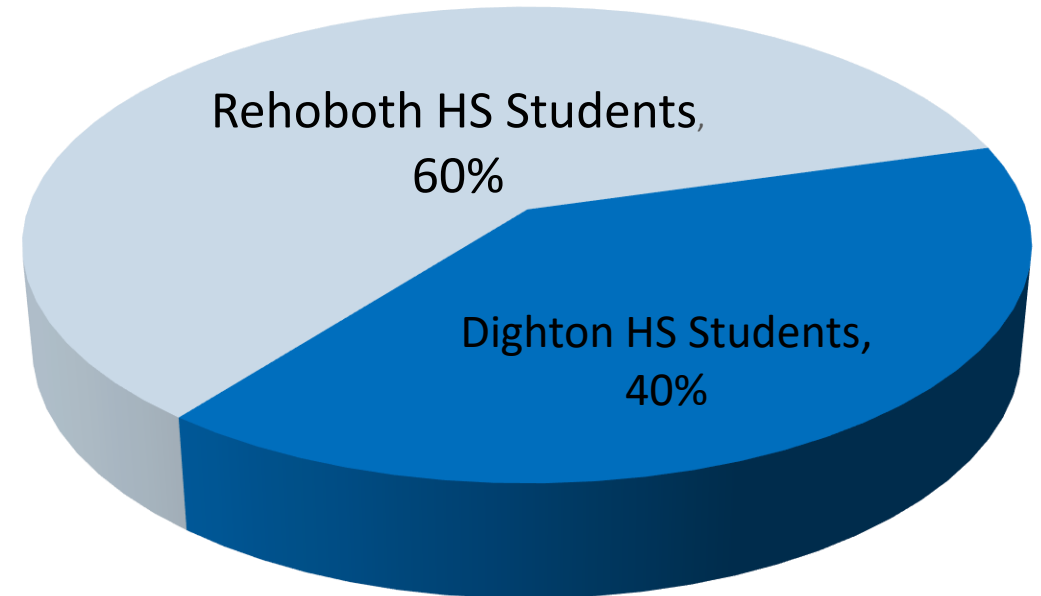
# District Above Minimum Contribution

District FY 23 Above Minimum Contribution  
\$6,072,207



Rehoboth K-8	\$1,612,767	or 27%
Dighton K-8	\$1,436,368	or 24%
DR High 9-12	\$3,023,072	or 49%

DR High School Split Above Minimum  
By Town Enrollment



Rehoboth	\$1,812,049	or 60%
Dighton	\$1,211,023	or 40%



# Rehoboth Operating Budget Contribution

## Rehoboth

\$14,610,032 Required Minimum Contribution

\$1,812,049 Above Minimum At High School

\$1,612,767 Above Minimum K-8

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\$18,034,848 Total

## Dighton

\$7,204,393 Required Minimum Contribution

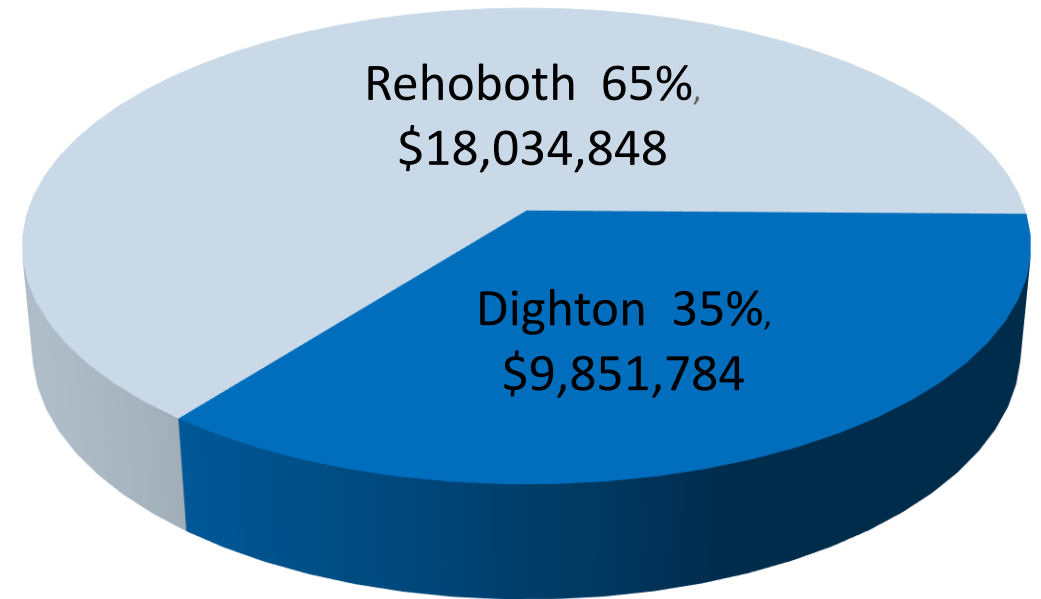
\$1,211,023 Above Minimum At High School

\$1,436,368 Above Minimum K-8

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\$9,851,023 Total

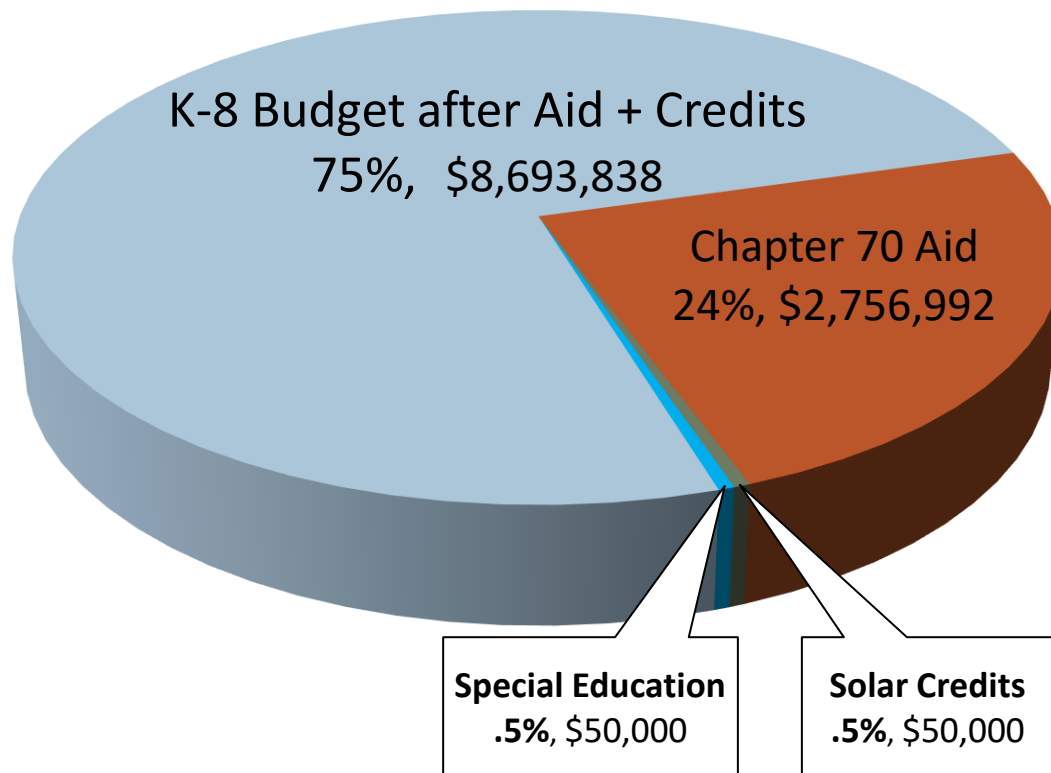
Operating Budget Contributions  
\$27,886,632



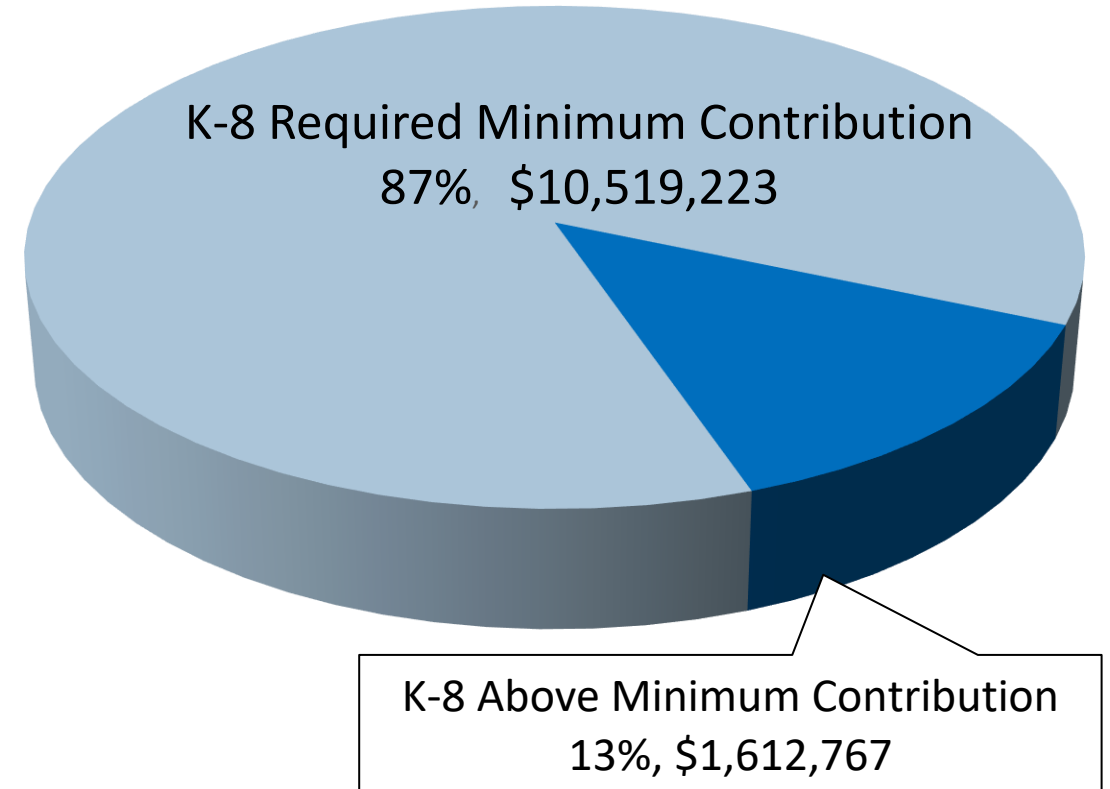
# If Rehoboth K-8 Had Been Withdrawn From District in FY 2023

## Part 1

K-8 FY 23 Budget Total minus Aid + Credits  
\$11,550,830



K-8 Assessment FY 2023  
\$12,131,990



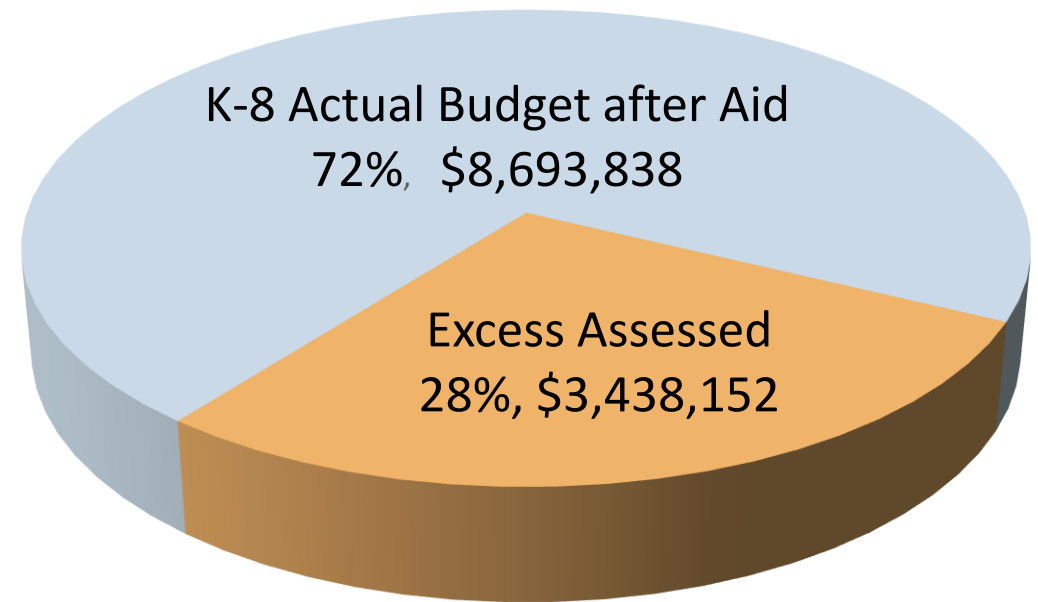
# If Rehoboth K-8 Had Been Withdrawn From District in FY 2023

## Part 2

The FY2023 (District) Assessment	\$12,131,990
K-8 Actual Budget after Aid	<u>- \$8,693,838</u>
Projected Surplus	\$3,438,152

The K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee projects a surplus of \$3,438,152 if we were to withdraw our K-8 from the District.

FY2023 Total Assessment From District  
**\$12,131,990**



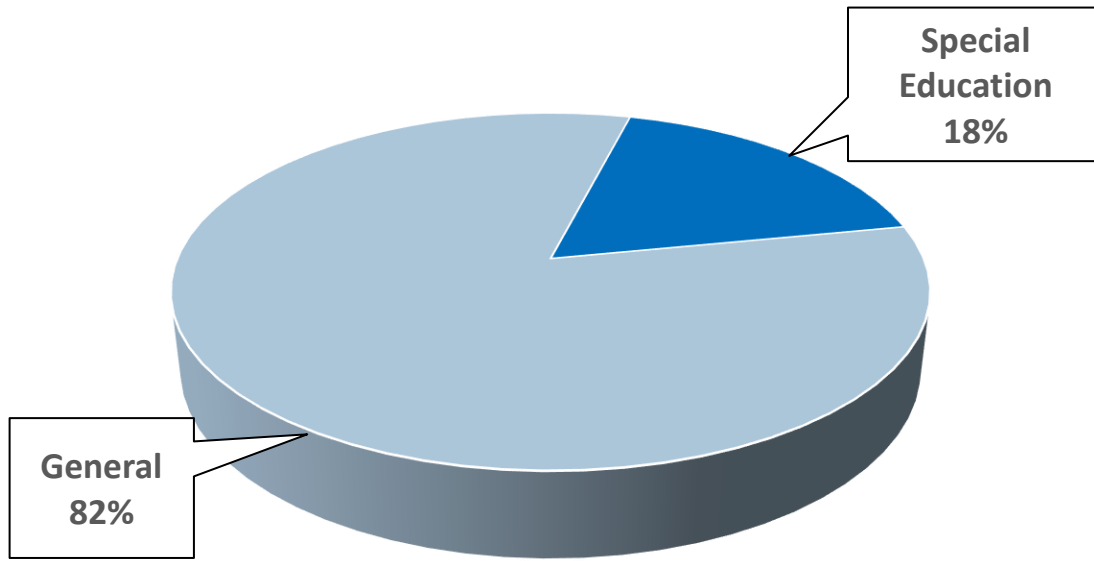
# Comments on District Projections

## Questionable Entries in District K-8 Budget:

- **Capital Cost** - Capital is a cost that is attached to school buildings. Rehoboth is currently paying its own capital costs for Palmer River and Beckwith. This is not an additional liability.
- **Transportation Cost** - Rehoboth is currently paying its own transportation costs. Withdrawal will have no effect.
- **District Expenses Transferred to Rehoboth** - Expenses to be transferred to Rehoboth K-8 mentioned in the projections. These include Health insurance, FICA(Medicare Match), BC Pension Contribution, and District-wide resources for a total of \$2,209,143. Rehoboth is paying these expenses now, since they are included in our High School operating budget.
- **Administrative Costs and General Overhead Costs** - Administrative costs listed in the District projections are inflated. For example: A superintendent of K-8 (1036 students) should not need the same salary as a superintendent of a 2-town, 5-school District of 2,546 students. We will need to fill some new administrative positions, But this doesn't mean we will duplicate every position as the District projects.
- When we transfer these expenses to Rehoboth K-8, our High School expenses will decrease accordingly. The District's projection fails to show how items transferred to Rehoboth K-8 cause a reduction in the District budget.
- Withdrawing would break the District up into smaller, more manageable units, making oversight simpler. Parents and Rehoboth citizens could more easily bring educational and financial concerns directly to our own school committee.

# Special Education at a Glance

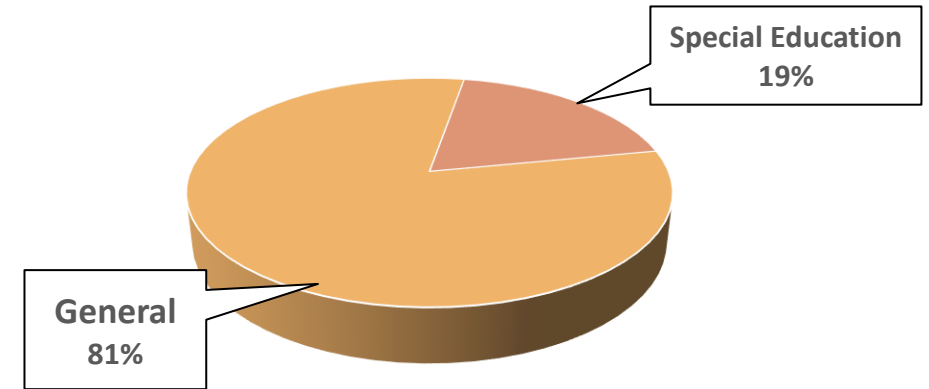
Dighton Rehoboth School District



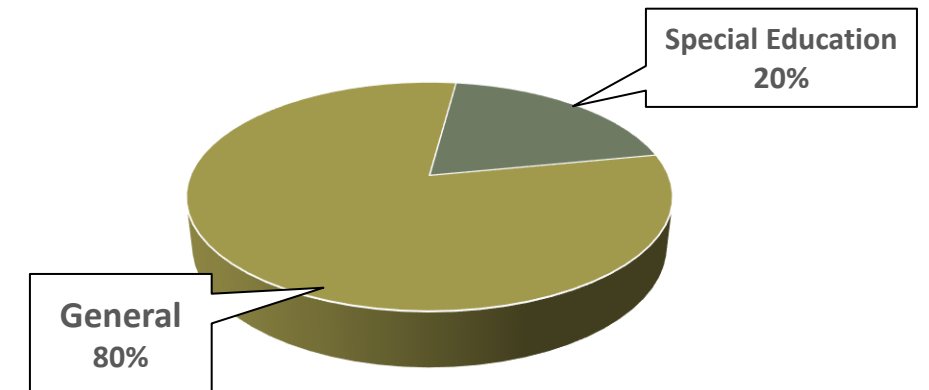
## Quick Facts:

The Dighton Rehoboth District had 2669 students in FY22 with 484 using services in the Special Education Dept. This represents ~18% of the total population across both Towns.

Palmer River Elementary School



Beckwith Middle School



# Special Education in Rehoboth

Rehoboth has a well known and respected Special Education Curriculum

## WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS?

- Rehoboth's high quality Special Ed Program is as a selling point by local Realtors.
- Both Towns are autonomous when it comes to their Special Ed curriculum at the K-8 level.
- When students transition from Beckwith Middle school to the District High School. The student's IEP will follow the student just as it does now.
- Transition into the DR High School Special Ed program for Beckwith Middle School students with an IEP. Will remain the same and follow well established procedures already in place. Beginning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade a representative from the DR High school SPED staff may begin attending parent/student meetings. The student has other resources available to help them such as a High School Guidance Counselor. The SPED staff also schedules Open House days and even provides individual tours for students who may have a specific need.

# Special Education in Rehoboth

Rehoboth has a knowledgeable and caring Special Education Staff

## WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR OUR CURRENT STAFF?

- Rehoboth K-8 would hire a SPED Director whose responsibility would be to manage Rehoboth's K-8 SPED program. About ~20% of Rehoboth's K-8 students are in SPED.
- There are 3 types of Special Education employees that work in Rehoboth K-8 Schools.
  1. Full time employed by the District but work solely at a Rehoboth School. We anticipate these positions would stay and would transition to independent Rehoboth's K-8.
  2. Full time employed by the District but work in both Dighton and Rehoboth. There are 7 such employees, There are several possible solutions, we could contract with the District, We could add full time or part time employees, or contract out independent services.
  3. Contracted employees working on a service needed basis. This would not change.



# Special Education in Rehoboth

## Special Education reimbursement from the State of Massachusetts:

We have not calculated this into the new costs of our separate K-8. Because the total amount for both Towns is put directly into the refund section of the District Operating Budget. We have not been able to obtain the exact percentage from the District of that amount which is just for Rehoboth K-8. In the event we separate our K-8 we would subtract what we are already paying from the District Operating Budget.

## Transportation :

Under the Regional Agreement each Town pays for their Students Special Education transportation costs. The State of Massachusetts does not reimburse for this expense. We would continue to pay what we are paying now.

### Palmer River Elementary School

Transportation costs:

In-District \$161,116

Monitors \$23,164

Out-of-District \$42,232

Total: \$226,512

### Beckwith Middle School

Transportation costs:

In-District \$54,477

Out of District \$63,112

Total: \$117,589

**Rehoboth is currently paying Special Education Transportation Cost of \$344,101**

# Summary

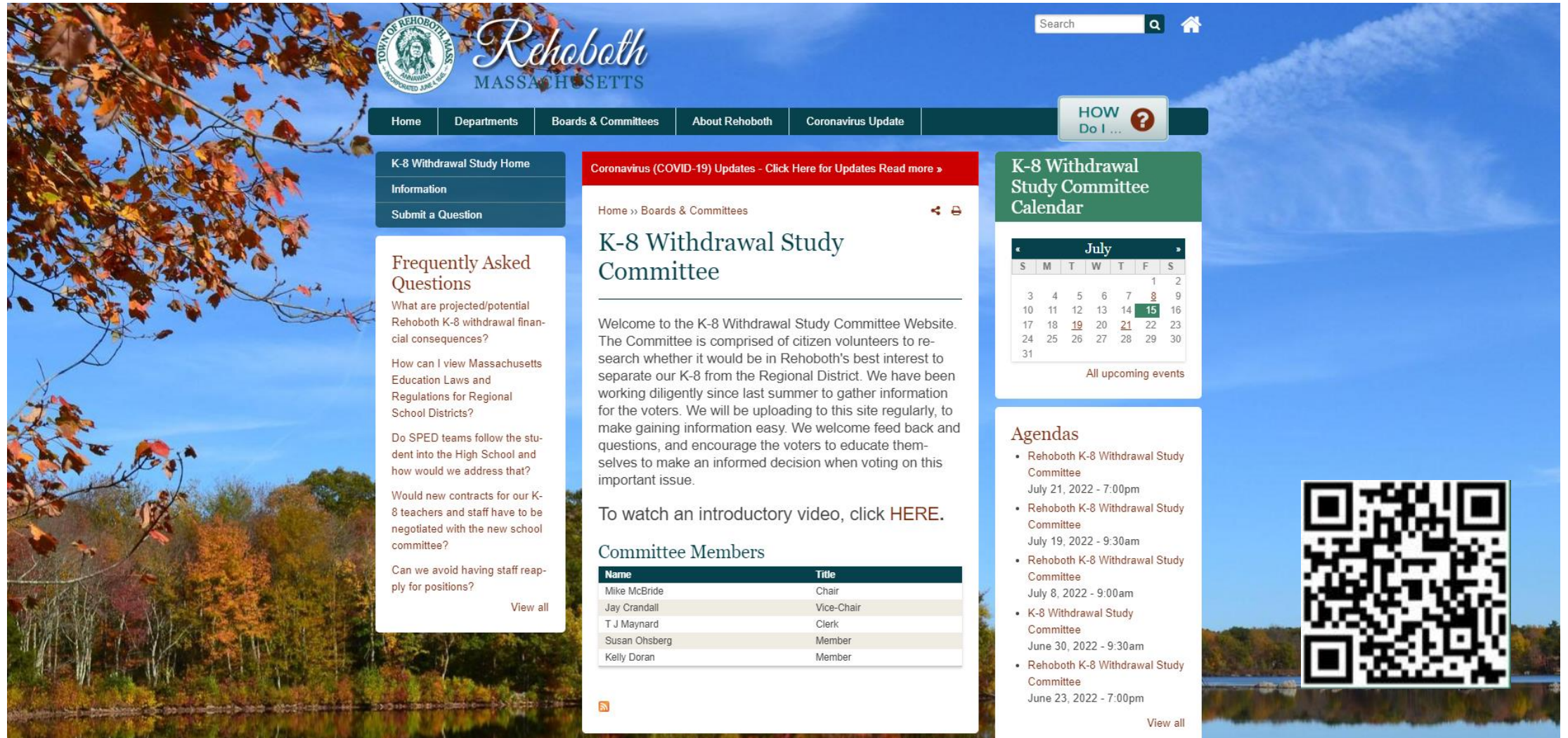
The Rehoboth K-8 Committee was formed over a year ago to explore the viability of withdrawing our K-8 from the District. During our investigations we talked with many people, we spoke with parents, we spoke with teachers and Towns people. We delved into the financial considerations as to what would change? What would State funding look like? We also looked into the history of the District. Why was the K-8 regionalized? We looked at how other Towns have handled their systems, are they a municipality or regionalized? If they were regionalized, how did they manage their Districts?

In this presentation we shared our research with you and hopefully conveyed it to you with a level of transparency. To summarize, all parties want the best education for the students in Rehoboth. A necessary component is to maintain continuity for the students, staff must remain in place. We found there is absolutely no need to disrupt the functioning of the schools regarding staffing. Our research into the financial considerations showed that we would have a surplus in our budget. That would be used to hire additional staff in support of our K-8. We learned that other Towns that share just a High School have used some innovative solutions to handle administration of their K-8. We would need to add a SPED Director and fill the role of K-8 Superintendent and staff. Even after that, we would still have funds available for other line items such as transportation costs.

In 1987 the Town voted to regionalize its K-8, mostly to take advantage of State funding for transportation. Over the years State Funding has changed. No longer is it in our fiscal advantage to have a regionalized K-8. What we learned is throughout our history Rehoboth has always acted as a community. Currently we share decisions with voters of Dighton as to what is best for the children of Rehoboth. If we withdraw K-8 that ends and once again we return to our roots as the “birthplace of public education”.



# K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee Website



The screenshot shows the website for the K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee in Rehoboth, Massachusetts. The header features the town's logo and name, a search bar, and a navigation menu with links to Home, Departments, Boards & Committees, About Rehoboth, and Coronavirus Update. A 'HOW Do I ... ?' button is also present. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column contains a 'K-8 Withdrawal Study Home' section with links to Information and Submit a Question, and a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section with three questions. The middle column features a 'Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates' banner, a breadcrumb trail, and a 'K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee' section with a welcome message and a link to an introductory video. Below this is a 'Committee Members' table. The right column includes a 'K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee Calendar' for July, an 'Agendas' section with a list of meetings, and a QR code. A 'View all' link is at the bottom right.

**Rehoboth MASSACHUSETTS**

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**K-8 Withdrawal Study Home**

Information

Submit a Question

**Frequently Asked Questions**

What are projected/potential Rehoboth K-8 withdrawal financial consequences?

How can I view Massachusetts Education Laws and Regulations for Regional School Districts?

Do SPED teams follow the student into the High School and how would we address that?

Would new contracts for our K-8 teachers and staff have to be negotiated with the new school committee?

Can we avoid having staff reapply for positions?

[View all](#)

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) Updates - Click Here for Updates Read more »**

Home » Boards & Committees

**K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee**

Welcome to the K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee Website. The Committee is comprised of citizen volunteers to research whether it would be in Rehoboth's best interest to separate our K-8 from the Regional District. We have been working diligently since last summer to gather information for the voters. We will be uploading to this site regularly, to make gaining information easy. We welcome feedback and questions, and encourage the voters to educate themselves to make an informed decision when voting on this important issue.

To watch an introductory video, click [HERE](#).

**Committee Members**

Name	Title
Mike McBride	Chair
Jay Crandall	Vice-Chair
T J Maynard	Clerk
Susan Ohsberg	Member
Kelly Doran	Member

**K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee Calendar**

July


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

[All upcoming events](#)

**Agendas**

- Rehoboth K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee  
July 21, 2022 - 7:00pm
- Rehoboth K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee  
July 19, 2022 - 9:30am
- Rehoboth K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee  
July 8, 2022 - 9:00am
- K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee  
June 30, 2022 - 9:30am
- Rehoboth K-8 Withdrawal Study Committee  
June 23, 2022 - 7:00pm

[View all](#)



<https://www.rehobothma.gov/k-8-withdrawal-study-committee>