

## Amherst and Regional School FY2016 Budget Follow-Up Information

The following information is provided in response to questions raised about the Amherst and Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools at the Amherst Town Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015. While much of the information is provided via links to reports on our district website, we are happy to provide printed copies of any reports or documents. To request copies, please contact Debbie Westmoreland, Assistant to the Superintendent, at 362-1823 or [westmorelandd@arps.org](mailto:westmorelandd@arps.org).

Maria Geryk, Superintendent of Schools

### 1. How many students return to our public schools from private schools, charter schools, vocational schools or homeschooling?

The data provided is based on summer enrollments in grades 7-12 from the school years 2012-2013 through 2014-2015. This provides a snapshot of data from the busiest enrollment period of each of the past three years.

| 2014-2015 Summer Enrollments (Grades 7-12) |                     |                     |                        |                    |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number Enrolled                            | From Private School | From Charter School | From Vocational School | From Homeschooling |
| 125  | 25 / 20%            | 8 / 6%              | 1 / 1%                 | 2 / 2%             |

| 2013-2014 Summer Enrollments (Grades 7-12) |                     |                     |                        |                    |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number Enrolled                            | From Private School | From Charter School | From Vocational School | From Homeschooling |
| 126  | 22 / 18%            | 5 / 4%              | 3 / 2%                 | 4 / 3%             |

| 2012-2013 Summer Enrollments (Grades 7-12) |                     |                     |                        |                    |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Number Enrolled                            | From Private School | From Charter School | From Vocational School | From Homeschooling |
| 162  | 26 / 16%            | 10 / 6%             | 0                      | 4 / 3%             |

### 2. What is the demographic data for students leaving the district for charter/choice, vocation and private schools, including gender and race/ethnicity?

As above, the data provided is based on summer enrollments in grades 7-12 from the school years 2012-2013 through 2014-2015. This provides a snapshot of data from the busiest enrollment period of each of the past three years.

| Demographic Data for 2012-2013 Through 2014-2015 |                              |                              |                                 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Student Demographic                              | Withdrawn for Private School | Withdrawn for Choice/Charter | Withdrawn for Vocational School |
| Male   | 58%                          | 46%                          | 76%                             |
| Female   | 42%                          | 54%                          | 24%                             |
| African-American                                 | N/A                          | 9%                           | 5%                              |
| Asian  | 5%                           | 9%                           | 5%                              |
| Latino/Latina                                    | 5%                           | 9%                           | 25%                             |
| Multiracial                                      | 11%                          | 27%                          | 11%                             |
| White  | 79%                          | 46%                          | 54%                             |

The district also gathers information about the reasons students withdraw through exit surveys that each family is asked to complete upon withdrawal from the district. The full Exit Survey Data 2010-April 2015 report is available at:

[http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_926729/File/Exit%20Survey%20Data%20Summary%20Report%202014-2015.pdf](http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_926729/File/Exit%20Survey%20Data%20Summary%20Report%202014-2015.pdf)

**3. Please provide information about the diversity of district staff.**

The report at the link below includes demographic information about district staff going back to October 1, 2012. The information compares district staff demographic trends over time, as well as comparisons of district demographics with other districts in the Commonwealth.

**Human Resources Annual Affirmative Action Report:**

<http://www.arps.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=7289704>

**4. Please provide information about the accomplishments of district students.**

Each year Amherst Regional High School publishes the ARHS School Profile, which provides information about the many accomplishments of our current students as well as the post-graduation plans of the previous year's graduating class. The full profile is included as Appendix A.

**5. Links to Information Discussed at Town Meeting**

**Amherst Regional Middle School Schedule Change Presentation:**

[http://arms.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_927081/File/Final%20ARMS%20Schedule%20Change%20proposal%20Presentation%201-29-15.pdf](http://arms.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_927081/File/Final%20ARMS%20Schedule%20Change%20proposal%20Presentation%201-29-15.pdf)

**Wildwood Building Project Updates:**

[http://www.arps.org/news/wildwood\\_school\\_building\\_committee](http://www.arps.org/news/wildwood_school_building_committee)

**Legal Costs Cost Analysis Update:**

[http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_926729/File/Legal%20Services%20cost%20analysis%20for%20school%20committee.pdf](http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_926729/File/Legal%20Services%20cost%20analysis%20for%20school%20committee.pdf)

**UMass Housing Costs:**

[http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_926729/File/UMASS%20Housing%20Costs%202014-2015.pdf](http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_926729/File/UMASS%20Housing%20Costs%202014-2015.pdf)

**Enrollment Trends Report:**

[http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_926729/File/Enrollment%20Trends%20Report.pdf](http://www.arps.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_926729/File/Enrollment%20Trends%20Report.pdf)

**Per Pupil Expenditures Report (MASBO):**

<http://www.arps.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=7289892>

**Amherst School FY2016 Budget:**

<http://www.arps.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=7204620>

**Amherst-Pelham Regional FY2016 Budget:**

<http://www.arps.org/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=7196737>

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# AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

21 MATTOON STREET • AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS 01002

PHONE: (413) 362-1700 • FAX: (413) 549-9704

WEBSITE: [arhs.arps.org](http://arhs.arps.org)

CEEB CODE: 220015

## PROFILE 2014-2015

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### Superintendent

Maria Geryk

### Principal

Mark Jackson

### Guidance Staff

Ericka Alschuler, Counselor/Department Head  
Sherry Balzano, Student Support/Guidance Counselor  
Marisa Castro, Counselor  
Kelly Larcheveque, Counselor  
Alessandra Mucci-Ramos, Counselor  
Myra Ross, College Advisor  
Lisa Zephyr, Student Support/Guidance Counselor

### Assistant Principals

Miki Lee Gromacki  
Mike Thompson  
Rich Ferro, Athletic Director  
Maureen Fleming, School Climate Coordinator

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## COMMUNITY

Amherst is a college community with a population of 34,874 located in the Connecticut River Valley—87 miles west of Boston, 23 miles north of Springfield. Amherst is the home of Amherst College, the University of Massachusetts and Hampshire College, with Mount Holyoke College and Smith College nearby.

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## SCHOOL

Amherst Regional High School is a four-year comprehensive regional school serving the towns of Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury. ARHS is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Enrollment is 1,011 with a senior class of 272. The student body is culturally diverse with a population that includes 61% Caucasian, 8% African-American, 10% Asian, 12% Hispanic, 9% Multi-Racial, and includes native speakers of 32 languages. The student-faculty ratio is 10 to 1. Masters or doctoral degrees are held by 87% of the faculty.

### AMHERST REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL'S CORE VALUES AND BELIEFS

The high school administration, faculty, and staff believe: 1) in promoting high achievement for all students; 2) in working from research-based best practices that promote student achievement; 3) that an education in diversity and social justice is essential for all members of our community. We believe that these values help us to recognize our civic responsibilities and the potential we share to make a positive difference in and beyond the school.

The Amherst Regional Public School system is a founding member of the Minority Student Achievement Network (MSAN), an unprecedented national coalition of multiracial school districts that have come together to study the disparity in achievement between white students and students of color through intensive research. The Network was established to discover, develop, and implement the means to ensure high academic achievement of minority students.

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

88 Credits (grades 9-12), which include:

- 16 English credits (including 2 Oral Communication and 8 Literature)
  - 12 Social Studies credits (including 4 of U. S. History)
  - 8 Laboratory Science credits
  - 8 Mathematics credits
  - 2 Physical Education credits
  - 2 Health Education credits
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## CURRICULUM

A fully enrolled student at ARHS takes a minimum of 22 credits each year. This includes study in five major academic subject areas plus physical education, health education, or elective courses.

ARHS operates on a trimester schedule. Two-credit courses take one trimester to complete and are equivalent to courses that would typically meet for one semester. Four-credit courses take two trimesters to complete and are equivalent to courses that would typically meet for a full year. A typical student schedule includes 3 core subjects for 2 trimesters and 4 core subjects for 1 trimester plus 1 or 2 electives each trimester.

In addition to a variety of required and elective courses in the core academic areas of mathematics, sciences, social studies, English, and world languages, students can choose from nearly one hundred course opportunities in business education, family and consumer science, computer science, art, technology education, and music and the performing arts. All of these course offerings are college preparatory. At ARHS, the junior/senior English elective titled Journalistic Writing is not a production class, but rather a writing class dedicated to improving composition skills.

ARHS offers complete sequences in the Chinese, French, Latin and Spanish languages. Our Russian program terminated in 2012 and our German program terminated in 2013.

Advanced Placement offerings are available in Calculus (AB & BC), Chinese, French, Latin, Spanish, European History, Biology, Physics, Environmental Science, and English Literature and Composition. Advanced Placement credit in English is awarded after the successful completion of two AP English literature electives. Students who enroll in two honors literature classes—including one classic and one contemporary—over the course of their junior and senior years and successfully complete the Advanced Placement Project and Portfolio in both, will receive an AP designation on their transcript.

In Mathematics, ARHS students can choose a traditional course sequence, which includes Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry, or the Interactive Mathematics Program (IMP) sequence. IMP courses are organized around central questions or themes and challenge students to solve a variety of routine and non-routine problems that develop mathematical concepts and habits of mind. Both sequences are offered at the college preparatory and honors levels, and both sequences prepare students for the study of calculus.

Alternative Learning Programs (ALP) permit students to propose independent studies or alternative projects to supplement the standard high school curriculum. This work is conducted under the supervision of a faculty advisor and may involve academic activities, volunteer experience either on or off campus or local college courses. Credit is given for these experiences.

ARHS students may take classes at Greenfield Community College or Holyoke Community College and will be considered dual enrollment students. Students may be enrolled both part-time at GCC or HCC and Amherst Regional High School or full-time at GCC or HCC. All credits earned will be used to fulfill ARHS graduation requirements.

Qualified upper-grade students may enroll in courses at local 4-year colleges (Amherst College, Hampshire College or the University of Massachusetts/Amherst) to pursue advanced studies. The interface with the trimester schedule is difficult. Amherst and Hampshire College classes are free for ARHS students. Students must apply to individual professors for pre-approval in April of the preceding year. UMass classes cost more than \$1,300 each and are cost prohibitive for many students. At all institutions, students are allowed to register at the beginning of each semester if space is available. Students are expected to request official transcripts from these colleges to be sent to any post-secondary schools to which they apply.

Students at ARHS are able to extend their learning outside of the classroom into the community. The Experiential Education Program, which includes a seminar, supports students in internships, community service activities or teaching assistantships. A Work Study Program is also available to students. Credit is given for these experiences.

## INSTRUCTIONAL GROUPING

All academic courses at Amherst Regional High School are college preparatory. Courses designated as Honors are characterized by an accelerated pace, an intensive examination of content, or both. Honors courses demand substantial independent work, extensive use of supplementary materials, and sophisticated analysis and synthesis of information and ideas. Courses designated as Advanced Placement are similar to Honors courses in level of challenge and expectations but follow the college-level AP curricula established by the College Board.

## GRADE POINT AVERAGES AND CLASS RANK

An *unweighted* grade point average is computed for all Amherst Regional High School students. It includes grades for all courses completed by the end of the preceding trimester. All graded courses taken at ARHS are included, with the following exceptions:

1) Physical Education classes; 2) ALPs which do not have a written curriculum or are not graded by an ARHS teacher; 3) Courses designed to provide academic support. Courses transferred from other high schools or taken outside of ARHS (including college or university courses) are not included in a student's GPA.

When reporting to colleges, the High School reports a student's individual unweighted GPA. Amherst Regional High School does not provide individual or decile rankings. The courses that are included in a grade point average are graded on a 4.0 scale.

|               |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |            |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>A+ / A</b> | <b>A-</b>  | <b>B+</b>  | <b>B</b>   | <b>B-</b>  | <b>C+</b>  | <b>C</b>   | <b>C-</b>  | <b>D+</b>  | <b>D</b>   | <b>D-</b>  | <b>F</b>   |
| <b>4.0</b>    | <b>3.7</b> | <b>3.3</b> | <b>3.0</b> | <b>2.7</b> | <b>2.3</b> | <b>2.0</b> | <b>1.7</b> | <b>1.3</b> | <b>1.0</b> | <b>0.7</b> | <b>0.0</b> |

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## AWARDS/SPECIAL DISTINCTIONS IN 2014

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT INFORMATION:

Amherst Regional High School encourages students to take AP courses but does not require them to take the AP exams.  
140 students (26% of juniors and seniors) took at least one AP exam in 2014.  
97.1% scored 3 or higher  
21 AP Scholars, 6 AP Scholars with Honors; 1 AP Scholar with Distinction

### OTHER AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS:

Each year a number of ARHS students receive awards and distinctions in a variety of areas. Examples from 2013-14 include:

**Art:** In the Boston Globe Scholastic Art Awards two students were awarded National Gold Keys, 9 students were awarded Gold Keys, eight students were awarded Silver Keys and ten students received honorable mention.

**English:** One student received the 2014 NCTE Achievement Award in Writing, and one was a semi-finalist in the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation contest. The School Newspaper, *The Graphic*, won the Superior Achievement Newspaper Class I award at the New England Scholastic Press Association's Spring Conference. Two students were accepted at the New England Young Writers Conference, and one student was accepted at the Iowa Young Writers Studio.

**Mathematics:** One ARHS student was a winner in the American Mathematics Competition; One ARHS student was a bronze medalist and four ranked as team members in the American Mathematics Competition.

**Music and Performing Arts:** Six students named to MMEA All-State Music Ensembles. The ARHS Chorale won the WGBY "Together in Song" Choral competition (over 30+ ensembles across Western Massachusetts). ARHS alumni Annie Baker '99 and Madeline George '92 were both nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in Drama; Annie won the Pulitzer. *American Theatre Magazine* recognized the ARHS Theater Company for its exceptional work.

**Science:** The Science Olympiad team placed 16th out of 42 teams, with four ribbon award winners. The ARHS JETS team won Best in State at both the 9th/10th grade and 11th/12th grade levels. All six teams finished in the top 20% of their divisions nationally.

**World Languages:** On the 2014 National Latin Exam, **ARHS students earned** twelve Gold Medals, Summa cum Laude: seven Silver Medals, Maxima cum Laude; four Magna cum Laude: five Cum Laude.

**Sports:** ARHS varsity teams won the Western Mass Finals in Girls Division I Tennis, Boys & Girls Indoor Track and Girls Cross Country. Boys Indoor Track won the DIII State Championship. Boys & Girls Cross Country teams were PVIAC League Champions and both teams won Western Mass. Golf competed in the PVIAC Championship Tournament. Volleyball made it to the MIAA Semi-Finals. Boys' Soccer was league champion. Girls' soccer qualified for league champions. The Boys Outdoor Track & Field was the Central/West Champion. Girls Tennis won the Western Mass Tennis Singles Finals and continued on to the State Individual Tennis Matches. Girls Ultimate finished the season with a #1 ranking in the USA Ultimate National Girls High School Division. Boys' Swimming came in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in the Western Mass Championships and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in State Championships.

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## TESTING INFORMATION

(Includes testing for all students, including English Language Learners and students who have Individualized Education Plans)

| PSAT                            | Class of 2015 | Class of 2014 | Class of 2013 | Class of 2012 | Class of 2011 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| National Merit Semifinalists    | 0             | 6             | 6             | 6             | 1             |
| National Merit Commendations    | 27            | 19            | 22            | 13            | 17            |
| Percentage of Class Taking PSAT | 67            | 63            | 67            | 63            | 74            |

One student was named a Scholar in the National Hispanic Program, and three Students were named Outstanding Participants in the National Achievement Program

### SAT DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 2014:

197 students (84% of the class) took the SAT. The middle 50% critical reading scores were 510-680 (mean score 589). The middle 50% mathematics scores were 530-680 (mean score 599). The middle 50% writing scores were 500-670 (mean score 576).

### ACT DATA FOR THE CLASS OF 2014:

93 students (34% of the class) took the ACT. The average English score was 27.0. The average Math score was 26.6. The average Reading score was 27.4. The average Science score was 25.6. The average Composite score was 26.8.

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**FOLLOW-UP STUDY OF ARHS GRADUATES (AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2014)**

|  | 2014 | 2013 | 2012  | 2011 | 2010 | 2009 | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Number of Graduates                      | 236  | 270  | 248   | 270  | 285  | 286  | 285  | 323  | 290  | 322  | 310  |
| Four-Year Colleges                       | 71%  | 71%  | 68.5% | 76%  | 71%  | 76%  | 72%  | 73%  | 76%  | 73%  | 76%  |
| Two-Year Colleges/Post-Secondary Schools | 20%  | 20%  | 18.5% | 14%  | 18%  | 16%  | 18%  | 18%  | 16%  | 19%  | 17%  |
| Military                                 | -0-  | 1%   | -0-   | -0-  | 1%   | .5%  | -0-  | .5%  | -0-  | .5%  | .5%  |
| Employed                                 | 9%   | 7%   | 11%   | 5%   | 10%  | 6%   | 8%   | 7%   | 7%   | 6%   | 6%   |
| Other                                    | -0-  | 1%   | -2-   | 5%   | -0-  | 1.5% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 1%   | 1%   | .5%  |

**COLLEGES AND POST GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING FOR THE CLASS OF 2014**

|   |    |                                       |    |   |    |
|---|----|---------------------------------------|----|---|----|
| American University                     | 2  | Haverford College                     | 1  | Springfield Technical Community College | 1  |
| Bard College                            | 1  | Harvey Mudd College                   | 1  | St. Olaf College                        | 2  |
| Barnard College                         | 2  | Holyoke Community College             | 19 | State Univ. of New York at Albany       | 1  |
| Bates College                           | 2  | Ithaca College                        | 1  | Stevens Institute of Technology         | 1  |
| Becker College                          | 1  | Kalamazoo College                     | 1  | Suffolk University                      | 1  |
| Beloit College                          | 3  | Keene State College                   | 1  | SUNY College at Cortland                | 1  |
| Boston College                          | 1  | Kenyon College                        | 1  | SUNY Morrisville State College          | 1  |
| Bowdoin College                         | 1  | Lafayette College                     | 1  | Syracuse University                     | 1  |
| Brandeis University                     | 3  | Landmark College                      | 1  | The George Washington University        | 3  |
| Brown University                        | 2  | Lewis & Clark College                 | 1  | Trinity College                         | 2  |
| Burlington College                      | 1  | Loyola University Maryland            | 1  | Tufts University                        | 2  |
| Carnegie Mellon University              | 2  | Macalester College                    | 1  | Union College                           | 1  |
| Clark University                        | 2  | Massachusetts College of Art & Design | 1  | University of Chicago                   | 1  |
| Coastal Carolina University             | 1  | Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts | 1  | University of Connecticut               | 1  |
| Colby College                           | 1  | McDaniel College                      | 2  | University of Delaware                  | 1  |
| Colgate University                      | 2  | McGill University                     | 2  | University of Maryland, College Park    | 1  |
| College of William and Mary             | 1  | Miami Dade College-Kendall Campus     | 1  | University of Massachusetts, Amherst    | 38 |
| Columbia University                     | 1  | Middlebury College                    | 1  | University of Minnesota, Twin Cities    | 1  |
| Connecticut College                     | 2  | Mount Holyoke College                 | 2  | University of New Hampshire             | 1  |
| Cornell University                      | 1  | New York University                   | 1  | University of Pennsylvania              | 1  |
| Dartmouth College                       | 2  | Northeastern University               | 1  | University of Rhode Island              | 1  |
| Eastman School of Music/U. of Rochester | 1  | Northfield Mt. Herman (Gill, MA)      | 1  | University of Vermont                   | 3  |
| Elon University                         | 1  | Northwestern University               | 1  | Vanderbilt University                   | 2  |
| Emerson College                         | 2  | Princeton University                  | 2  | Vassar College                          | 3  |
| Endicott College                        | 1  | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute      | 2  | Villanova University                    | 1  |
| Foothill College, CA                    | 1  | Rhode Island School of Design         | 1  | Washington College                      | 1  |
| Framingham State University             | 1  | Rochester Institute of Technology     | 2  | Wellesley College                       | 1  |
| Franklin and Marshall College           | 1  | Salem State University                | 1  | Wentworth Institute of Technology       | 1  |
| Goucher College                         | 2  | School of Visual Arts                 | 1  | Wesleyan University                     | 1  |
| Greenfield Community College            | 22 | Skidmore College                      | 1  | Wheelock College                        | 3  |
| Grinnell College                        | 1  | Southern Maine Community College      | 1  | Worcester State University              | 1  |
| Guilford College                        | 1  | Southern New Hampshire University     | 1  | Yale University                         | 1  |
| Hampshire College                       | 4  | Spelman College                       | 1  |   |    |
| Harvard College                         | 1  | Springfield College                   | 1  |   |    |

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FOR THE CLASS OF 2014**

18% enrolled at University of Massachusetts/Amherst.  
 48% enrolled at other New England colleges.  
 34% enrolled at colleges outside New England.

Of those attending four-year institutions:  
 36% enrolled at public four-year colleges and universities.  
 64% enrolled at private four-year colleges and universities.