



**BLUE HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

800 Randolph Street

Canton, MA 02021-9103

**“Fifty-Fourth District Committee”**

[www.bluehills.org](http://www.bluehills.org)

**Membership:**

Francis J. Fistori, Avon; Eric C. Erskine, Braintree; Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., Canton; Thomas R. Polito, Jr., Dedham; Michael C. Franzosa, Holbrook; Matthew P. O’Malley, Milton; Kevin L. Connolly, Norwood; Marybeth Nearen, Randolph and Charles W. Flahive, Westwood.

Goals: **“Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Discipline”**

**ORGANIZATION:**

Chairman	Marybeth Nearen
Vice Chairman	Thomas R. Polito, Jr.
Secretary	Eric C. Erskine
District Treasurer	Charles J. Gisondi
Student Representative	TBA – As soon as possible.

**SUBCOMMITTEES \* Appointed by Chairman Nearen 9.11.18**

ATHLETIC & EXTRACURRICULAR	Members Flahive, Fistori Maguire, Franzosa
BUILDINGS, FACILITIES, SAFETY AND SECURITY	Members Connolly, Erskine, Flahive and Maguire
CURRICULUM & ADVISORY -	Members Connolly, Flahive, Maguire, O’Malley
EVALUATION -	Members Fistori, O’Malley, Polito and Nearen
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION -	Members Erskine, Franzosa, O’Malley, Polito,
PERSONNEL & NEGOTIATIONS -	Members Erskine, Flahive, Franzosa and Nearen
POLICY -	Members Fistori, Flahive, Nearen and O’Malley
WARRANT -	Members Erskine, Maguire, and Polito
School MSBA -	Members Connolly, Erskine, Maguire and Polito
WEBSITE & TECHNOLOGY	Members Connolly, Fistori, Franzosa and O’Malley

\* Subcommittee Chairmen will be listed first and bolded after first meeting of subcommittees’ appointments by Chairman of the District School Committee. The Chairman of the District School Committee serves as *Ex-officio* member on all subcommittees.

PLEASE NOTE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS PRIOR TO FULL-COMMITTEE MEETING

**MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING - Tuesday, OCTOBER 23, 2018**

**\*Subcommittee Meeting, prior TO full-committee meeting.**

**4:00 p.m.: Policy Subcommittee – Review of Policy Book**

**6:30 p.m.: Warrant Subcommittee – Review of Warrant Backup Information**

**Meetings will be conducted in the Blue Hills’ Chateau de bleu Restaurant,  
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE or otherwise notified.**

**NOTE:** The listings of matters on the Agenda are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



1. **Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**, as follows: The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Student Representative Robert (Bobby) O’Connell.

The Blue Hills Regional Vocational School **Fifty-Fourth District School Committee** SPECIAL Meeting was called to order at **7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, October 23, 2018** at the Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical School, Chateau de Bleu Restaurant, 800 Randolph Street, Canton, Massachusetts. Chairman Marybeth Nearen presided. Ordinarily Regular Schedule Meetings of the District School Committees are conducted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month. When and if this changes ALL are advised of the change and in this case, it has been and is a “Special Meeting”. This meeting is audio recorded, as well as recorded by an in-person stenographer and adheres to all the conditions of the Open Meeting Law. (**Open Meeting Law regulations, 940 CMR 29.00-29.11**).

**Attendance Members:**

Marybeth Nearen	Aidan Maguire	Michael Franzosa
Fran Fistori	Tom Polito	Kevin Connolly
Eric Erskine Robert O’Connell. Student REP	Matthew P. O’Malley Charles J. Gisondi, Treasurer	Charles Flahive

**Others in Attendance:**

S/D James Quaglia A-S/D Steven Moore Elaine Coutu Ana Peach	Principal Jill Rossetti Tom Cavanaugh Geoff Zini Richard Spada	Emily Burns Nicole Moscare Brian Gearty Jen Braga
Vicki DiMeo Nicole Flynn Chris Deady	Eileen Dailey Burke Doherty	Katlyn Lovell Michelle Barley

2. **Executive Session:** Called by Chairman Nearen, the Committee moved to executive session (by unanimous Roll-Call Vote) at 7:11 p.m., to conduct strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)). Following this session, the Committee returned to Open Session to conduct regular business (by Roll-Call Vote at 7:32 p.m. Chairman Nearen announced that a decision to grant the request of Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia was decided. The request was granted and the requested extension of the contract to SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 IS GRANTED. ALL OTHER **CURRENT CONTRACT ITEMS REMAIN THE SAME.**

3. Public Comment – None.
4. Student Representative Report – Robert O’Connell – Presented a PowerPoint Presentation (on record) with the highlight of the report the “Spirit Week” preparations.
5. Student Trip to Peru – Ms. Ana Peach was recognized by Chairman Nearen and addressed the Committee, detailing all the specifics of the proposed trip, with a Video Presentation and a colorful brochure the trip and stating: “After great consideration for student safety, financial cost, seasonal weather and history and knowledge gained from visiting a particular country, a decision was made to brint the seniors of the 2020 class to one of the New Seven Wonders of the World (as of 2007): The Sacred City of the Incas – Machu Picchu, Peru.” Following questions and

answers, Member Kevin L. Connolly moved to approve the senior trip, as proposed. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Thomas R. Polito, Jr. Motion was taken to a vote and it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED:** to approve the 2020 senior trip, as proposed.

It is noted that this is the "10<sup>th</sup>" trip that has been organized and implemented by Ms. Ana Peach and the trip is totally self funded by the participants. Members extended their gratitude to Ms. Peach for offering this opportunity to qualified senior students.

6. Consent Items

- Minute Approval: 10.9.18 Minutes. Approval delayed.
- Warrant Approval – Secretary Eric C. Erskine moved to approve Warrant #6, dated October 23, 2018 in the amount of \$382,301.63. Motion was seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly and taken to a vote. It was **UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED:** to approve Warrant #6, dated October 23, 2018 in the amount of \$382,301.63.

7. Treasurer: Mr. Charles J. Gisondi – No report.

8. DSC Chair Report –

- MASC Resolutions Review – All members have had an opportunity to review the MASC Resolutions. Member Matthew P. O'Malley is the voting delegate at the conference on Friday, November 9, 2018 in Hyannis MA.
- "Sunshine Fund" – Chairman Nearen reported that it is illegal to establish a "Sunshine Fund" and the vote taken on 10.9.18 must be rescinded. Vice Chairman Thomas P. Polito, Jr., voiced his disappointment on this rescind and stated that he was going to talk to folks in the Town of Dedham about this matter. Following conclusion of discussions, Chairman Nearen moved the question of the Rescind of the recently established "Sunshine Fund". Member Fran Fistori moved to rescind the Sunshine Fund vote, with Member Aidan Maguire's second. Motion was taken to a vote and it was by **MAJORITY VOTE**

**Voted:** to rescind the Sunshine Fund Vote of 10.9.18.

**Note:** Vice Chairman Thomas R. Polito, Jr., was the single nay vote.

8. Subcommittee Reports (As needed.):

- Policy Subcommittee: Chairman Nearen reported that the subcommittee had met at 3:30 p.m. today with MASC Jim Hardy. It was decided to delay the selection of the subcommittee chairman until the next meeting.
- Warrant Subcommittee – Chairman Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. – Recommended approval of the Warrant.

9. Administrative Reports (As needed.)

10.1 Assistant Superintendent/Personnel and Business - Mr. Steven M. Moore

- Contract Rescind: Chairman Nearen recognized Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore stated that it is necessary to revoke the contract with Net Metering Power Purchase Agreement. Following explanation and questions and answers, Chairman Nearen moved the question. Member Kevin L. Connolly moved to rescind the vote of approval, as recommended by Assistant Superintendent/Personnel and Business Moore. Motion was seconded by Secretary Eric C. Erskine. Motion to rescind was taken to a vote and it was **unanimously**

**VOTED:** to rescind the vote and revoke the contract with Ne Metering Power Purchase Agreement.

A new dental plan is being discussed and a future Finance & Administration Subcommittee Meeting will discuss this matter.

10.2 Principal – Ms. Jill M. Rossetti

- MCAS Test Review – Director of Academics Geoff Zini was recognized by Chairman Nearen following introduction by Principal Rossetti. Mr. Zini proceeded to present a comprehensive PowerPoint Presentation of the MCAS results from last year and also comparatives. (See attachment.) Mr. Zini stated that improvements are very apparent and it must be said that his teachers are responsible for the significant improvements.
- Summer 2018 Reading Program Review – Director of Academics Geoff Zini included the Summer 2018 Reading Review. All Blue Hills' students are required to do summer reading. This report is also attached.

Following the reports and reviews, a round of applause was extended to Mr. Zini by the meeting attendance. Members of the District School Committee thanked Director Zini for his reports.

- Presentation – “Learning Without Walls Pilot Proposal” Chairman Nearen recognized Principal Jill Rossetti. Principal Rossetti thoroughly reviewed the Proposal and stated this no-cost program would enable the students of Blue Hills to continue academic achievement. (Attachment to these minutes describes all the elements of this Proposal.) After review, and questions, Chairman Nearen moved the question. Member Michael C. Franzosa moved to approve “Learning Without Walls Pilot Proposal” as presented and described by Principal Jill Rossetti. Motion to approve was seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly. Motion was taken to a vote without further discussion. Motion passed **UNANIMOUSLY AND WAS**

**VOTED:** to approve “Learning Without Walls Pilot Proposal” as presented and described by Principal Jill Rossetti.

10.3 Superintendent/Director: Mr. James P. Quaglia

- Decommissioned Tools and Machines: Following discussion and review, Chairman Nearen moved the question for the requested decommission of items requested by letter of October 10, 2018 from Director of Vocational Programs Michelle Silvia, and recommended by Superintendent Director James P. Quaglia. A Motion was made to decommission as requested by Member Michael C. Franzosa, seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly. Without further discussion, a vote was taken and it was UNANIMOUSLY  
**VOTED:** to decommission the items requested by letter of October 10, 2018 from Director of Vocational Programs Michelle Silvia.

11. Unfinished Business and New Business – None.
12. Discussion or Suggestions for the Good of the District, Including newsworthy educational items.
13. An executive session was conducted before the regular meeting business, out of order and called by Chairman Nearen.
14. Adjournment: **At 9:52 p.m. Chairman Nearen called for adjournment. A Motion was made by Member Connolly, seconded by Secretary Eric C. Erskine to adjourn. Motion was taken to a vote and passed UNANIMOUSLY.**

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Eric C. Erskine, Secretary

  
Joanne Kuzborski, Recording Secretary

**Next meeting date: Tuesday, **November 6, 2018**, at 7 p.m. This will be a “Regular Meeting” conducted at Blue Hills Regional District School in the School’s Lecture Hall (Room 252).**

**Massachusetts School and District Profiles**  
**Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical**

**2018 Official Accountability Report - Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical**

Organization Information		TITLE I STATUS
DISTRICT NAME	Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical (08060000)	Title I School
SCHOOL	Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical (08060605)	GRADES SERVED
REGION	Coastal	09,10,11,12
		FEDERAL DESIGNATION

**Accountability Information**

Overall classification: Not requiring assistance or intervention

Reason for classification

Progress toward improvement targets  
 82% - Meeting targets

Accountability percentile  
 74

OVERALL AND SUBGROUP DATA      DETAILED DATA FOR EACH INDICATOR

**Overall results**

Progress toward improvement targets	Indicator	All students (High school grades)			Lowest performing students (High school grades)		
		Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %
Achievement	English language arts achievement	4	4	-	4	4	-
	Mathematics achievement	1	4	-	3	4	-
	Science achievement	3	4	-	4	4	-
	<b>Achievement total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>67.5</b>
Growth	English language arts growth	3	4	-	2	4	-
	Mathematics growth	3	4	-	3	4	-
	<b>Growth total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.5</b>
	Four-year cohort graduation rate	3	4	-	-	-	-
High school completion	Extended engagement rate	4	4	-	-	-	-
	Annual dropout rate	4	4	-	-	-	-
	<b>High school completion total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20.0</b>	-	-	-
	Progress toward attaining English language proficiency	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional indicators	Chronic absenteeism	4	4	-	4	4	-
	Advanced coursework completion	4	4	-	-	-	-
	<b>Additional indicators total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Weighted total	8.2	10.7	77%	9.0	10.3	87%	
Percentage of possible points							
Criterion-referenced target percentage			82%			Meeting targets	

**Subgroup results**

High needs ▾

Progress toward improvement targets	Indicator	High needs Subgroup (High school grades)		
		Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %
<b>Achievement</b>	English language arts achievement	3	4	-
	Mathematics achievement	1	4	-
	Science achievement	3	4	-
	<b>Achievement total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>47.5</b>
	English language arts growth	3	4	-
<b>Growth</b>	Mathematics growth	3	4	-
	<b>Growth total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>22.5</b>
	Four-year cohort graduation rate	0	4	-
	Extended engagement rate	4	4	-
<b>High school completion</b>	Annual dropout rate	4	4	-
	<b>High school completion total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>20.0</b>
	English language proficiency total	-	-	-
<b>Additional indicators</b>	Chronic absenteeism	3	4	-
	Advanced coursework completion	4	4	-
	<b>Additional Indicators total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Weighted total		7.0	10.7	-
Percentage of possible points		65%		-
<b>Criterion-referenced target percentage</b>				<b>65%</b>
<b>Subgroup percentile</b>				<b>Partially meeting targets</b>
This group's overall performance relative to the performance of the same subgroup in schools administering similar assessments				<b>88</b>

**About This Report**

**Overall classification:** All Massachusetts districts and schools with sufficient data are classified into one of two accountability categories: districts and schools requiring assistance or intervention, and districts and schools without required assistance or intervention. The reason(s) for the district or school's classification are noted on this report.

**Progress toward improvement targets:** The criterion-referenced target percentage combines information about achievement, growth, high school completion, English learner progress, advanced coursework completion, and chronic absenteeism into a single number between 0 and 100. For a group to be considered to be meeting targets it must have a criterion-referenced target percentage of 75% or higher.

The criterion-referenced target percentage is calculated by dividing the weighted total points earned by the weighted total possible points. The calculation for each is displayed below.

$$\text{Weighted total of points earned} = (\text{Total achievement points earned} \times \text{Achievement weight}) + (\text{Total growth points earned} \times \text{Growth weight}) + (\text{Total high school completion points earned} \times \text{High school completion weight}) + (\text{EL progress points earned} \times \text{EL progress weight}) + (\text{Total additional indicator points earned} \times \text{Additional indicator weight})$$

$$\text{Weighted total of possible points} = (\text{Total achievement possible points} \times \text{Achievement weight}) + (\text{Total growth possible points} \times \text{Growth weight}) + (\text{Total high school completion possible points} \times \text{High school completion weight}) + (\text{EL progress possible points} \times \text{EL progress weight}) + (\text{Total additional indicator possible points} \times \text{Additional indicator weight})$$

**Accountability percentile:** An accountability percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number is an indication of the school's overall performance relative to other schools that serve similar grades, and is calculated using data for all accountability indicators. School percentiles are not calculated for districts.

**Determination of need for special education technical assistance or intervention:** The U.S. Department of Education requires Massachusetts to determine which districts (including single school districts) have specific needs for technical assistance or intervention in the area of special education. A district's determination is based on four categories: Meets Requirements (MR); Needs Assistance (NA); Needs Intervention (NI); and Needs Substantial Intervention (NSI). In most cases these categories correspond to the district's results, except when the district has specific compliance needs. This designation helps signal whether outcomes for all students in the district indicate progress, including that of students with disabilities, or whether technical assistance and/or intervention is needed to improve outcomes for all children, especially students with disabilities.

Resources

 Interpretive Materials

 Glossary of 2018 Accountability Terms



# Blue Hills Regional Technical School

MCAS DATA 2018

New Accountability

Summer Reading



Agenda #10.

DSC Meeting 10-23-18 (97 pages)

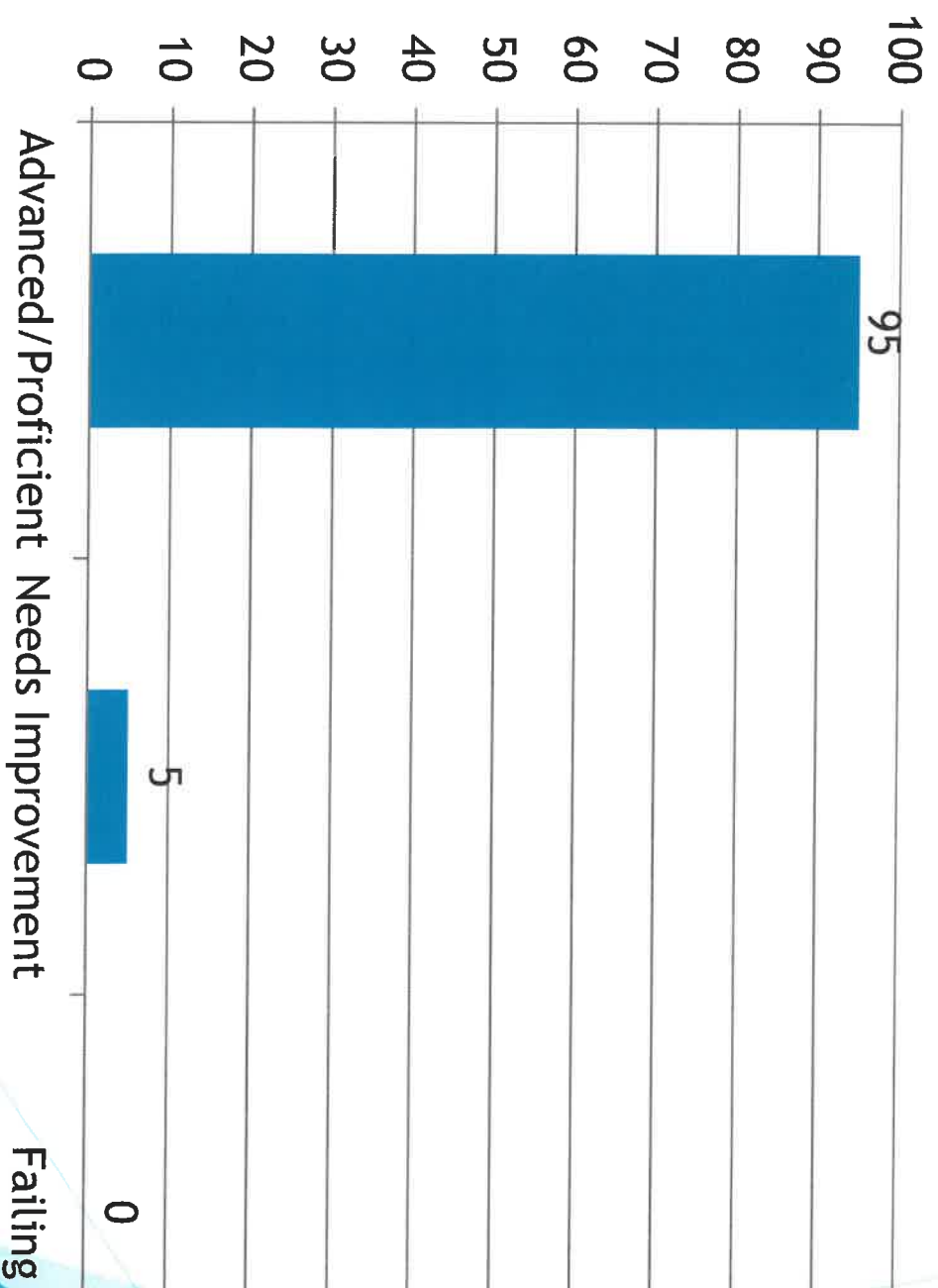
# MCAS Overview

- ▶ Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System
- ▶ Three (3) Purposes:
  - To inform curriculum, instruction and assessment
  - Evaluates student, school and district performance according to content standards and performance standards
  - **Determines eligibility for the Competency Determination requirement in order to award high school diplomas**

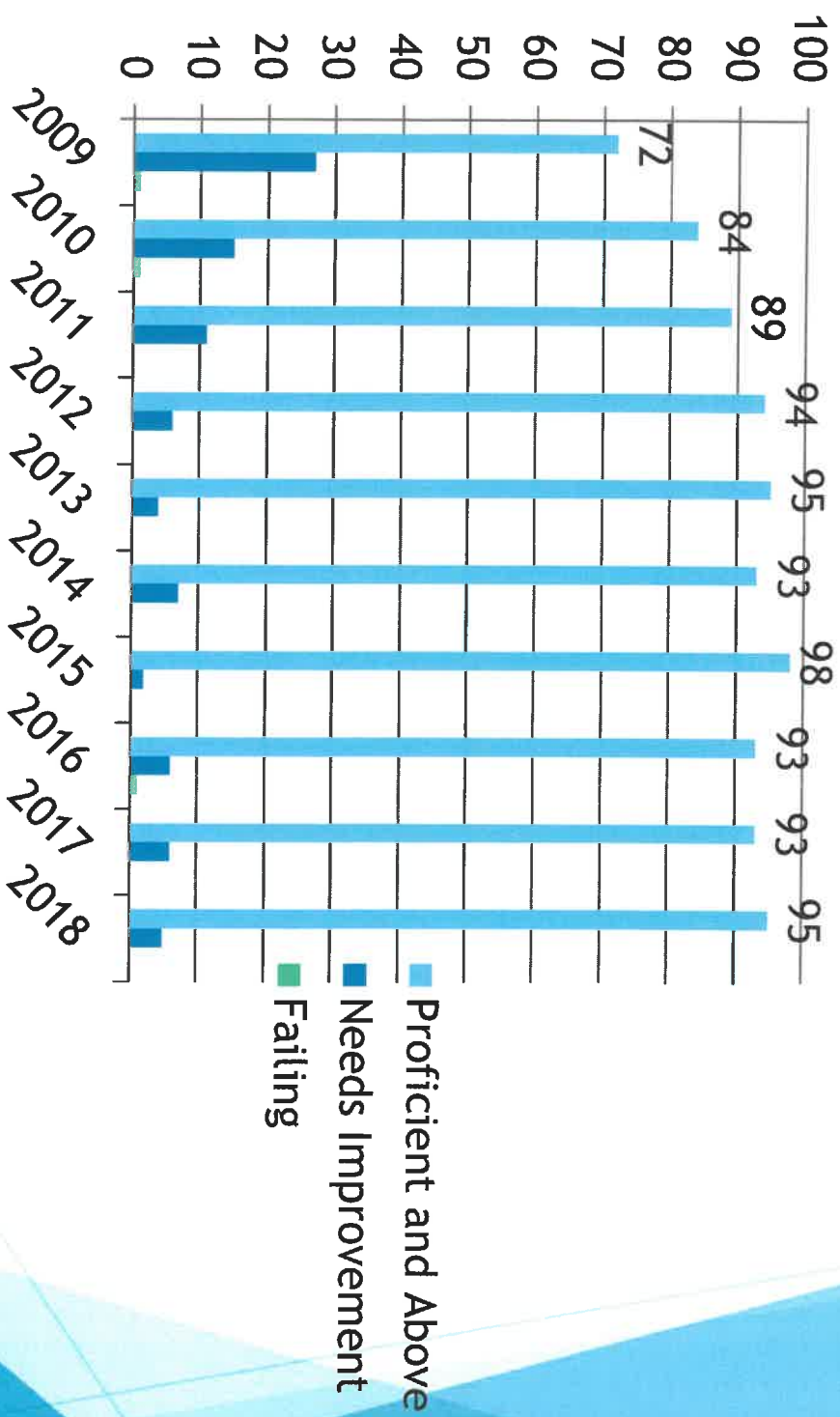
# MCAS Overview

- ▶ MCAS has been in the process of being “reformed” for several years
  - ▶ Pilot testing and computer based testing in the elementary and middle grades
  - ▶ Significant re-alignment with revised standards
- ▶ 2018: New Accountability System
- ▶ 2019: Next-Generation MCAS in ELA and Math
  - ▶ Computer based testing

# ELA 2018

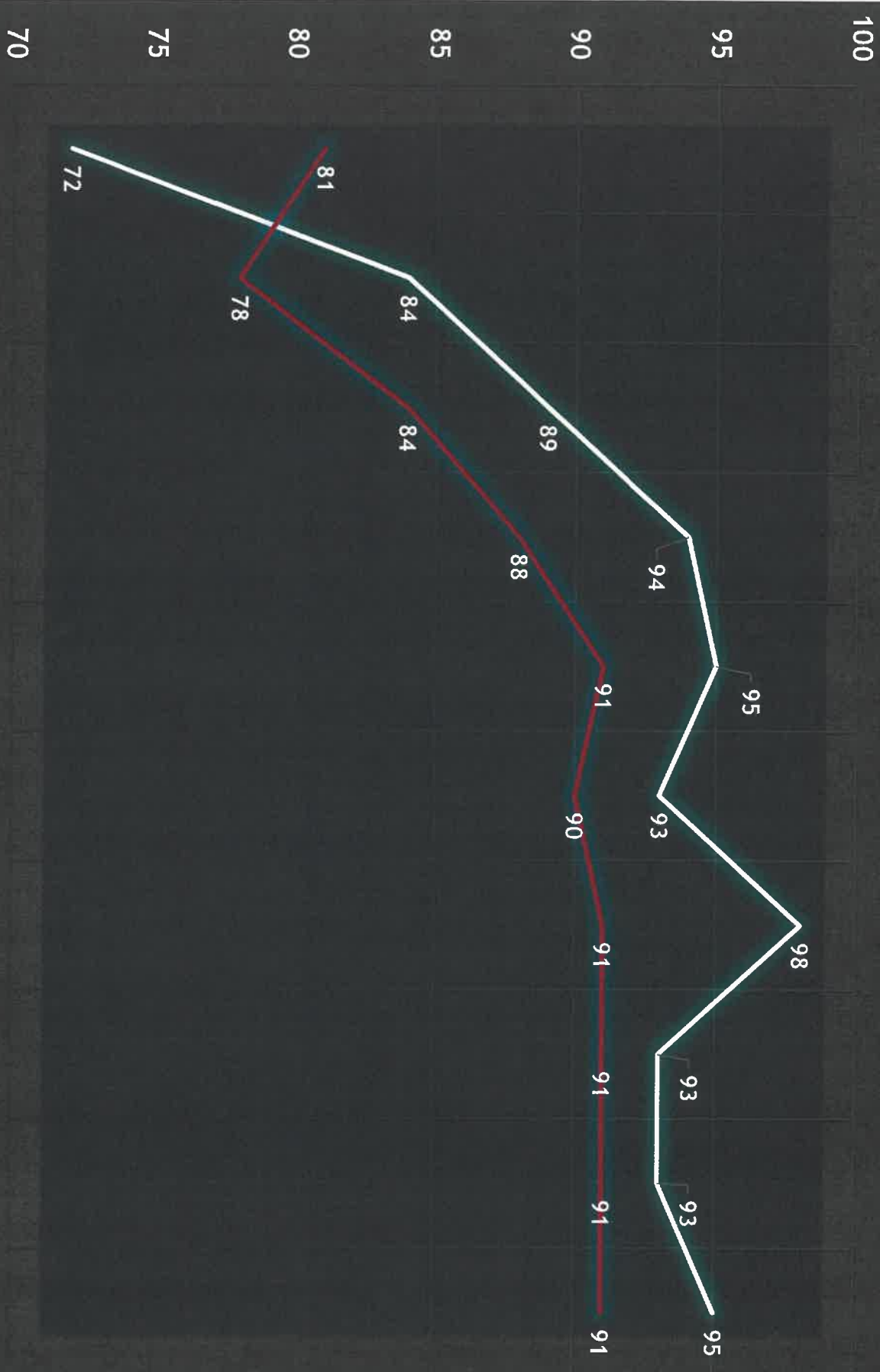


# ELA: 2009-2018

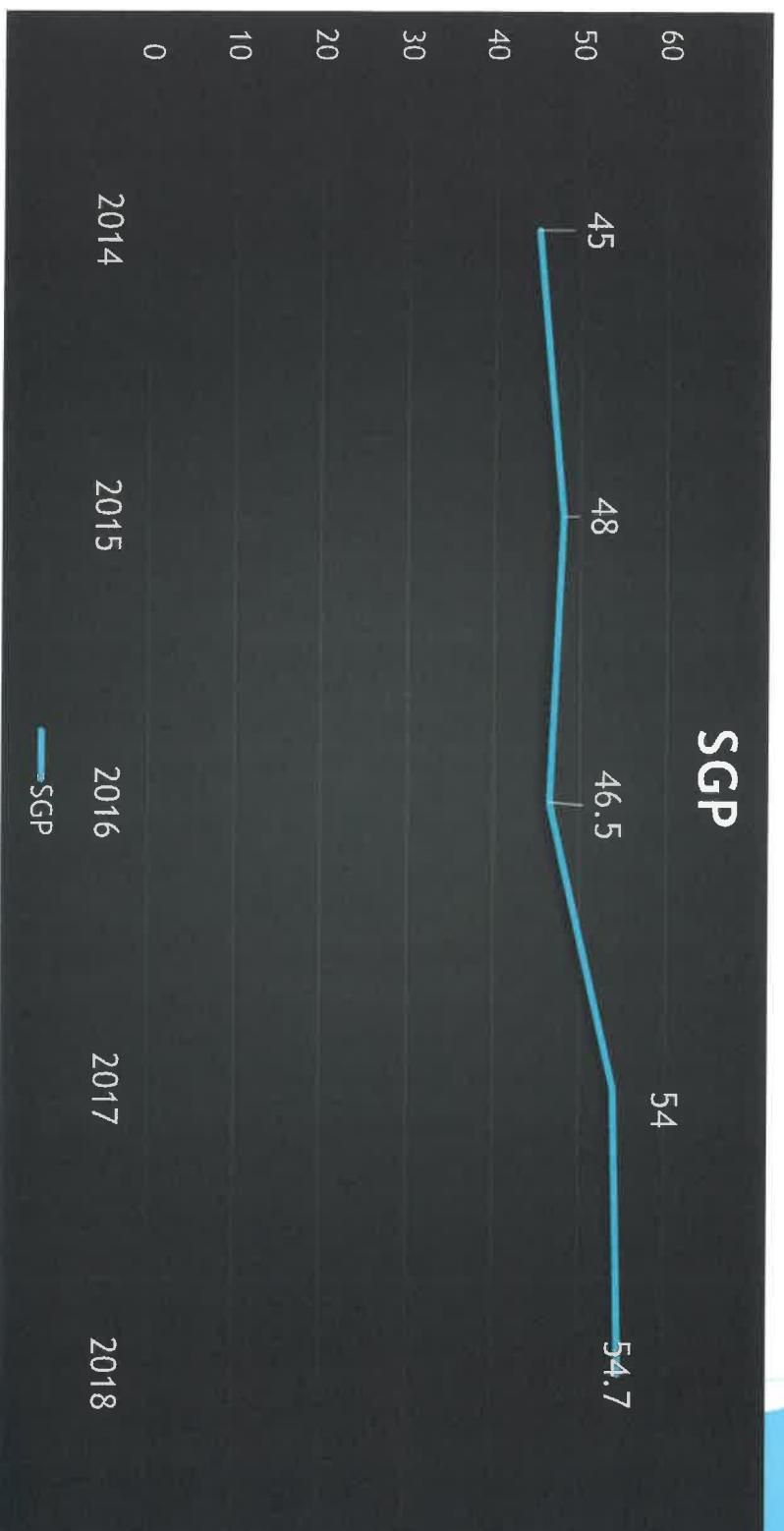


# BHR v. State - ELA MCAS Advanced/Proficient

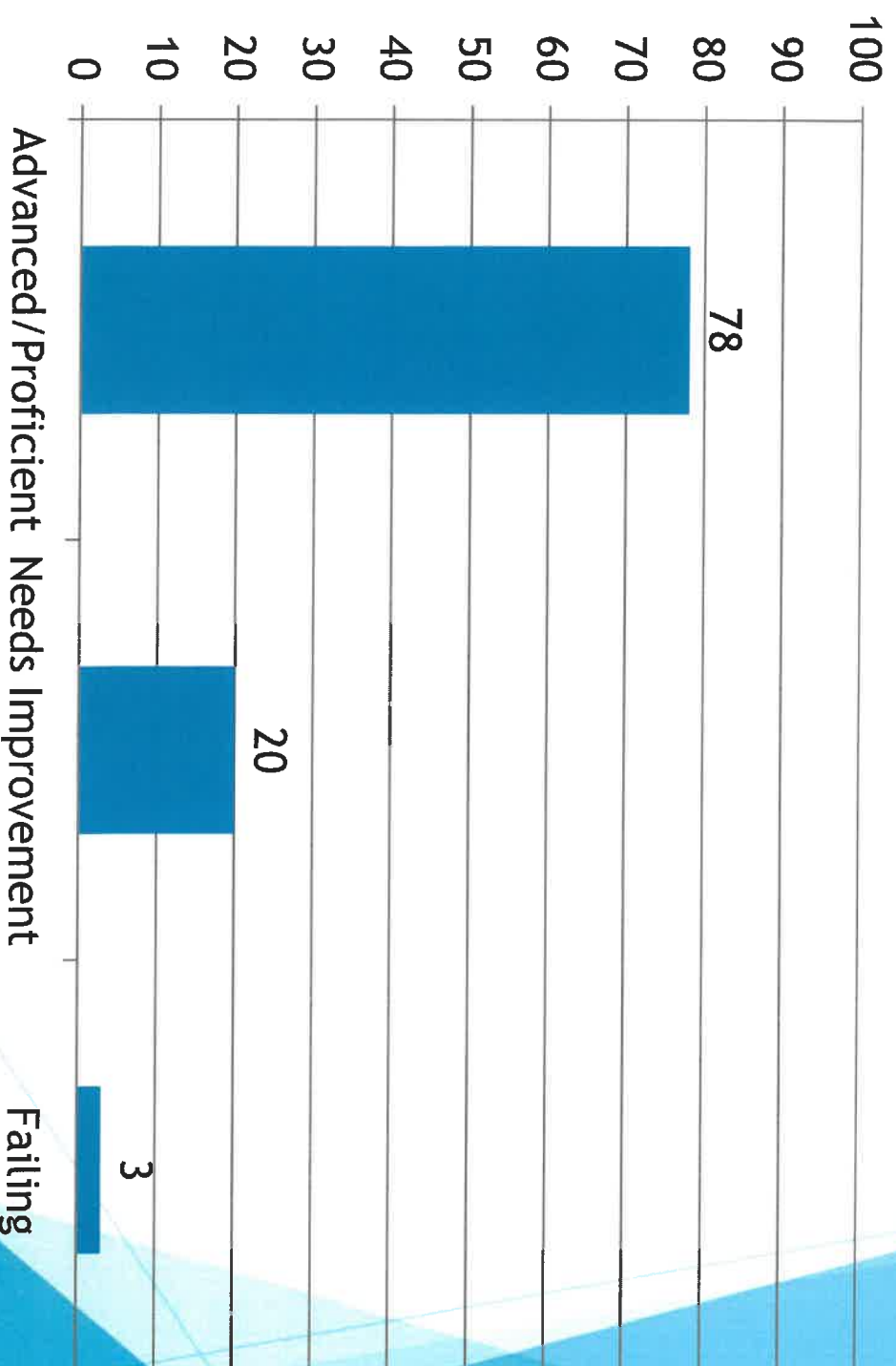
— Blue Hills — State



# ELA - Student Growth Percentiles 2014-2018

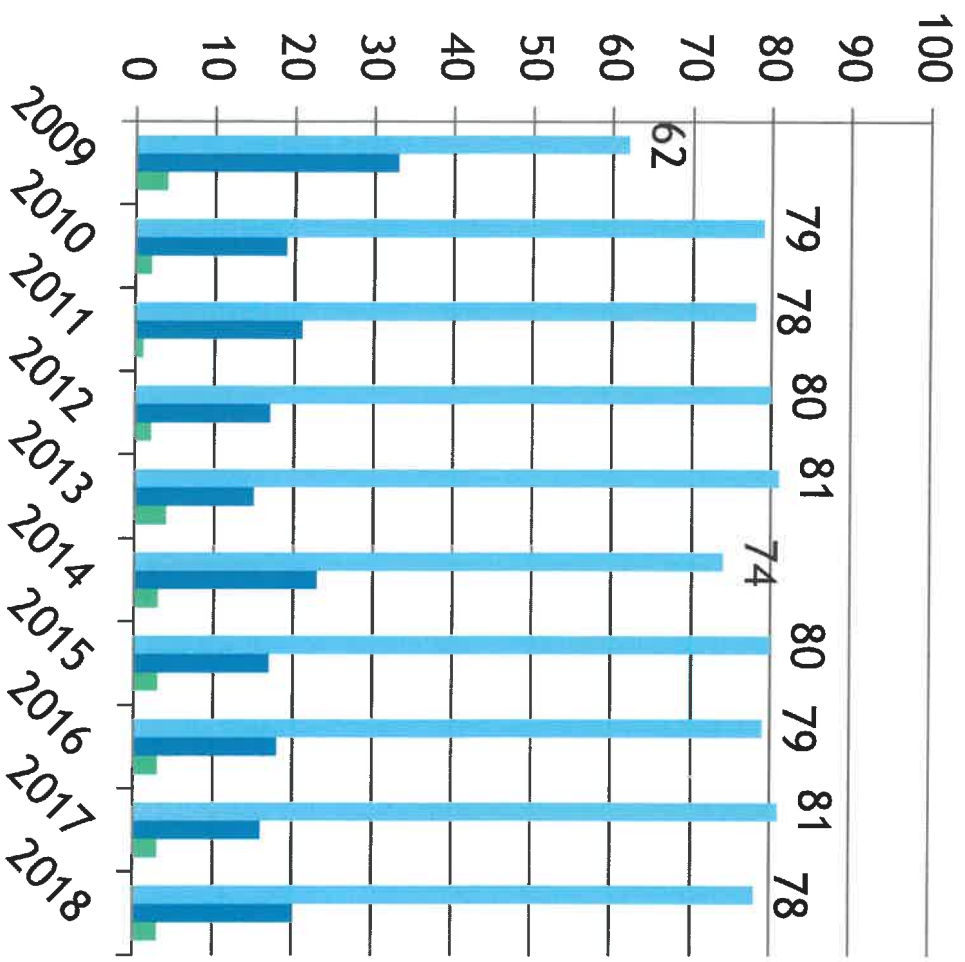


# Math 2018





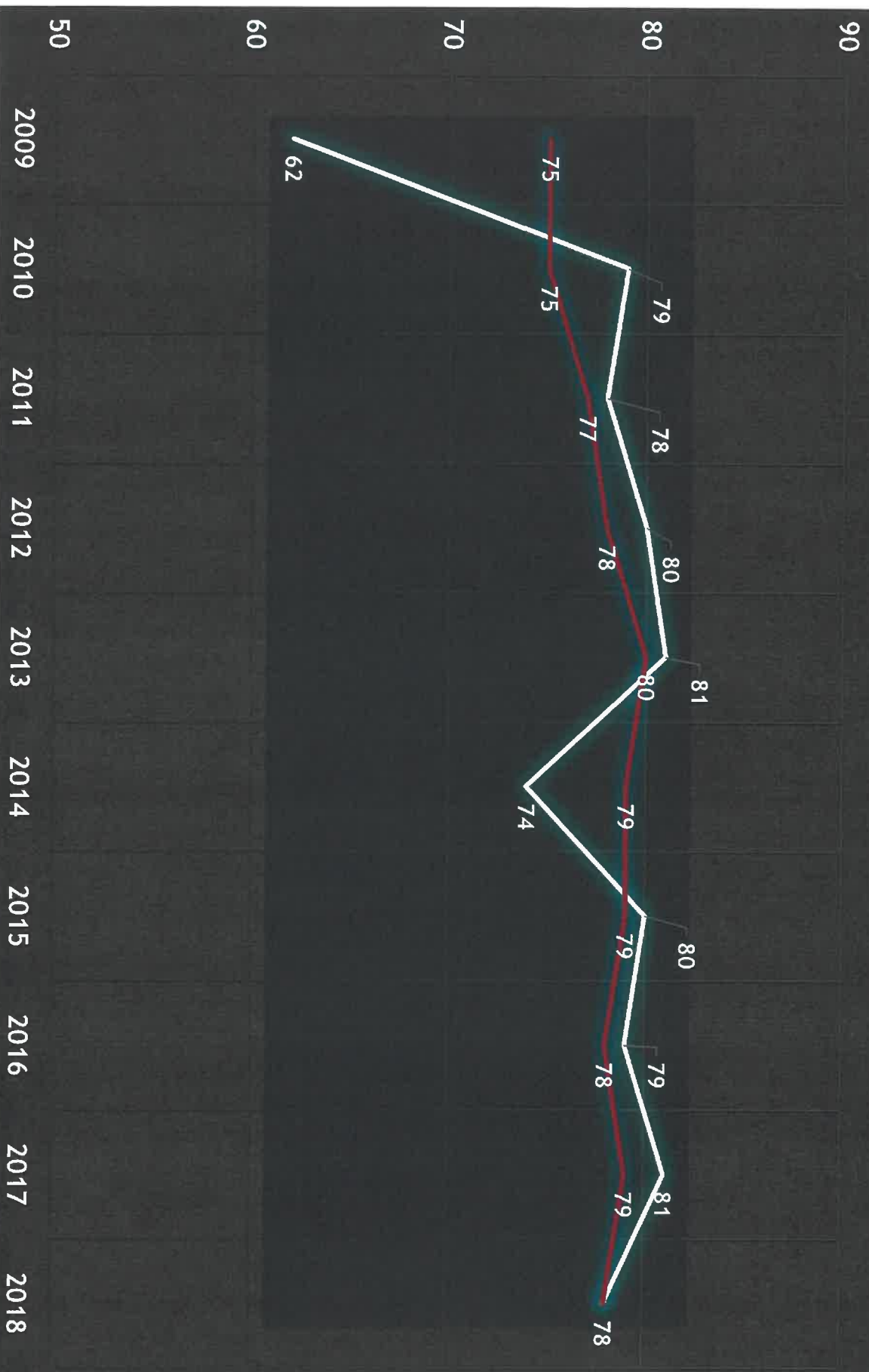
# Math: 2009-2018



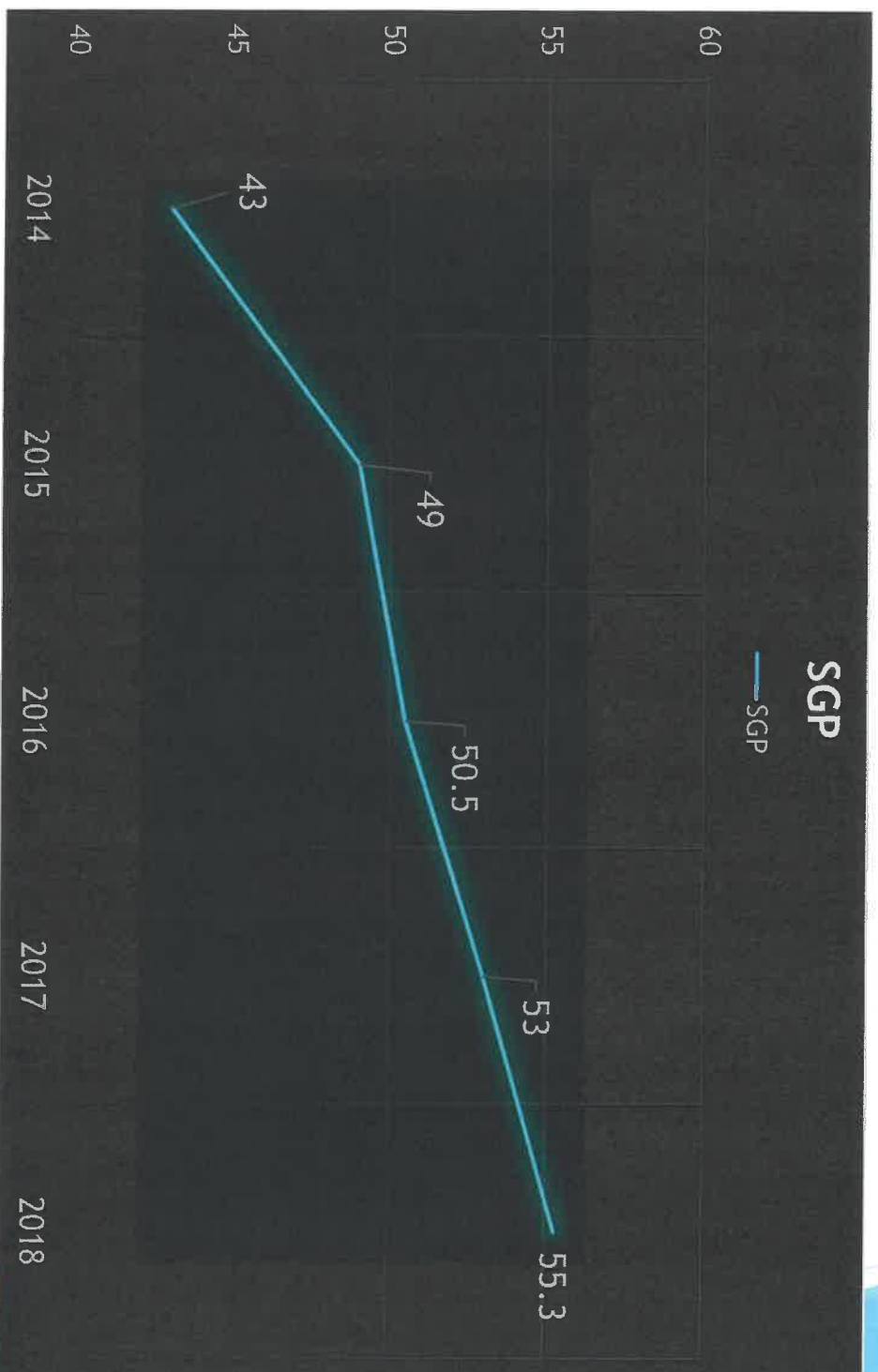
- Proficient and Above
- Needs Improvement
- Failing

# BHR v. State - Math MCAS Advanced/Proficient

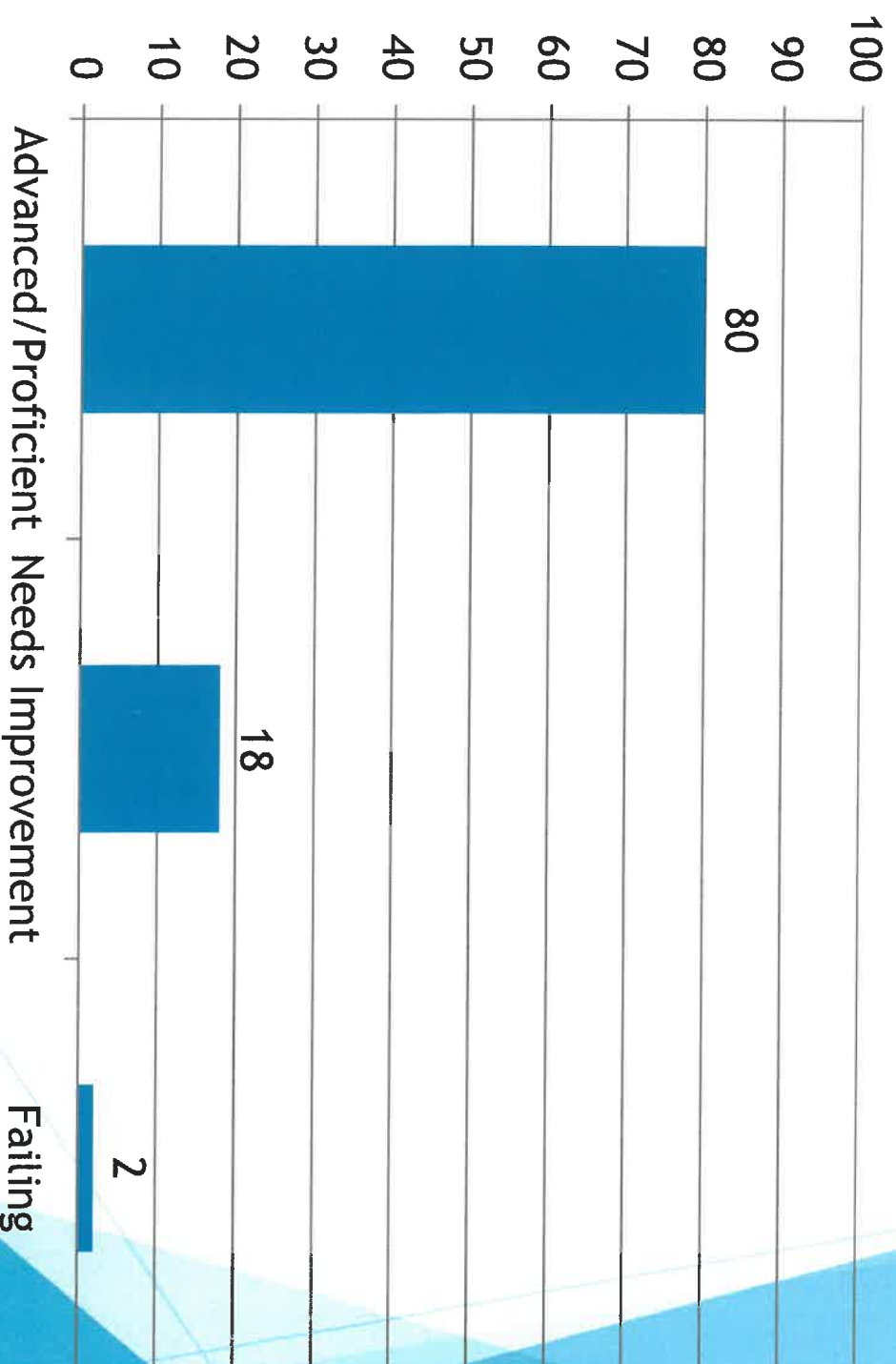
— Blue Hills — State



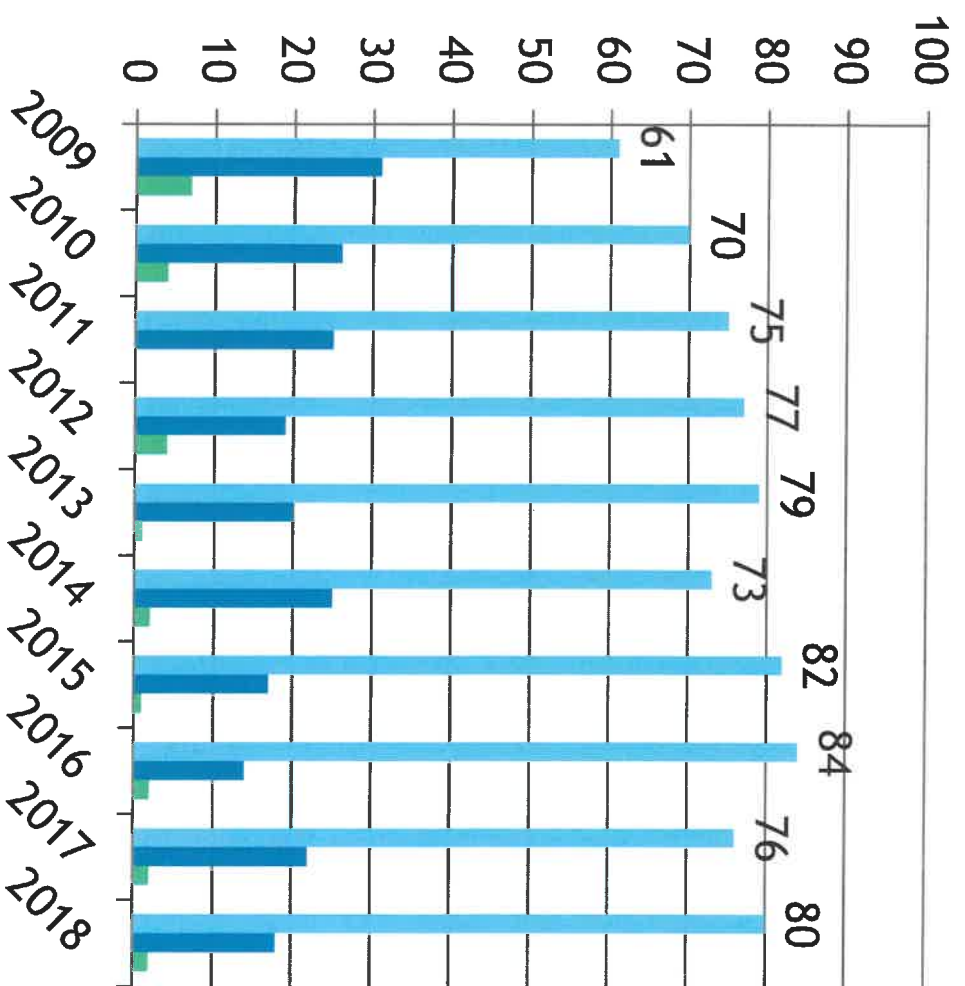
# Math Student Growth Percentiles



# Biology 2018



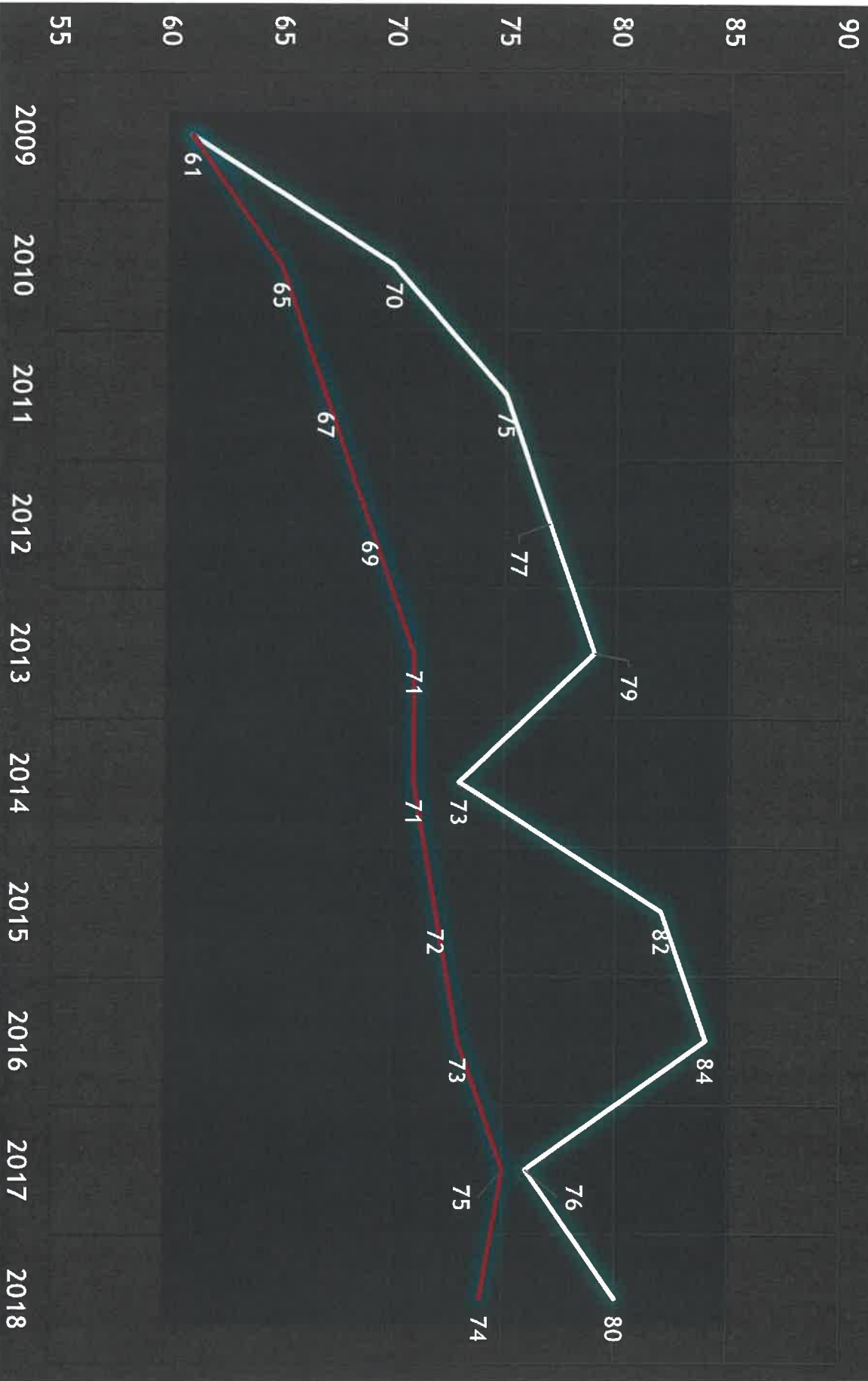
# Biology: 2009-2018



- Proficient and Above
- Needs Improvement
- Failing

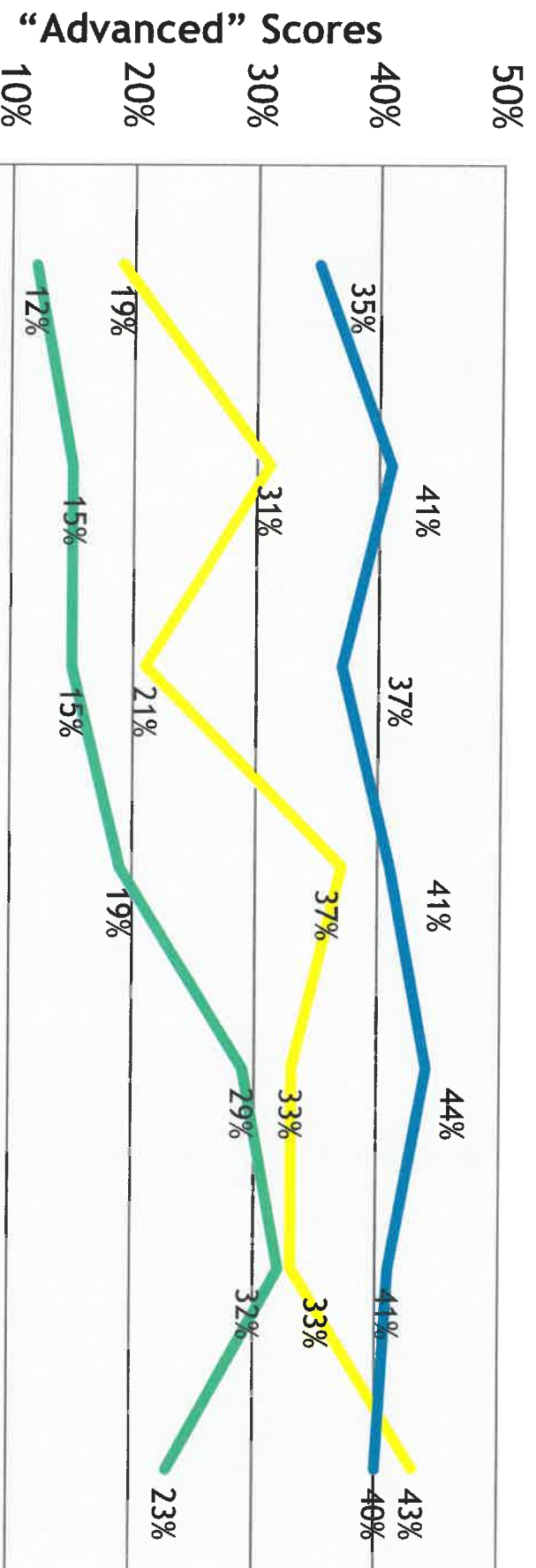
# BHR v. State - Science MCAS Advanced/Proficient

— Blue Hills — State



# MCAS Results- Past Seven Years

## 2012-2018 MCAS Results: “Advanced” scores



	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
ELA	19%	31%	21%	37%	33%	33%	43%
Math	35%	41%	37%	41%	44%	41%	40%
Bio	12%	15%	15%	19%	29%	32%	23%

# New State Accountability System - 2018

- ▶ New indicators and weights in the system
- ▶ Uses assessment data as well as graduation rates, attendance rates, and other data points
- ▶ Cannot be “compared” with previous years
- ▶ 2018 is the first year of the new system
- ▶ One year targets were established for 2018 after the year and assessments were finished
- ▶ Future targets will be set by the state - when?

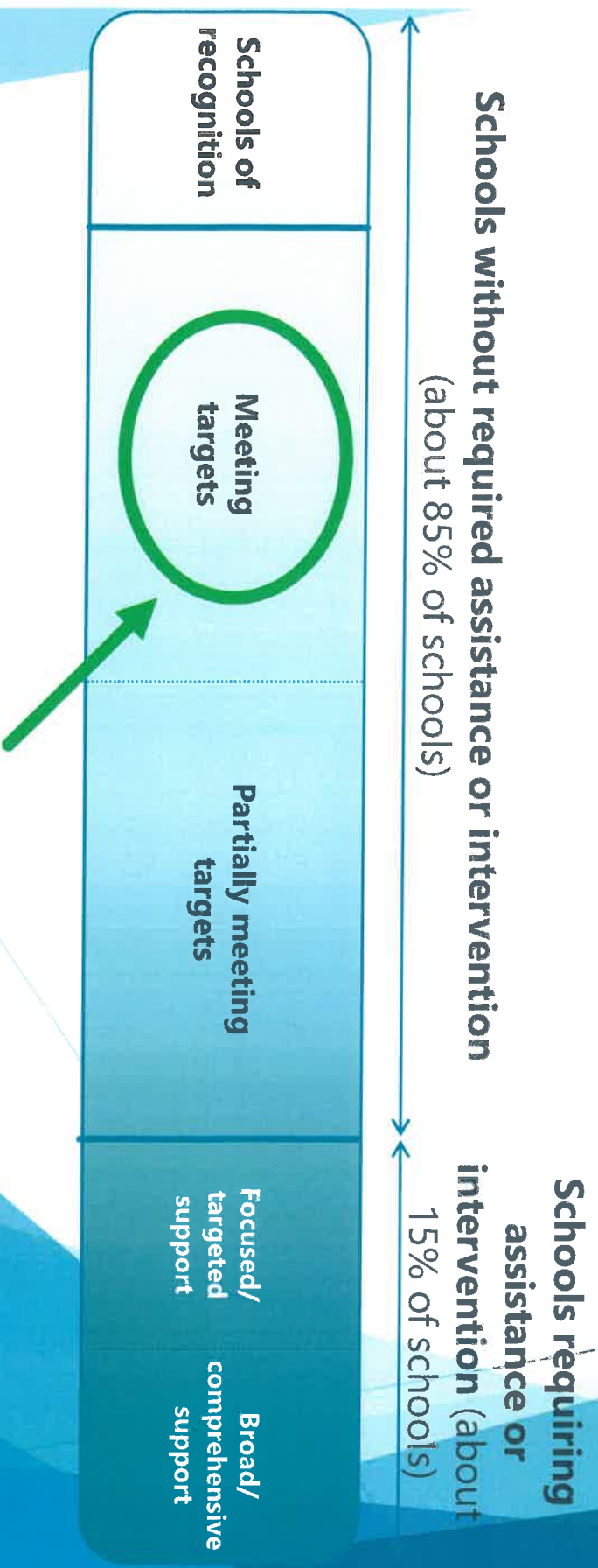


Achievement	MCAS scores in English language arts, math, and science
Student Growth	<p>Student growth percentiles in English language arts and math</p> <p>Four-year cohort graduation rate</p>
High School Completion	<p>Extended engagement rate (five-year cohort graduation rate plus the percentage of students from the cohort who are still enrolled)</p> <p>Annual dropout rate</p>
Progress Towards English Proficiency	<p>Percentage of English learners meeting annual targets in order to be English proficient in six years</p>
Chronic Absenteeism	<p>Percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of the days they were enrolled at a given school during a school year</p>
Advanced Coursework Completion	<p>Percentage of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders completing advanced coursework (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment courses, and other selected rigorous courses)</p>

# Two “groups”

- ▶ 50/50 split between “All Students” and “Lowest Performing” subgroup
- ▶ “Lowest Performing” is a new subgroup applied individually to each school based on the lowest performing 25% of students. This subgroup is identified using previous MCAS scores.
- ▶ This new subgroup gives each school a unique group of students to support and can be applied to every school, regardless of achievement level.

# New Accountability: How are schools “classified” under the new system?



# BHR Accountability - 2018

- ▶ Overall Classification:  
*Not requiring assistance or intervention*
- ▶ Reason for Classification:  
*Meeting targets*
- ▶ Progress toward improvement targets:  
*82% meeting targets*
- ▶ Accountability percentile: *74<sup>th</sup>*
- ▶ *Outperforming 74% of high schools according to the new DESE Accountability Indicators*

# Highlights of 2018 Accountability

## Meeting Targets - Great job!

- ▶ Overall School Percentile- **74<sup>th</sup> percentile**
  - ▶ outperforming 74% of High Schools based on the state indicators
- ▶ Special Education Subgroup - **85<sup>th</sup> percentile**
- ▶ High Needs Subgroup - **88<sup>th</sup> percentile**
- ▶ Economically Disadvantaged Subgroup - **96<sup>th</sup> percentile**
- ▶ Strong and consistent ELA, Math, and Biology scores
- ▶ Improving SGPs in ELA and Math
- ▶ Highest % of Advanced scores in ELA (43%)
- ▶ Meeting or exceeding state average on all three exams

# BHR Growth

- ▶ Identify and target “Lowest Performing Subgroup” annually
- ▶ Update and align Biology curriculum in grades 9 and 10
- ▶ Continue after-school MCAS prep program
- ▶ Implement Next-Generation MCAS in 2019 (computer-based testing)



# Blue Hills Regional Technical School

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## 2018 Summer Reading & Academic Enrichment Packets



# Summer Reading 2018

## ▶ Grade 9

- ▶ English - *Heroes, Gods and Monsters of the Greek Myths*
- ▶ Math Enrichment

## ▶ Grade 11

- ▶ English - *Black Duck* by Janet Taylor Lissle or *Kindred* by Octavia Butler

## ▶ Grade 10

- ▶ Biology Enrichment
- ▶ Math XL Enrichment
- ▶ US History II: *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline

## ▶ Grade 12

- ▶ AP Coursework for students enrolled in AP classes
- ▶ US Government: *Suspect Red* by L.M. Elliott



# Summer Reading Results

Grade/Subject	Class Average	Response Rate
Grade 9 English	A-	92%
Grade 9 Math	C	90%
Grade 10 Biology	C-	67%
Grade 10 Math	B+	88%
Grade 10 Social Studies	B	70%
Grade 11 English	B	82%
Grade 12 Social Studies	B-	68%

Approved: 10-23-2018  
Learning Without Walls Pilot *unanimously.*

Learn Anytime, Anywhere.

DSC → 10-23-18  
Agenda # 10.2

## Introduction

*Blue Hills' Mission is to continue its history of academic achievement, technical training and character development through a curriculum which emphasizes the integration of cutting-edge technical programs and challenging academic courses, enabling our students to become competent, caring and productive people in a diverse and changing world.*

In an effort to continue to inspire the love of learning and provide opportunities for our students to learn anywhere, anytime, not bound by four walls of a classroom or the time-frame of a school day or school year, we present the following pilot proposal.

Learning can take place anytime and anywhere, even without walls. We strive to provide a quality curriculum, and this pilot will help us with continuity of curriculum over the course of the year. The idea is to keep the learning timely and fresh. This pilot strives to ensure that students will have quality learning experiences by exposing students to a hybrid approach, practical time management and authentic college and career prep activities.

## Learning Without Walls: School cancellation days

Winter months bring inclement weather and impact learning with unexpected disruptions to the teaching and learning process. Cancelled school days are added to the end of the school calendar in June, which is not optimal for timely, focused learning experiences. In past years, we have had as many as six make-up days in June.

This year we would like to “pilot” **Learning without Walls** on school cancellation days after the third cancellation. That is, for the school year 2018-19, we would make-up a maximum of three school days at the end of June and use the **Learning without Walls** pilot for the fourth and subsequent days. This helps to ensure that our building renovation project starts on time in June 2019.

The **Learning without Walls** pilot project would provide students of Blue Hills with real-time, real-world, authentic learning experiences to replace those extra cancelled days. Our highly qualified teachers would provide curriculum-based learning that their students can access and complete in place of a cancelled school day. As a 1:1 Chromebook school, we are uniquely positioned to do this successfully in addition to traditional means of learning.

## On cancelled school days, students will...

- **access** assignments assigned by their teachers through various digital platforms
- **engage** with their classmates, teachers and families during and beyond cancelled school days
- **personalize** their learning with interest-based experiences
- **create** a product of authentic learning that demonstrates student learning on the cancelled school day
- **share** their product with their teachers and classmates in an effort to celebrate the authentic learning that took place on the cancelled school day

*To ensure access for all students, completed work will not be due the next day following cancellation. Due to the unpredictable nature of cancelled school days, some students may not have access to a device or Internet at home or might experience a power outage. This is important for equity and access for all students.*

## On cancelled school days, BHR faculty will...

- post assignments for students no later than the morning of the cancelled school day, but have the option to produce assignments as early as the summer, week or day before. This depends on the teacher's planning style and their students' needs.
- be available via email or google classroom during the day if possible.

Due dates will vary, based on the nature of the assignment and its curriculum connection. A due date can be:

- **Short term**, built into the current unit of study, curricular plan, with the due date several days after the cancelled school day.
- **End of unit**, as it is tied to the essential question or big ideas of the curriculum unit.
- **Longer term** to include weekend(s), and/or vacation(s), to facilitate visits to museums, historical sites, etc. embracing the mindset that learning can happen anywhere, anytime. Teachers will provide a range of opportunities for students.

School cancellation days also provide teachers time for curriculum development, grading, lesson planning and possible collaboration.

## Project/passion-based learning

Many teachers will provide students the opportunity to take part in small-scale projects or passion-based learning opportunities involving student choice to highlight their interests and strengths. These may include field trips, externships or independent research.

## The Learning without Walls Team

A group of Blue Hills educators met to explore ways that Blue Hills could offer authentic learning opportunities for students on cancelled days of school to replace the time that would alternatively be made up at the end of the school year. This group, comprised of an academic teacher, vocational teacher, special education teacher, and several administrators, analyzed various programs implemented by other districts in Massachusetts and crafted this proposal that would fit the needs of Blue Hills Regional Technical School.

### Team Members:

James Quaglia, Superintendent-Director

Jill Rossetti, Principal

Tom Cavanaugh, Dean of Students

Michelle Sylvia, Vocational Director

Geoff Zini, Academic Director

Seamus Killeen, Special Education Instructor

Chris Deady, Graphic Communications Instructor

Eileen Dailey, English Language Arts Instructor

# Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Learning without Walls?

**A: This is a distance learning program to replace cancelled school days which provides greater flexibility for assignments and due dates. It encourages Blue Hills student to use their Chromebooks digital tools, traditional assignments and various platforms while allowing for personalization, choice, creativity and passion-based learning.**

Q: When will the Learning without Walls Pilot Program start?

**A: It will after the third snow cancellation day.**

Q: Why is this the year to pilot the “Learning without Walls” program?

**A: To ensure the building renovation program starts on time, June 24, 2019. The trend of snow cancellation days over the past several years is usually five (5) or more.**

Q: When is the last day of school?

**A: The last day of school for all students will be Tuesday, June 18, 2019 without any snow days. Otherwise, it will be Friday, June 21, 2019 if this pilot is implemented and this will be a half day.**

Q: How much support should parents give their children?

**A: We are hoping that the details provided for students to complete the assignments will allow them to do most/all of the work independently.**

Q: What if my child receives Special Education services? How is my child’s assignment going to be adapted to meet his/her IEP?

**A: Assignments for students on IEPs will be adapted as necessary by their instructor, just as they are for other assignments during the school year. Special education staff is expected to accommodate and modify assignments as needed. Students on IEPs will be provided with appropriate assignments so they can access all activities.**

Q: When is the Learning without Walls work due?

**A: A two day minimum. Teachers will set the due date.**

Q: What if students need help or have a question on Learning without Walls Days?

**A: Teachers will check email from home and will be able to respond to student and parent questions.**

Q: What if my child does not complete the Learning without Walls assignments?

**A: Learning without Walls assignments represent school days that your student will not make up, therefore assignments will be assessed in the same way that other required assignments are assessed in their classroom.**

Q: How will families and students know about the Learning without Walls School Cancellation Pilot and remember what to do on a school cancellation day?

**A: Families and students will receive information about the Learning without Walls at the beginning of the winter season. Teachers may remind students before and throughout the cancelled school day using Google Classroom, Aspen X2, Twitter, email, Remind App, or other digital communication tools that the class uses. Some teachers may also offer digital office hours to help with home assignments.**

Q: Is there a central place for all Learning without Walls information?

**A: Yes. All information for Learning without Walls will be on the Blue Hills Website Learning without Walls page.**

Q: When will assignments be due?

**A: As noted earlier, student work will never be due on the day the students return to school. Due dates will vary, based on the nature of the assignment and its curriculum connection. A due date can be:**

- **Short term**, built into the current unit of study, curricular plan, with the due date several days after the cancelled school day.
- **End of unit**, as it is tied to the essential question or big ideas of the curriculum unit.
- **Longer term** to include weekend(s), and/or vacation(s), to facilitate visits to museums, historical sites, etc. embracing the mindset that learning can happen anywhere, anytime. Teachers will provide a range of opportunities for students.

Q: How long with the total of all assignments take for students to complete?

**A: Assignments will be reasonable in length for high school age and grade level of students and we are mindful of the unique opportunity for family time on school cancellation days. Emphasis is placed on the quality of learning experiences, not on quantity or compliance. Grade 9-12 students will spend approximately 30 minutes per subject area that would have met on the cancelled cycle day.**

Q: What if a student would have been absent on that day? Is he or she obligated to make up the assignments?

**A: Just like any other time a student is absent, students make up the work as they would if school were in session.**

Q: What if a teacher would have been absent on that day?

**A: The teacher will leave an assignment for students to complete just like any other time a teacher is absent.**

Q: What if a student does not complete his/her assignment?

**A: Teachers will respond to missed work just like they would any time a student does not complete classwork, vocational assignments or homework.**

Q: How will we know if the pilot was successful?

**A: Blue Hills will complete a program audit to ensure that students engage with quality, curriculum-based assignments and that student learning is commensurate with a regular school day.**

Q: Who should I speak to if I have a question or concern?

**A: It is always best to speak directly with the teacher first. The Principal, Academic Director, Vocational Director and Special Ed Director are also available to provide support.**

Q: How will vocational programs assign meaningful work?

**A: Students will be assigned coursework that is aligned with their state frameworks including strands 4, 5 and 6, OSHA-10, small scaled projects based on passion and interest, senior project**

**research, related and/or theory coursework customized by grade and vocational program area.**  
resources:

[Learn Anywhere](#) (Wakefield Memorial High School Snow Cancellation Days Project)

MA DESE School Redesign: Alternative Structured Learning Day Programs Memo from January 5, 2018

Duxbury Public Schools Alternative School Day Project Pilot 2018-2019

James P. Quaglia  
Superintendent-Director

Steven M. Moore  
Assistant Superintendent for  
Business and Personnel

Jill M. Rossetti  
Principal



800 Randolph Street  
Canton, MA 02021  
781-828-5800 (p)  
781-828-0794 (f)  
www.bluehills.org

October 10, 2018

*Agenda  
#10.3 DSC 10-23-18*

Mr. James Quaglia  
Superintendent-Director  
Blue Hills Regional Technical School  
800 Randolph Street  
Canton, MA 02021



Dear Mr. Quaglia:

*VOTED Unanimously  
To decommission*

The Construction department would like to decommission the following tools; small dust collector, bench top drill press, three scroll saws, a grinder, a disc sander and eight assorted circular saws. These tools have extended beyond their life expectancy.

Qty	Brand	Description	Model #	Serial #	Value
1	Delta	Small Dust Collector	AP400	037455 SF40	\$75.00
1	Duracraft	Bench Top Drill Press	500	257627	\$75.00
3	Dewalt	Scroll Saws	DW788	2013-31-CJ56149	\$60.00
			DW788	2009-52-CJ35869	\$60.00
			DW788	2009-52-CJ36204	\$60.00
1	Baldor	Grinder	7037D	W582	\$45.00
1	Robbins & Myers	Disc Sander	M563	7447SP	\$50.00
8	Skil / DeWalt	Assorted Circular Saws	Varies	Varies	\$15-20 ea.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Sylvia*  
Michelle Sylvia  
Vocational Director

