



## Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District

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

#WeAreDR



**Mr. Bill Runey**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Dr. Frederick Souza, Jr.**  
Assistant Superintendent

**Mr. Leo Brehm**  
Business Administrator

**Dr. Marie Juanita DiGioia**  
Director of Special Education

March 11, 2025

Dear Dighton-Rehoboth Families, Students, Staff, and Community Members,

The upcoming FY26 budget for the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District presents both opportunities and challenges. While we are not facing the drastic cuts of previous years, this is not a sign of financial stability—rather, it is the result of deep sacrifices already made in FY24 and FY25, when 33 staff positions were slated to be eliminated.

The financial burden on our towns is not due to district spending decisions but rather an outdated state funding formula that fails to account for the real costs of education. The "hold harmless" designation now applies to over 230 districts across Massachusetts, forcing towns to shoulder the full cost of budget increases—a situation that is no longer sustainable given the 4-year inflation rate of 4.95%

Massachusetts has an opportunity to address this broken system. The proposed bill, SD. 1912, would only require \$250,000—out of the state's \$59.6 billion budget—to reconvene the K-12 Funding Review Commission in FY26. This is a crucial step toward fairer education funding.

We are very fortunate that our local legislators plan to support SD. 1912, but they need data to help convince their other colleagues in the House and Senate. Please take a moment to complete the brief petition linked below to show your support for SD. 1912 and other funding initiatives that will help secure the future of our schools.

[Petition to support initiatives to improve state funding for D-R can be found by clicking this link.](#)

Resource: [Read more about SD. 1912 and other funding initiatives by clicking this link.](#)

Thank you for your support and advocacy!

***Together, we are DR!***

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Runey".

Bill Runey  
Superintendent