

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENCY UNION #55

2008-2009 SCHOOL YEAR REPORT

Reports from the education providers (teachers, support staff, administrators and school committee members) and our consumers (students and their parents) on balance rated the 2008-2009 school year in the Old Rochester and Superintendency Union #55 Schools as a time of very solid progress. The severe downturn in the nation's economy began to be felt just before the school doors reopened for the 2008-2009 term. The constraining impact of the worsening economy impacted the management of all FY09 budgets in the schools, and also forced all plans for FY10 budget development into a quite conservative context. District-Union collective bargaining efforts regarding contracts set to expire in June, 2009 were conducted against the backdrop of state and local economic conditions that tended to get a little worse each day. There are now 11 separate union contracts operative in the four school districts (Old Rochester Regional School District = 4, Mattapoisett School District = 1, Marion School District = 3, Rochester School District = 3), and the only ones still unsettled for 2009-2010 as of late fall 2009 are the Old Rochester Professional Educator's Association –Old Rochester Regional School District pacts for: 1) Clerical workers and 2) Paraprofessionals.

The country's economic condition does have an impact at several levels of school operations. In leaner times: a) supplies and materials need to be stretched further; b) class section choices are more constrained; c) class sizes are increased and d) activities such as drama and athletics become more dependent on fundraising initiatives to keep going. All of these impacts in various forms are becoming more numerous in the Old Rochester Regional and Mass. Superintendency Union #55 Schools. However, despite the need to back off to a certain extent, the learning environment has continued to be very positive, and every effort is being made to make sure that the educational experience of the public school students in the Tri-Town region remains full and first rate in all possible ways.

School Leadership

The 2008-2009 term included several important leadership changes in the Old Rochester Regional and Mass. Superintendency Union #55 Districts. It was the first full fiscal year for Kathleen Isernio, the new School Business Administrator, who started work in the Tri-Town Districts in June, 2008. Ms. Isernio is off to a great start in her assignment here, gaining the respect of colleagues and school committee members for her sound financial decisions and thorough reporting.

The Old Rochester Regional Senior High School leadership picture actually clarified in a quite positive direction in the 2008-2009 term. The September, 2008 resignation of Sheila Haskins after only one year at Old Rochester Regional, provided the school with a good opportunity to assess the leadership needs and to take an extended period of time to find the person best equipped to meet the challenges of the Sr. High School helm in the future. John Amaral, a Rochester resident and the retired Wareham High School principal, agreed to accept an interim appointment as the Old Rochester Regional Sr. High School principal for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Amaral helped guide the Sr. High School program, staff and students in a calm manner, in positive directions during the term and, as the year progressed, it became evident that the Assistant Principal, Michael Devoll of Fairhaven, would be a very strong candidate when the search for a new High School principal got started in the spring of 2009. Mr. Devoll outdistanced a strong field of principal candidates and gained the Old Rochester Regional appointment in March, 2009. Mr. Amaral completed his interim assignment as the Old Rochester Regional principal in June, and Mr. Devoll began his tenure as the

High School leader in the summer of 2009. Now, at the midway point of the 2009-2010 term, Mr. Devoll is off to a very positive start in what is hoped will be a long tenure at Old Rochester. The new Assistant Principal at Old Rochester Regional Sr. High School in 2009-2010 is Michael Parker of Sandwich, MA. Mr. Parker accepted a one-year contract at Old Rochester Regional to take a trial run in an administration post after serving for 16 years at Sandwich High School as a history teacher and academic department leader.

The Mattapoisett Elementary School leadership picture changed in 2008-2009 when Rose Bowman, the 10-year veteran Old Hammondtown principal moved about a mile east to assume that same role at Center School. Ms. Bowman replaced Jack Murphy who retired in June, 2008, and Matt D'Andrea, the Sippican Assistant Principal filled Ms. Bowman's slot at Old Hammondtown School. Both people enjoyed positive year one experiences and are now midway through their second years at Center and Old Hammondtown School respectively.

Ed Fava of Fairhaven was named the new Sippican Principal in the summer of 2008, replacing Dona Mahoney, who returned to Plymouth as an elementary principal following four years at the lead position in Marion. Mr. Fava ended his tenure as the Sippican leader after only one year and two months of the 2009-2010 term. He was replaced in November, 2009 by Lyn Rivet of New Bedford and the current part-time Assistant Principal at Sippican. Ms. Rivet will serve in an interim capacity for the balance of the 2009-2010 school year. In the spring of 2010, the new Superintendent, Doug White, will confer with the School Committee about the parameters of a search for a Sippican Principal for the 2010-2011 school year and beyond.

Finally on the administration change front, Jane Macdonald, the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, retired in the spring of 2009, and her vacant position was not filled because of the constrained FY10 budget picture. Also, the present Old Rochester Regional/Mass Superintendency Union #55 Superintendent, William Cooper, announced in the spring of 2009 that he would be retiring at the end of December, 2009. This announcement prompted the four school committees to get busy with a search for a new superintendent. The School Committee members worked diligently and efficiently to develop a strong field of candidates and completed the appointment process in accordance with their schedule with the announcement in October, 2009 that Doug White of Plymouth, MA and the current Superintendent in Henniker, NH would succeed Dr. Cooper on February 1, 2010. The search process led by Sharon Hartley, the Rochester School Committee and Mass. Superintendency Union #55 School Committee Chairperson, and Peter Bangs, the Old Rochester Regional School Committee Chairman, involved strong support from all constituencies in the school community and the momentum for Mr. White's nomination appears to be very solid.

School Buildings

The 2008-2009 school year saw the prospect of a building addition and renovation work on the existing Rochester Memorial School draw closer to reality. Buoyed by the promise of state support of the expansion/renovation initiative at Rochester Memorial School, the School Building Committee, headed by Arnie Johnson, pressed forward with an architect, Flansburgh Associates and project management firm, PMA Associates to develop the specifications for a \$26M plant improvement. The building proposal was given a green light by Rochester voters 920 to 337 on October 31, 2009, and it is expected that the expansion portion of the project will be underway in the spring of 2010 and that the renovation of the existing building will follow in the summer or fall of 2010 when the use of the 14 new classrooms will enable contractors to isolate portions of the existing plant for the upgrade work that is planned.

The two new Mattapoissett Elementary Schools, Old Hammondtown and Center, continued to pose challenges for school and town authorities. The town will be forever in debt to Ray Andrews, the school building committee chairman, who should have been able to relinquish that title several years ago. His determination to see the two school projects through to satisfactory completion has helped greatly to make sure that the town's considerable investment is rewarded with tight, fully functioning school buildings. The remaining HVAC problems at Old Hammondtown School are due for full attention in 2010, and the roof leaks at Center School are likewise expected to be fully addressed in 2010.

Elsewhere:

The Sippican School plant has been made more secure with upgraded alarms and a swipe-card door entry system. On tap for 2010 at Sippican School will be: 1) new windows in three classrooms not included in the 2001 project; 2) a computer debit card style operation for the cafeteria; and 3) a drainage channel along the northeast side of the building to keep water from the tennis court area away from the school foundation.

The Old Rochester plant continued to be plagued by HVAC problems despite the investment of \$60,000 in the heating control system. The School Committee approved the installation of another computer driven thermostat control panel in the fall of 2009, and will await further word from Johnson Controls in the winter of 2009-2010 to see if the latest effort to get this most troubling equipment functioning efficiently will work.

School and town authorities will need to work together on the matter of upkeep of the Old Rochester plant if the towns are to avoid repeating the maintenance history of the previous Jr. High School –Sr. High School plant. In that case, insufficient investment in the plant led to deterioration that tended to snowball in the 15-year period prior to the expansion/renovation project of 2001.

Unfortunately, the effort to keep the Old Rochester Regional/ Mass. Superintendency Union #55 School plants operating efficiently will no longer have the good advice and expertise of the long-time Facilities Coordinator, Steve Shiraka. Mr. Shiraka died on November 14, 2009 of an apparent heart attack at his home in East Falmouth. He had served as the Old Rochester Regional/Mass. Superintendency Union #55 Facilities Coordinator since July of 1999 and had been the Old Rochester Regional maintenance head before that time from May of 1996 to June of 1999. Steve's help with the new school building projects in each of the three towns and at Old Rochester Regional was very valuable.

The Faculty and Staff

The reports concerning our 2008-2009 new teachers as well as my own observations of same indicated that the staff recruiting efforts in all four districts continue to be quite solid. To develop budget proposals for FY10 within the increase parameters deemed supportable by the school committees and finance committees in the three towns, the districts (Rochester and Old Rochester in particular) needed to take full advantage of the money saved through retirements. In each district there were teaching assignments in 2008-2009 not continued in 2009-2010 because of budget limitations. The quality of our teachers and support staff members in all four districts is of very high caliber and a major reason for the A-1 rating accorded our schools by so many people in the region.

The following people completed terms of service to the school district during the 2008-2009 school year, and their contributions to the success of our programs are greatly appreciated.

Sippican School

Geoffrey Smith
Marie Pimental
Kathryn Chiapetta
Janet DiSalvo
JoAnn Vierkant
Margaret McGowan
Elizabeth Gingras

Special Education Teacher
Librarian
Psychologist
Special Education Teacher
Elementary Teacher
Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional

Center School

Amy Miller
Barbara Downing

Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional

Old Hammondtown School

Ruby Maestas
Cathleen Sinnott
Holly Ashley
Molly Henriksen

School Adjustment Counselor
Enrichment Teacher
Elementary Teacher
.40 Art Teacher

Rochester Memorial School

Anna Okolita
Susan Keane
Kathryn Chiapetta
Kathryn O'Brien
Constance Holt
Jody Church
Robert Valois
Jean Fox

Elementary Teacher
Elementary Teacher
Psychologist
Special Education Teacher
Elementary Teacher
Title I Assistant
Educational Generalist
Special Education Teacher

ORR Jr. High School

Joseph Alves
Thomas Gronski
Janis Johnson
Joann Dunn

Custodian
Math Teacher
Physical Education Teacher
Paraprofessional

ORR High School

Patricia Murphy
Robert Hohne
John Regan
Lorene Sweeney
Jean Hong
Becky Zora
William Hillier
Sheila Haskins

Math Long Term Substitute
English Teacher
Paraprofessional
Speech Language Pathologist
Art Teacher
Art Teacher
Science Teacher
Principal

Central Office

Danielle Brightman

Superintendent's Secretary

The following people began employment in the schools during the 2008-2009 term and we wish them success in their new assignments.

Sippican School

Erin Sullivan	Art Teacher
Geoffrey Smith	Special Education Teacher
Kathryn Chiapetta	Psychologist

Old Hammondtown School

Carolyn Canastra	Elementary Teacher
Molly Henriksen	.40 Art Teacher
Laura O'Connell	Elementary Teacher
Elizabeth Valliere	Elementary Teacher

Rochester Memorial School

Kathryn Chiapetta	Psychologist
-------------------	--------------

ORR Jr. High School

Matthew Cavanaugh	Social Studies Teacher
Maureen Barrett	Paraprofessional

ORR High School

Seth Bushnell	Social Studies Teacher
Amanda Fillio	Music Teacher
Michael Linane	Social Studies Teacher
Hilary Loranger	Special Education Teacher
Patricia Murphy	Math Long Term Substitute
Stacie Torres	Math Long Term Substitute
Lindsay Tallman	Social Studies Teacher

Central Office

Jennifer Carreiro	Superintendent's Office Secretary
Kathleen Isernio	School Business Administrator
Ellen Camacho	Bookkeeper

Special Education

As compared with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester and Old Rochester Regional School Districts educate 95% of the children who receive special education within the neighborhood schools. The average percentage of students with disabilities is 14%, which is less than the state average.

Enrollment in Special Education Programs

Students who receive special education services in the Tri-Town Area range in age from 3 to 22. Our integrated preschool program – Project GROW provides services for any preschoolers who are eligible for special education programs. Other preschoolers who are eligible for special education services, but not a program receive therapies on an appointment basis. Children in elementary schools range from those who may have very mild learning or language disabilities or developmental delay to students who have very significant disabilities (multiple handicaps, etc.). School based TEAMS consider the impact of the student's disability on their education in determining the types of services or program the child needs. Some children with complex disabilities affecting all areas of

their lives may require services after school or during summer vacation. As children become older, school based TEAMS work with adult agencies to begin the transition process for these children.

Marion

Selected Populations (2008-09)



Title	% of School	% of District	% of State
First Language not English	0.2	0.2	15.4
Limited English Proficient	0.0	0.0	5.9
Low-income	7.6	7.6	30.7
Special Education	15.9	16.1	17.1
Free Lunch	5.7	5.7	25.2
Reduced Lunch	1.8	1.8	5.5

Mattapoissett

Selected Populations (2008-09)



Title	% of School	% of District	% of State
First Language not English	0.3	0.4	15.4
Limited English Proficient	0.0	0.0	5.9
Low-income	9.1	9.3	30.7
Special Education	13.1	13.3	17.1
Free Lunch	7.4	6.4	25.2
Reduced Lunch	1.7	2.9	5.5

Rochester

Selected Populations (2008-09)



Title	% of School	% of District	% of State
First Language not English	0.2	0.2	15.4
Limited English Proficient	0.2	0.2	5.9
Low-income	8.6	8.6	30.7
Special Education	14.7	15.2	17.1
Free Lunch	5.6	5.6	25.2
Reduced Lunch	3.0	3.0	5.5

Old Rochester Regional

Selected Populations (2008-09)



Title	% of School	% of District	% of State
First Language not English	0.4	0.4	15.4
Limited English Proficient	0.1	0.1	5.9
Low-income	9.2	9.2	30.7
Special Education	11.5	11.5	17.1
Free Lunch	6.6	6.6	25.2
Reduced Lunch	2.6	2.6	5.5

Student Achievement

The effort made in the ORR/Union #55 districts to include special education students in the general academic programs in each of the schools returns positive dividends as demonstrated by 88% of the students with disabilities passing the Grade 10 ELA MCAS, as compared with the state average of 71%. Additionally ORR graduates passed the Math MCAS at a rate of 75% compared with a state average of 53%.

ALL GRADES - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS																		
Student Group	District									State								
	Stud. Includ.	AYP Part.	% of Stud at Each Perf Level				CPI	SGP	Inc in SGP	Stud. Includ.	AYP Part.	% of Stud. at Each Perf Level				CPI	SGP	Inc in SGP
	#	%	A	P	NI	W				#	%	A	P	NI	W			
AYP Subgroups																		
Stud. w/ Disab	73	100	1	56	32	11	84.2	43.0	68	89,677	98	2	26	42	29	67.8	40.0	66,224

ALL GRADES - MATHEMATICS																		
Student Group	District									State								
	Stud. Includ.	AYP Part.	% of Stud at Each Perf Level				CPI	SGP	Inc in SGP	Stud. Includ.	AYP Part.	% of Stud. at Each Perf Level				CPI	SGP	Inc in SGP
	#	%	A	P	NI	W				#	%	A	P	NI	W			
AYP Subgroups																		
Stud. w/ Disab	73	100	15	29	32	25	70.9	56.0	68	89,871	98	4	16	33	47	56.9	43.0	66,303

Finances

In 2008-09, the Tri-Town Districts expended approximately 20% of their total operating budget on special education.

The four districts used most of its federal entitlement programs to fund salaries of local special education staff. The districts continue to benefit from the states revised (as of 2004) formula for reimbursing extra-ordinary costs for special education, commonly called the "Circuit Breaker" program.

The School Budgets

The FY 2009 budgets reported on here were developed and voted a few months before the financial collapse felt nation-wide in the fall of 2008. To be certain the management of the budget in each of the districts took on an extra degree of caution in every corner. Fortunately, the available resources were adequate to meet the program needs in all of the schools, and the School Committees and administrative staffers took a deep breath before beginning the FY 2010 budget process by then thoroughly mired in a deeply recessed economy, with lots of bad news on the state aid front.

The Tri-Town residents have supported their public schools in very generous and trusting ways for years, and everyone connected with the school community in any regard should be most grateful for the great support of the public school mission here.

The following charts demonstrate the trends in the budgets of the Tri-Town districts in the past several years:

The per pupil cost for education in the schools of the ORR School District and Union Superintendency #55 is very close to the average in Massachusetts:

	<u>FY '03</u>	<u>FY '04</u>	<u>FY '05</u>	<u>FY '06</u>	<u>FY'07</u>	<u>FY'08</u>
Marion	\$8,425	\$9,259	\$10,856	\$10,799	\$11,939	\$12,520
Mattapoisett	\$7,894	\$8,967	\$10,553	\$11,876	\$13,198	\$13,105
Rochester	\$7,160	\$7,553	\$9,046	\$9,376	\$10,042	\$10,037
Old Rochester	\$9,537	\$9,580	\$10,836	\$11,397	\$12,062	\$13,665
State Average	\$8,273	\$8,591	\$10,626	\$11,211	\$11,858	\$12,454

The sources of support of the public education initiative in the Old Rochester Regional School District/Massachusetts School Supt. Union #55 include:

Local Tax Assessments:Local School Budgets: (Grades K-6 Elementary School Program)

	<u>FY'04</u>	<u>FY'05</u>	<u>FY'06</u>	<u>FY'07</u>	<u>FY'08</u>	<u>FY'09</u>
Marion	\$3,725,833	\$3,922,960	\$4,009,291	\$4,118,533	\$4,325,187	\$4,869,673
Mattapoisett	\$3,832,368	\$4,127,368	\$4,266,787	\$4,622,182	\$4,618,392	\$5,337,858
Rochester	\$2,720,492	\$3,104,170	\$3,126,105	\$3,430,187	\$3,728,020	\$5,421,386

Old Rochester Regional School District (Grades 7-12 Program)

	<u>FY'04</u>		<u>FY'05</u>	
	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>
Marion's share	\$2,387,771	\$300,763.52	\$3,041,327	\$175,785
Mattapoisett's share	\$3,350,301	\$421,467.45	\$3,943,784	\$247,602
Rochester's share	\$2,610,988	\$372,259.03	\$3,035,213	\$216,355

	<u>FY'06</u>		<u>FY'07</u>	
	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>
Marion's share	\$3,486,535	\$417,888.33	\$3,784,679	\$457,800.54
Mattapoisett's share	\$4,204,466	\$580,577.10	\$4,402,278	\$636,160.57
Rochester's share	\$3,050,446	\$523,627.71	\$2,992,351	\$573,702.72

	<u>FY'08</u>		<u>FY'09</u>	
	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>	<i>Operating</i>	<i>Capital</i>
Marion's share	\$3,777,987	\$325,356	\$3,825,666	\$314,986
Mattapoisett's share	\$4,724,254	\$451,903	\$4,913,868	\$437,619
Rochester's share	\$3,128,500	\$407,625	\$3,390,009	\$394,691

State Aid (Towns (K-6) & ORR District (7-12))

	<u>FY '04</u>	<u>FY '05</u>	<u>FY '06</u>
Marion	\$317,718	\$317,718	\$338,668
Mattapoisett	\$449,798	\$449,798	\$473,898
Rochester	\$1,204,450	\$1,299,420	\$1,329,980
Old Rochester	\$1,653,203	\$1,732,671	\$1,855,490

	<u>FY '07</u>	<u>FY'08</u>	<u>FY'09</u>
Marion	\$375,835	\$421,906	\$416,376
Mattapoisett	\$497,698	\$531,511	\$508,288
Rochester	\$1,395,317	\$1,521,729	\$1,462,330
Old Rochester	\$1,701,522	\$1,954,417	\$1,890,481

	<u>FY'05</u>	<u>FY'06</u>	<u>FY'07</u>
Federal and State Entitlements:	\$801,424	\$962,973	\$1,033,046
Competitive Grant Funds:	\$72,316	\$67,038	\$119,153

	<u>FY'08</u>	<u>FY'09</u>
Federal and State Entitlements:	\$912,016	\$1,582,414
Competitive Grant Funds:	\$167,535	\$39,940

- Figures represent combined totals for all four districts

Enrollment

The October 1st enrollment totals in the Old Rochester Regional/Mass. Superintendency Union #55 Districts indicate a relatively static situation in the schools. The school age population is not changing appreciably in any of the three towns, a circumstance that appears to reflect the lack of real estate activity in the area generally.

	<u>October 1 Figures</u>							
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Sippican School	495	474	449	465	449	438	435	435
Center School	298	277	272	294	287	290	294	277
Old Hammondtown	255	244	245	227	213	207	218	235
Rochester Memorial	500	538	557	577	586	588	607	599
ORR Junior High School	488	498	453	454	476	455	427	441
ORR Senior High School	705	727	751	742	739	725	705	703

Although a very high percentage of the elementary school students are enrolled in the Tri-Town Public Schools from Kindergarten through grade six there is some movement to independent and parochial schools from grade seven and more significant movement to independent, parochial and vocational school options after the eighth grade. The following chart attempts to capture trends in the transfer activity.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Grade 6	230	222	243	240	217	213	232	223
Grade 7	260	231	219	227	241	215	210	230
Grade 8	228	267	234	227	235	241	217	211
Grade 9	176	195	219	172	180	184	186	168
Grade 12	168	175	157	170	179	203	161	166
Graduating Class *	160	162	162	154	164	168	197	156

- Graduating class figures are as of June; other figures are as of October 1.

GRADE	NON-RESIDENT TUITION & NON TUITION			MARION	MATTAPOISETT	ROCHESTER	TOTAL
ELEMENTARY:	MR	MT	RCH				
PROJECT GROW				23	23	30	76
K	3	2	5	62	61	64	197
1		1		54	70	83	208
2		1		59	65	78	203
3	2			68	58	87	215
4	1			67	81	81	230
5				50	79	80	209
6				52	75	96	223
SUB-TOTALS	6	4	5	435	512	599	1561
JUNIOR HIGH:	SCHOOL CHOICE						
7		3		63	76	88	230
8		2		63	67	79	211
SUB-TOTALS	0	5	0	126	143	167	441
SENIOR HIGH:	SCHOOL CHOICE						
9		3		47	58	60	168
10		3		39	74	65	181
11		2		56	63	67	188
12		2		48	70	46	166
SUB-TOTALS	0	10	0	190	265	238	703
GRAND TOTAL	6	19	5	751	920	1004	2705
UPPER CAPE COD:				MARION	MATTAPOISETT	ROCHESTER	TOTAL
9				1	0	0	1
10				4	0	0	4
11				10	0	0	10
12				3	0	0	3
TOTAL				18	0	0	18
OLD COLONY:				MARION	MATTAPOISETT	ROCHESTER	TOTAL
9				0	14	19	33
10				0	8	13	21
11				0	8	10	18
12				0	4	23	27
TOTAL				0	34	65	99
BRISTOL COUNTY AGGIE:				MARION	MATTAPOISETT	ROCHESTER	TOTAL
9				0	0	4	4
10				0	2	1	3
11				1	1	1	3
12				0	0	0	0
TOTAL				1	3	6	10

Union Contracts

In the summer of 2008, union contracts with the Old Rochester and the Marion teachers expired and were replaced in negotiation efforts that ended just before the new 2008-2009 school term started. The teacher contract negotiation effort in both Marion and at Old Rochester involved the entire School Committee. The Select Board representative in Marion was Drew Jeffrey; at ORR, Jordan Collyer; a Mattapoisett Selectman held the community chair during the proceeding.

During the 2008-2009 term, three union contracts were completed; the respective School Committees began negotiations in the fall of 2008 with the Rochester Elementary teachers, the Old Rochester clerical unit and the ORR paraprofessionals, and the Marion paraprofessionals/ clerical workers and the Marion custodians/food service workers. Uncertainty about the FY10 budget delayed the negotiation process in all three of the aforementioned cases. A settlement was reached with the Rochester teachers in October, 2009 and with the two Marion units in November, 2009. The two ORR support staff units are still working in accordance with the expired agreement as of this writing in January, 2010.

The Mattapoisett teacher contract and the ORR custodians/food service workers contract will expire at the end of the 2009-2010 term.

Standardized Testing

The MCAS tests administered in the spring of 2009 produced the following results in the Old Rochester Regional District and Superintendency Union #55 Schools:

Marion School District								
Grade / Subject	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Needs Improvement	% Warning / Failure	Students Tested	Placement Overall	Boston Globe Ranking	% Out of All Districts
3 rd Reading	25	54	16	6	69	105	25	10.7%
3 rd Math	32	46	19	3	69	185	45	18.9%
4 th English	8	60	30	2	50	252	79	26.0%
4 th Math	18	33	45	4	51	420	143	43.4%
5 th English	9	62	26	2	53	329	128	36.7%
5 th Math	26	32	34	8	53	371	133	41.4%
5 th Science	26	42	28	4	53	164	56	18.3%
6 th English	9	59	26	6	66	285	183	50.4%
6 th Math	24	38	25	13	68	216	138	38.2%
Mattapoisett School District								
Grade / Subject	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Needs Improvement	% Warning / Failure	Students Tested	Placement Overall	Boston Globe Ranking	% Out of All Districts
3 rd Reading	8	69	18	5	78	145	41	14.8%
3 rd Math	27	47	17	9	78	245	68	24.9%
4 th English	3	65	27	5	77	252	79	26.0%
4 th Math	14	35	44	8	78	472	159	48.8%
5 th English	19	55	19	7	69	263	100	29.3%
5 th Math	35	29	21	15	68	272	97	30.3%
5 th Science	28	31	34	7	68	258	126	28.8%
6 th English	26	59	15	0	74	71	41	12.5%
6 th Math	22	34	34	11	74	286	185	50.6%

Rochester School District								
Grade / Subject	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Needs Improvement	% Warning / Failure	Students Tested	Placement Overall	Boston Globe Ranking	% Out of All Districts
3 rd Reading	16	52	29	3	79	325	99	33.1%
3 rd Math	13	48	32	8	79	495	180	50.5%
4 th English	15	55	28	3	80	216	66	22.3%
4 th Math	14	33	50	4	80	492	173	50.9%
5 th English	13	57	26	4	94	349	137	39.0%
5 th Math	20	48	24	7	94	236	76	23.9%
5 th Science	21	47	27	5	94	164	56	18.3%
6 th English	19	67	13	1	91	71	33	13.0%
6 th Math	36	47	16	0	91	39	18	6.9%
Old Rochester Regional Jr. High School								
Grade / Subject	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Needs Improvement	% Warning / Failure	Students Tested	Placement Overall	Boston Globe Ranking	% Out of All Districts
7 th English	14	71	12	3	213	96	64	20.6%
7 th Math	20	45	24	11	213	92	68	14.6%
8 th English	15	75	8	2	217	113	71	24.4%
8 th Math	31	20	28	10	217	117	81	25.2%
8 th Science	7	44	42	7	217	121	90	26.1%
Old Rochester Regional High School								
Grade / Subject	% Advanced	% Proficient	% Needs Improvement	% Warning / Failure	Students Tested	Placement Overall	Boston Globe Ranking	% Out of All Districts
10 th English	33	58	7	2	194	91	85	25.8%
10 th Math	60	30	8	2	191	59	47	16.8%
10 th Science	14	53	29	2	172	174	161	51.0%

The following charts provide a good idea about progress from 1999-2009:

Performance Level Definitions

Advanced (A): Students at this level demonstrate a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of challenging subject matter and provide sophisticated solutions to complex problems.

Proficient (P): Students at this level demonstrate a solid understanding of challenging subject matter and solve a wide variety of problems.

Needs Improvement (NI): Students at this level demonstrate a partial understanding of subject matter and solve some simple problems.

Warning/Failing (F): Students at this level demonstrate a minimal understanding of subject matter and do not solve simple problems.

Scaled Score Intervals

MCAS scores range from 200 to 280 and are associated with performance levels as follows:

Advanced scores range from 260 to 280

Proficient scores range from 240 to 258

Needs Improvement scores range from 220 to 238

Warning/Failing scores range from 200 to 218

NOTE: To minimize over-interpretation of insignificant differences, students' scores are rounded to the nearest even integer.

1999 - 2009 % of Students Advanced and Proficient

[illegible]

Post Secondary School Preparation

The ORR class of 2009 included 156 new graduates. According to reports from the guidance office, the plans of the 2009 graduates fell into these categories:

63% = Four-year college study

26% = Two-year college study

0% = Military

3% = Work

8% = Other

The students aspiring to matriculate at four-year colleges produced an impressive list of acceptances: Boston College, Bridgewater State College, Brown University, College of Holy Cross, Elon University, Emerson University, Emory University, Georgetown University, Harvard College, Northeastern University, Pen State University, Providence College, Roger Williams University, U-Mass Amherst, U-Mass Dartmouth, University of Vermont, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, Villanova University, Washington and Jefferson College, Wentworth Institute of Technology and Wheaton College.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Scores

Year	N	ORR Verbal	ORR Math	ORR Writing	National Verbal/Math Writing	State Verbal/Math Writing
04-05	126	492	493		508/520	520/527
05-06	133	505	521		503/518	513/524
06-07	140	518	527		498/509	5513/522
07-08	159	519	523	513	502/515/494	514/525/513
08-09	176	513	525	515	496/510/487	508/522/504

National Merit Scholarships

Year	Semi- Finalist	Commended	National Achievement	Total
04-05	1 (finalist)	2	0	3
05-06	0	2	0	3
06-07*	0	6	0	6
07-08*	2 (2 finalist)	2	1	5
08-09	1 (finalist)	0	0	1

*revised numbers

Advanced Placement Average Scores

Year	N*	Biology	Calc. AB	Chem.	English Lang.	English Lit.	Spanish	Stats	U.S. Hist.	Euro. Hist.
2005	62	1.50	4.25	3.50	3.10	3.80	1.50	4.00	2.25	2.40
2006	58		4.33		3.42	3.63	1.80	3.50	3.00	3.40
2007	64	2.89	3.61	3.73	3.78	3.77	2.50	4.16	2.81	4.00
2008	81	2.91	4.22		4.11	3.53	2.88	4.60	3.60	3.58
2009	83		3.40	4.33	4.30	3.66	4.25	3.71	4.00	3.00
2009 Test Total			10	12	21	9	4	7	14	6

*Number of exams taken, not number of students

Advanced Placement Score Range
Highest = 5, Lowest = 1

School Committee

The following School Committee members concluded their service at the end of the 2008-2009 school year, and we extend our thanks for their willingness to offer the many hours and considerable commitment required for this particular responsibility. The stakes involved in school committee decision making are quite high.

The following school committee members completed terms in 2009:

John Russell

Marion School Committee

The following school committee members began terms in 2009:

Jay Pateakos

Marion School Committee

Respectfully Submitted,

WR Cooper

William R. Cooper, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools