

To: Westwood School Committee

From: Tim Piwowar, Superintendent

Date: April 10, 2026

Re: Annual School Choice Vote

Under the inter-district school choice law ([MGL Chapter 76, section 12B](#)) , Districts are required to participate in the school choice program unless they vote not to participate. This vote has to be taken annually. Westwood has never participated.

Under school choice, districts accept non-resident students using a lottery system. Once students are accepted into a district via lottery, the district is obligated to keep them through graduation. The state provides tuition for the receiving district (currently capped at \$5K/student) by reallocating Chapter 70 funds from the sending district. A few years ago, the law was revised such that Districts must accept students through the lottery and can not rescind acceptance based on prior disciplinary record or having been expelled from another district.

For some districts with room in their academic programs, there may be a budgetary advantage to participating. It is my opinion that that is not our situation and I recommend that we continue to decline to participate this year.

The law requires that your annual vote include a resolution that explains the reasons that you are declining to participate. I am linking the [resolution](#) that the WSC made last spring for your reference.