



**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**

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**Marie Altieri**  
*Deputy Superintendent*

To: Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee  
Date: March 16, 2016  
Re: FY17 School Choice Hearing

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The Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools last accepted new school choice students in grades 9-12 about ten years ago. Since then, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee has voted by May of every year to only accept siblings of school choice students in grades 9-12. The Boxborough Public School District accepted school choice students at Blanchard Elementary School for several years before full regionalization. We currently have 39 school choice students (14 at Blanchard, 6 at R.J. Grey, and 19 at ABRHS).

For the last several years, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee has voted to only accept siblings of current school choice students. The DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) informed us last year that the school committee cannot vote to only accept siblings of current school choice students. They said that this does not have to be a big change, but the School Committee should vote to generally accept school choice students if we want to continue to admit siblings. The school choice law requires that preference be given to siblings, and any other school choice applicants would be entered into a lottery, only if there are open seats. DESE said that you can vote to accept school choice students, and then limit the number of those school choice students by grade. If you accept school choice students, by law siblings would get preference to any seats that you make available.

At this time we are aware of one sibling of an existing school choice student, so our intent would be to only accept one school choice student for the 2016-2017 school year, based on class size and space concerns.

Recommended motion for the March 17, 2016 meeting **VOTE**:

*The Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee moves to continue in the School Choice program and limit openings to one seat in Kindergarten for FY17.*

*Our Mission is to prepare all students to attain their full potential as life-long learners, critical thinkers, and productive citizens of our diverse community and global society.*