

# Community Workshop #2

Feb. 24, 2026  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Quincy High School



**Welcome!**  
**Community Workshop #2**  
**Feb. 24, 2026**  
Please introduce yourself to others at your table.  
Put on a nametag.  
Sign in at your table.



## Why We Are Here

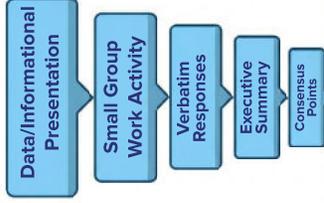
- **HELP SHAPE** a long-term vision for the future of Quincy Public Schools
- **EXPLORE WHAT OUR SCHOOLS NEED** to support student success now and for years to come
- **UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGES WE FACE**, including aging facilities and limited resources
- **LEAD A TRANSPARENT PROCESS** that invites broad input and builds shared direction across the community



## Quincy Together Process Calendar

| DATE        | ACTIVITY   |
|-------------|--|
| January 27  | Community Workshop 1: Understanding Our Schools Today          |
| February 24 | Community Workshop 2: What It Takes to Run a School            |
| March 24    | Community Workshop 3: Helping Every Student Succeed            |
| April 21    | Community Workshop 4: Our Financial Future                     |
| April 28    | Building Tours/ Open House                                     |
| May 19      | Community Workshop 5: Finalizing Our Community Recommendations |
| TBD         | BOE Presentation   |

## Session Documentation



Collective Decisions Used in Formation of Recommendations

Review the documentation from Workshop #1 at [quincytogether.org](http://quincytogether.org)

## I Have A Question/Comment!

- Complete a form
- Email [oakleyan@qps.org](mailto:oakleyan@qps.org)
- Ask during small group work time

**I HAVE A QUESTION!**  
I would like to ask the Quincy Public Schools representatives who are responding to this questionnaire.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your privacy is important to us. We will only use your information to respond to your question. We will not share your information with any other member of the community or for any other purpose.

## Recap of Workshop #1

- **The Challenges Facing Quincy Public Schools**
  - Preparing Students for the Future
  - Teacher and Staff Recruitment & Retention
  - Updating Buildings and Facilities



## What We Heard at Workshop #1

### Points of general agreement across the work activities include:

- Teacher pay and retention must be the foundation of the long-range plan.
- Quincy needs stronger recruitment strategies to attract qualified educators.
- Facility and vocational space improvements are critical for future growth.
- Community partnerships can play a key role in expanding resources.
- Clear, ongoing communication will build trust and shared momentum.



## Tonight's Presentation

- **Setting the stage for tonight's small group work activity.**
- **You'll use the information learned to complete activities together.**
- **It could answer questions as well as generate new ones.**
- **Future information shared will be shaped by what we hear tonight.**

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## Tonight's Presentation



## Ongoing Information

- [quincytogether.org](https://quincytogether.org)
- [facebook.com/qps172](https://facebook.com/qps172)
- [instagram.com/qps172](https://instagram.com/qps172)

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## Workshop 2

**The People Places  
and Programs  
That Make Great  
Schools**



**What it Takes to Run a School District  
Today**

## The Day Begins Long Before Students Arrive

- Teachers in classrooms
- Custodians and maintenance crews
- Cafeteria teams
- Administrators
- Office staff



*A school district is like a small city- dozens of systems operate at once to serve students.*



## Transportation

- Over 3,000 miles driven daily
- Over 3,800 students transported daily
- 215 different routes
  - (55 Special Education)
- 87 vehicles in fleet
  - 83 school Buses
  - 2 vans
  - 2 activity Buses



## Food Service

- 1,484 breakfasts served per day
- 3,517 lunches served per day
  - 77% of the meals served were eaten by free/reduced students
- 10,611 Total Summer Meals Served (4,212 Breakfast + 6,399 Lunch)
- 897,260 Free/Reduced Meals Served in 2024-25



## Technology

- More than 6,500 student devices (Chromebooks, iPads, and desktops) maintained and monitored
- More than 750 Staff Devices Maintained and Monitored
- Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on all Staff Accounts
- Automated Virus/Malware Scanning
- Both Local and Remote Backup Systems



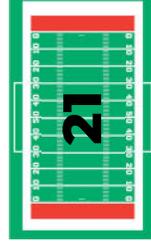
## Security

- Raptor Technologies – Visitor Screening
- OPENGATE – Weapon Detection System
  - Over 8,000 Visitors per Month
- Contract with City of Quincy for School Resource Officers



## Maintenance/Custodial/Grounds

- Carpenter/Electrician/Plumber/Heating and Air
- Maintain 1.2M sq ft indoor space (21 football fields)
- Maintain 166 acres of Greenspace and Playgrounds
- Maintain 40 acres of paved area



## Each Student Has Unique Needs

- Students with varying academic needs (from high-achieving to struggling)
- English Language Learners
- Students with trauma, mental-health needs, or individualized education plans
- Students who benefit from structure
- Students who need movement, breaks, or behavior supports
- Students with high confidence and those who doubt their ability to succeed



## Teaching Today- Meeting 25-30 different needs at once

- Adjust instruction
- Assess learning frequently
- Coordinate/provide intervention or acceleration
- Align lessons to state standards
- Integrate technology
- Monitor behavior
- Build relationships

*It's not just "teaching a lesson."*



## Learning is more than just academics

- Focus on the whole child
- Social skills
- Mentoring/Counseling
- Safety and supervision
- Student support - conflicts/crises
- Connecting students and families with community resources



## Staffing Needs Beyond the Classroom Teacher

- Academic, Behavior, and/or social-emotional support specialists
- Special education service providers and paraeducators
- Teacher Mentors, Instructional Coaches
- Substitute teachers
- College and career planning support



## Behind the Scenes at School

- Hiring, training, and evaluating staff
- Budget management
- Class scheduling
- Special Education and school code compliance
- Professional Development
- Family communication/connections
- Responding to unexpected situations



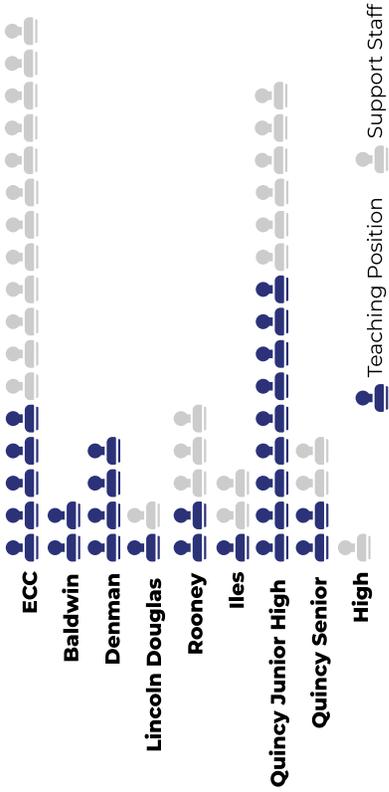
## School Staff is what allows our schools to run effectively – which allows our students to thrive

*Schools reflect the future of the community.*

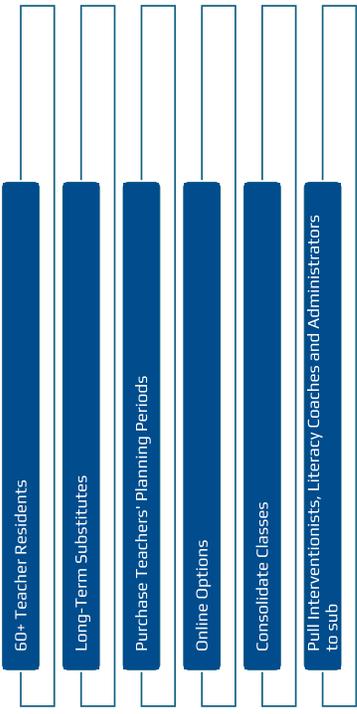
*A thriving school = a thriving future.*



## Current Open Positions



## What do we do to fill our open teaching positions?

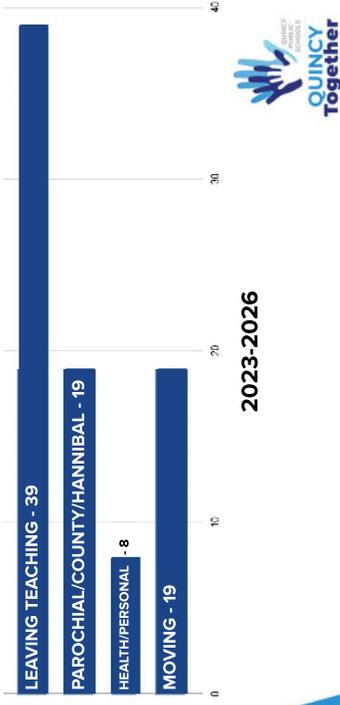


## How Do We Recruit?

- Teacher Resident Presentations for staff and community
- Partnerships with 30 colleges/universities
- Student Teachers/Observations
- Recruit at High Schools
- Career Fairs
- National Feeders/Social Media
- We hire early



## Why are Teachers Leaving?



## Special Education

Part of What Makes Our Schools Great

## Where Services Happen

- General education classrooms with supports
- Co-teaching, resource, or small-group instruction
- Specialized classrooms for students with intensive needs
- Community-based specialized programs (Transitions, Chaddock)
- Residential placements when needs cannot be met locally



## The Team Behind Special Education

- Special education teachers
- Paraprofessionals who provide daily student support
- Related service providers, including:
  - Therapists (Speech, OT, PT)
  - School psychologists and social workers
  - Nurses and interpreters
  - Transportation staff who support daily access
- Each role is essential, and many of these positions are increasingly difficult to fill.



## The Challenge: Special Education Staffing Shortages

- Ongoing shortage of special education teachers and specialists
- Larger caseloads and class sizes
- Fewer specialized classrooms available locally
- Increased out-of-district placements
- Public schools must also provide services for eligible nonpublic students



## What This Means for Families

- Larger specialized class sizes
- Fewer local options for students who need more specialized support
- More students receiving services outside their home community



## What Makes Great Schools and Strong Communities

- Skilled and dedicated staff
- Strong specialized programs
- Services close to home
- Commitment to every student
- Community understanding and support for public education



# Here's where we need your help!



## Small Group Work

### Recorder Responsibilities

- Complete the information on the **YELLOW** Reporting Notes your table.
- Enter the your group's information in the form on your Chromebook.

### Facilitator Responsibilities

- Facilitate discussion
- Keep group focused and on task
- Report group's information



## Small Group Work Activities

### Task #1

After learning about what it takes to run a school, what does your group feel is the biggest challenge that needs to be addressed? Once your group has identified which challenge to address, discuss what action steps the district could take to solve for it.



## Small Group Work Activities

### Task #2

Based on what you learned tonight (or throughout the first two workshops), what else would you like to know more about?



## Small Group Work Activity Reporting

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**Community Workshop #3**  
**March 24, 2026**  
**5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**QHS**

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