



**DIGHTON-REHOBOTH**  
Regional School District  
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**Dr. Adam Blaisdell**  
Assistant Superintendent

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Director of Special Education

**Robert Baxter, Jr.**  
Business Administrator

**Dr. Anthony C. Azar**  
Superintendent of Schools

**T.E.A.M**  
(Together Everyone Achieves More)

June 14, 2022

Dear Dighton and Rehoboth Residents:

The Dighton Rehoboth Regional School District was notified yesterday that the Massachusetts Department of Revenue certified the amount of excess and deficiency or "E & D" as of July 1, 2021 (Fiscal Year 2020/2021) for \$5,738,000.00. Of that amount, \$3,440,363.00 will be applied to reduce the current fiscal year's (FY2022) assessment proportionately split to each member town in accordance with the provisions of G. L. Chapter 71, §16B½, as amended.

This reimbursement represents the fiscal impact to the district of the federal, state and district's COVID-19 response during Fiscal Year 2020/2021 (FY2021). The district realized savings of \$1.3M as a result of curtailed operations, and lower energy and health insurance costs. As many in the community may remember, students during FY2021 were forced to stay home and access their education via Chromebook remotely, which resulted in significantly lower operating costs, including reduced transportation costs and lower energy costs. Additionally, school administrators made conscious decisions to postpone standard purchases while in a COVID-19 remote/hybrid shutdown. As a direct result, both the regional school district and the two member towns will benefit financially.

The district also realized increased revenues during Fiscal Year 2020/2021 of approximately \$4.4M through federal and state sources. While it was impossible to anticipate these economic events when the FY2021 budget preparation was underway in early 2020, Massachusetts General Law provides for the return of windfall savings to the member towns as mentioned above. The Town of Rehoboth will receive a reduction of their FY22 assessment of \$2,205,155.71. The Town of Dighton will receive a reduction of their FY22 assessment of \$1,235,207.29.

Additionally, the district will retain \$2,297,637.00 of the excess as provided for by Massachusetts General Law (the regional school district retains up to 5% of their overall budget in E & D funds). Of this, the district has proposed using \$750,000 to reduce the FY23 assessments to the member towns.

The COVID savings represented by the reductions to the towns' FY22 and FY23 assessments facilitates an opportunity for the towns to prioritize the safety of their school buildings. While school safety is always a priority, the ongoing tragic events occurring on school campuses across the nation highlight the need for continued discussion and improvements regarding safety measures for our students, families and community. Consequently, the school administration, working with local police and fire

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departments, plans to bring a security improvement plan forward to our school committee and to our two towns in the near future.

All in all, the regional school district continues to provide an excellent academic program with a multitude of athletics and activities while providing a social emotional learning environment to make students and staff feel safe. By utilizing this one-time COVID savings, with no additional cost to our taxpayers, to enhance the necessary security of our schools, we will make our school buildings safer for all staff and students.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Anthony C. Azar  
Superintendent of Schools  
Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District

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