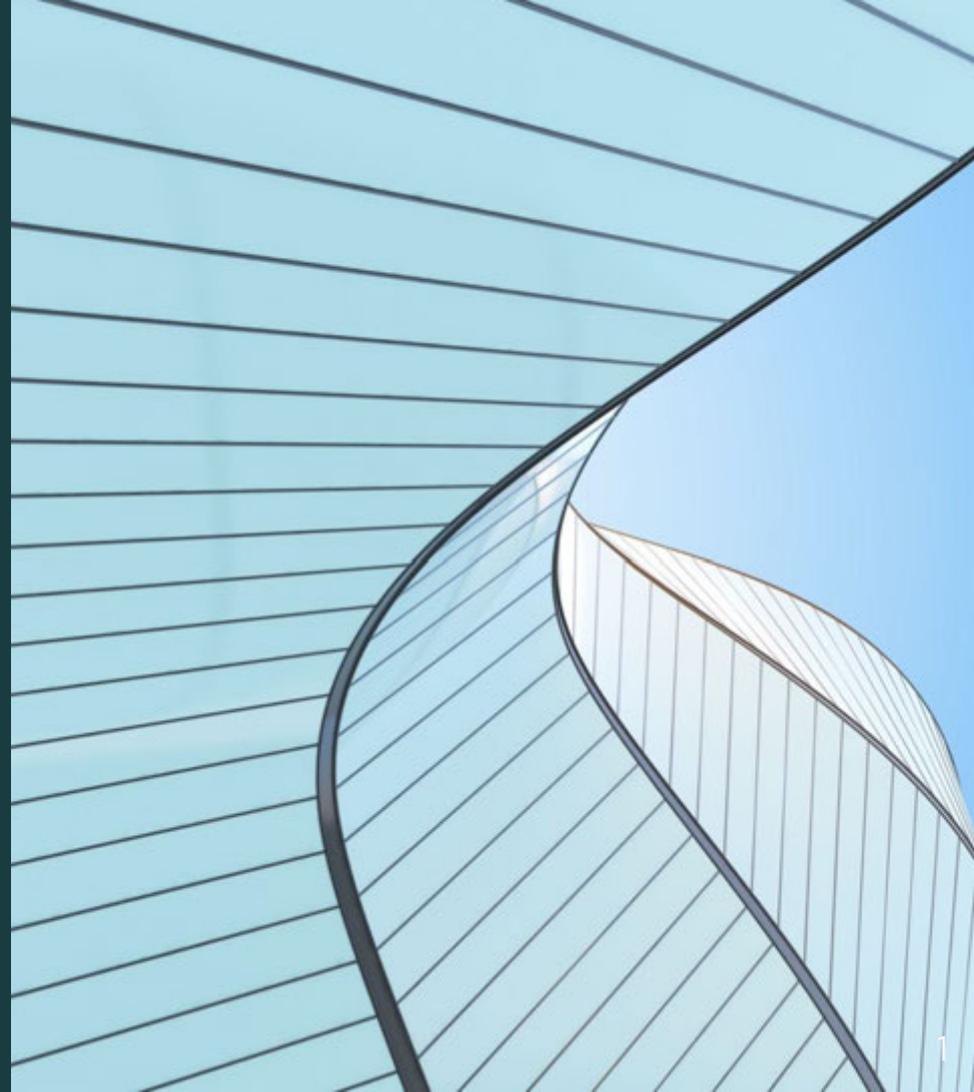


Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS)

Martha's Vineyard Regionalization Subcommittee of the All-Island School Committee

Overview of the Regionalization
Exploration Process



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Report

Our Mission at MARS is:

to foster and support regional schools in Massachusetts through education, collaboration, and advocacy. Working comprehensively and cohesively with its membership of Superintendents, School Business Officials, and School Committee Members along with governmental entities and other educational organizations, the Association seeks to ensure excellence in the educational opportunities afforded to the students attending all regional schools in Massachusetts.

Our Mission at Academic Discoveries is:

to support educational systems and organizations by partnering with their stakeholders.

Together, we analyze strengths and weaknesses and provide research-based recommendations that deliver high-quality educational results.

We aim to empower students, parents, educators, and administrators by creating highly effective school systems that enhance learning opportunities for all students.

We partner with schools, networks, organizations, districts, state departments of education, and foundations to enhance capacity and improve outcomes for all.



Our team



MARS - Consultant

Dr. Stephen Hemman



MARS - Consultant

Mr. Mac Reid



Academic Discoveries - President

Dr. Nadine Ekstrom



Academic Discoveries - Senior
Director of Data Analyst

Ms. Carol Costello

Regionalization Exploration Overview

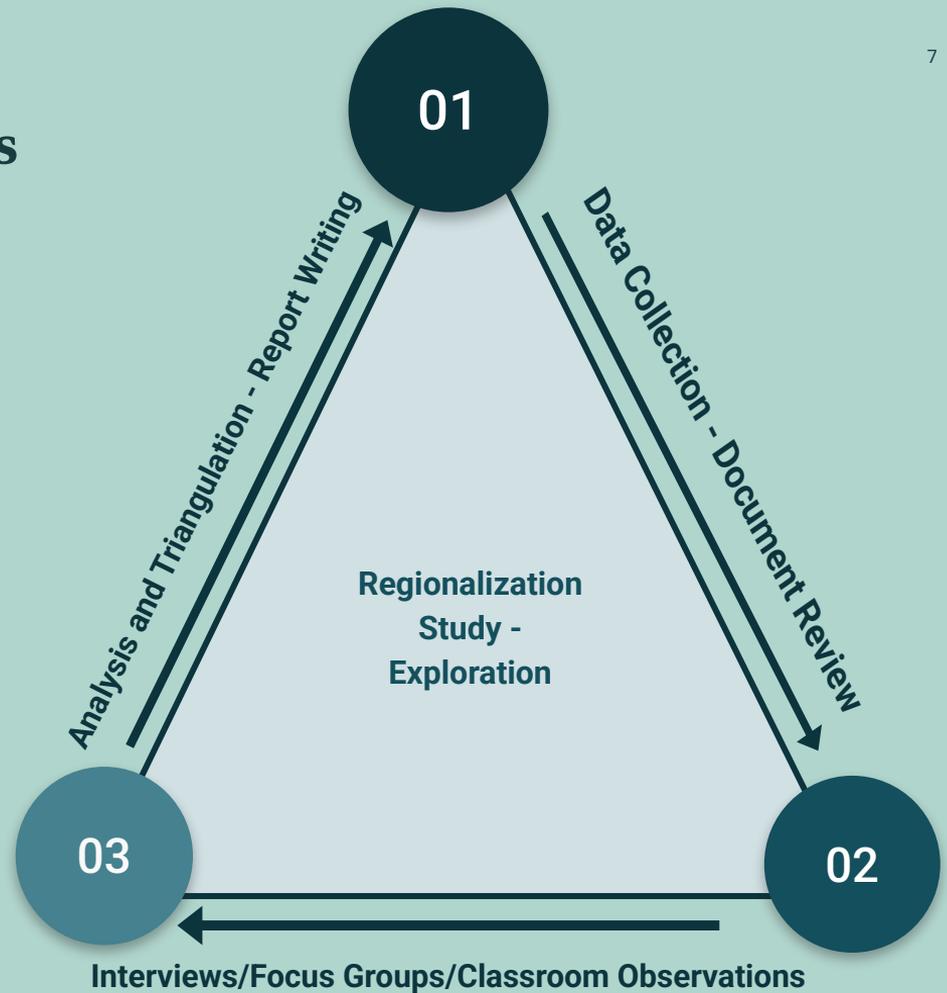
Our Purpose and Process

Our Purpose IS:

- To explore the strengths and areas of growth within the current infrastructure.

Our Purpose is NOT:

- To provide concrete recommendations for or against a regionalization. That is the responsibility of the towns.



Regionalization is a Process

- Review current structure of the Public Schools on Martha's Vineyard
- Look for:
 - Efficiencies of operation
 - ways to use resources more efficiently
 - New income
 - New grant opportunities
 - Ways to lower costs
 - Opportunities to create more continuity for both students and schools when families move on the Island.

Considerations for Regionalization

- What could *potentially* stay the same?
- What are *absolute and probable* changes?
- Regional agreement - some items that *could be considered* should the towns move in this direction

Schools are unique and require respect for their differences and similarities that distinguish the learning experiences for their students.

Possible Considerations for Efficiencies of Operation

- Budget
- Reporting
- Staffing
- Student information reporting system
- Grant application and reporting
- Meetings
- Curriculum
- Software

Steps Taken So Far:

01

Requested Documents from All K-8 Schools

Examples:

- Organizational Chart
- Staffing
- Curriculum
- District Strategic Plans

02

Reviewed Overarching Budgeting Process

Follow-up slides provided

03

Classroom Observations

Still in analysis process

04

Interview/Focus Group Schedules

Questions have been approved, schedules are being finalized.

Meetings:

- June 4 - Steve H/Mac R/Mark Friedman
 - Initial discussion of possible project
- June 6 - Steve H/ Mac R/Alex Solup/Mark Friedman
 - Preliminary discussion including Chair of Up-Island Regional Subcommittee
- June 9 - Steve H/Mac R/Up-Island Regional Subcommittee
 - Initial meeting with Subcommittee to discuss project
- July 8 - Steve H/Mac R/Mark Friedman
 - Continuing discussion regarding data needed
- July 21 - Steve H/Mac R/Nadine E
 - Introduction of Nadine Ekstrom who will be instrumental to this project
- August 22 - Steve H/Mac R/Jay B/Nadine/Mark Friedman/Lynn Rebello
 - Inclusion of Lynn Rebello to discuss financial data needed

Meetings:

- September 12 - Steve H/Mac R/Mark Friedman/Sara Dingley/Lynn Rebello
 - Inclusion of Sara Dingley regarding data needed and setting up administrative interviews and focus groups
- September 19 - Steve H/Mac R/Nadine E/Carol C/Mark Friedman/Sara Dingley/Lynn Rebello
 - Weekly check-in for project
- September 22 - Steve H/Mac R/Nadine E/Carol C/Alex Solup/Mark Friedman
 - Meeting to review PowerPoint and preparation for 9/23/25 meeting with the Subcommittee
- September 23 - Steve H/Mac R/Nadine E/Carol C/Up-Island Regional Subcommittee
 - PowerPoint presentation by MARS Consulting Group and Academic Discoveries to Subcommittee

Classroom Observations

Focus Areas:	Learning Environment	Lesson Structures and Rigor	Instruction/Pedagogical Practices	Strategies to Support Inclusion
FEATURES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a welcome and supportive space for learning, with routines, valuing differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lesson is grounded in materials, supporting literacy, and with a clear purpose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flexible scaffolds, high-quality student-to-student discourse and feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of graphic organizers, peer tutoring, movement, hands-on, flexible grouping, rubrics
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visuals of daily schedules, supporting routines Rooms purposefully organized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lessons offering routines and aligned with standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students were asked about personal and prior experiences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student movement Small groups Hands-on activities
AREAS FOR GROWTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing learning objective or purpose of lessons and tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pacing of transitions during classroom instruction, and questions of lesson purpose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some teacher-led classrooms with notices of potential for missed learning opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal peer tutors, rubrics, differentiated instruction - UDL

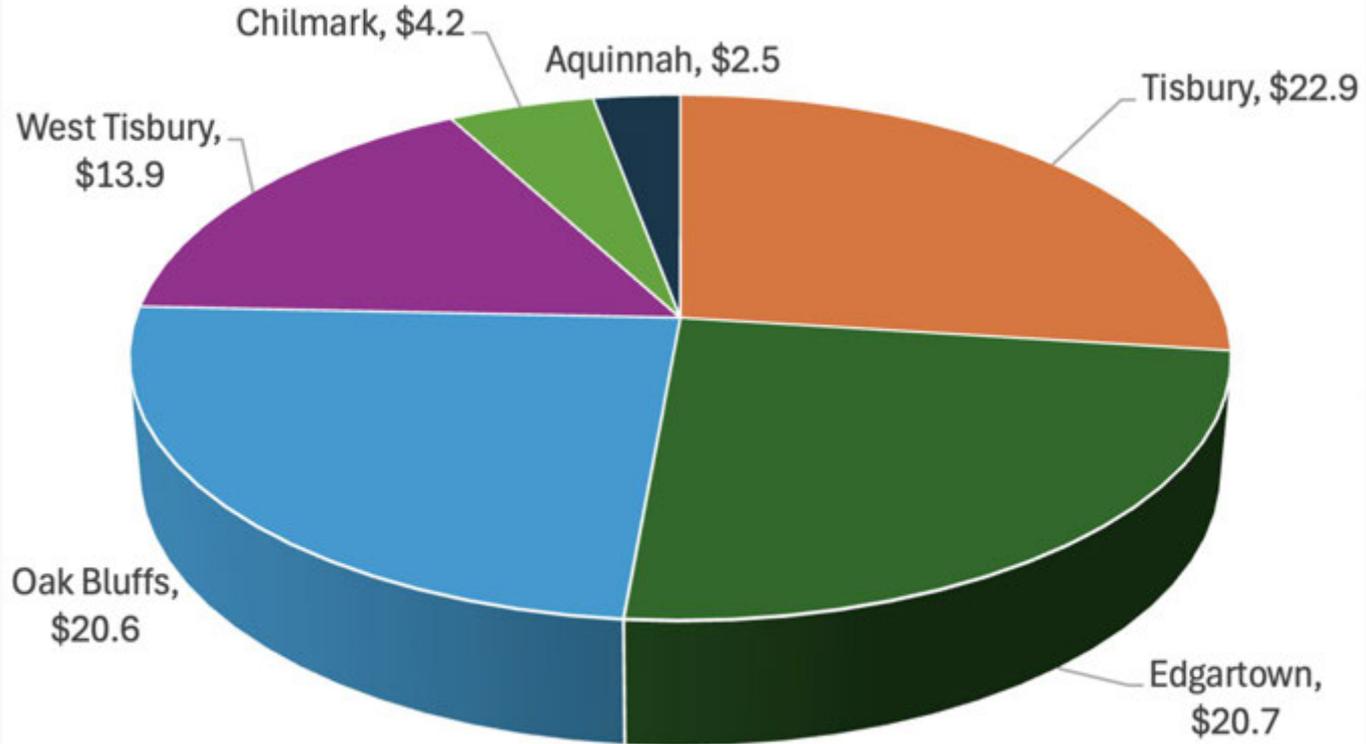
Initial Fiscal Analysis

Total Amount Appropriated by Towns on Martha's Vineyard for Education

Aquinnah-----	\$2,508,567
Chilmark-----	\$4,236,186
Edgartown-----	\$20,660,823
Oak Bluffs-----	\$20,630,170
Tisbury-----	\$22,987,580
West Tisbury-----	\$13,885,323
Total-----	\$84,908,648

Total dollar amounts include all school general funds budget costs, and for Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, and Tisbury these numbers include an allocation of the fringe benefits and any capital expenses related to those towns' schools as reported in the DESE End of Year Reports.

Appropriations by town (in millions)



Total appropriations: \$84.8 million

Regional Transportation Reimbursement

- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School receives regional transportation reimbursement
- Up-Island Regional School District receives regional transportation reimbursement
- Municipal schools of Edgartown, Tisbury, and Oak Bluffs do not receive regional transportation reimbursement
- If the municipal towns were part of the region, they would be eligible to receive transportation reimbursement

Regionalization - Transportation Efficiency

**Current Regionalization
Transportation
Reimbursement:**

**Current Municipal
Transportation Costs:**

**Potential Regionalization
Transportation
Reimbursement:**

Total Potential Shift in Transportation Costs vs. Reimbursement:

Tasks Still to be Completed

Interviews and Focus Groups

Interviews:

October 2 - October 10

Focus Groups:

October 14 - October 17

Analysis of Document Review

Once District Documents are Uploaded:

- 3 to 4 weeks to analyze

Still in process - Portions will be analyzed within the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Analysis of Triangulated Data

Once all data is collected:

- MARS *and* Academic Discoveries will triangulate the data, resulting in findings of areas of current strengths and potential for areas of improved efficiencies and effective practices.

Report Writing

Ongoing basis:

Report writing will include:

- Overall process
- Findings to support each review area requested
- Recommendations for areas of improved efficiencies for the towns to discuss and review

Interviews with Administration Staff

Completed By:

Academic Discoveries - Dr. Nadine Ekstrom

- Observed by: Mac Reid

Who Will Be Interviewed:

- Principals
- Curriculum Director
- Special Education Director
- Superintendent

Purpose of Interviews:

Overview of perspective relating to:

- Educational structure
- Differences in educational achievement
- Advantages of a centralized curriculum
- Special educational and ELL programs
- Other issues

Focus Groups with Educational Staff

Completed By:

Academic Discoveries - Ms. Carol Costello

- Observed by: Mac Reid

Who Will Be Involved in Focus Group:

- Staff from each building K-8
 - Groups of 4-7 from each building

Purpose of Focus Groups:

Overview of perspective relating to:

- Educational structure
- Differences in educational achievement
- Advantages of a centralized curriculum
- Special educational and ELL programs
- Other issues

Financial Study

Staffing

Review

- staffing levels at the K-12 schools
- student teacher ratios in K-12 schools
- special education and multi-lingual services and staff in K-12 schools

Monthly Meetings with Subcommittee

October

September

Purpose:

Introductions, outline of purpose of the study, and initial steps.

Purpose:

Document review and preliminary education report, and preliminary organization report.

November

Purpose:

Preliminary financial report and final portion of education report.

Purpose:

Final financial and overall report.

Thank you