



Fall General Advisory

October 2020

General Update

1. Campus Redesign Update

As you enter Diman Regional this year, you should notice several changes to the main foyer and administration offices. What we called the “campus redesign” has finally been completed. This new area allows for a secure area for outside guests and visitors. It also allows for a focused administration area where the principal, assistant principals, and clerical staff are centrally located to assist all stakeholders. Additionally, the new District Office of Special Education has also been completed and updated with new clerical areas and meeting areas. This process also allowed for three new academic classrooms to assist with scheduling demands as we continue to expand offerings to students.



2. Program Expansion

The Medical Assisting and Programming and Web CTE concentrations have expanded again this year. The Programming and Web technical area now has students in all four grade levels. Programming and Web also has three instructors, and plans to expand once again in the 2021 and 2022 school years. The Medical Assisting Program has expanded, in both physical space and instructors. Medical Assisting now has students in grades 9, 10, and 11. It also has three instructors to educate students in a robust technical concentration. Medical Assisting plans to expand once again in 2021 and 2022 to include all four grade levels.

3. Remote Learning Updates

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Diman Regional has developed a Social Distancing and Remote Learning Plan as prescribed by the state agencies. Diman Regional opened the 2021 school year in a phased hybrid model. Phase 1 of the model had students divided into four cohorts. Each cohort will report to school one week a month during the vocational cycle. Students not in person during vocational rotations will access their courses virtually. Students in the academic cycle will be fully remote during phase 1. This model has approximately 25% of the enrollment in the building at a time. This allows safety and transportation protocols to be effectively followed.

Phase 2 will allow students to attend in person during the academic cycle. Phase 2 will begin when transportation regulations support safe delivery of students and when health data support introducing additional in person students to campus.

4. MSBA

Greater Fall River has submitted a Preliminary Design Proposal to the MSBA (September 23, 2020). The state is currently reviewing the proposal and will offer edits as they see fit. Greater Fall River will be submitting a Preferred Schematic Report to MSBA in December 2020. At that time, options will be reported to sending communities and public forums will be scheduled.

Budget Update

1. FY 2021

District administration is working closely with the state to refine a fiscally responsible budget for 2021. To date, no concrete numbers have been presented to the District for FY 2021. New estimates are



expected in mid-October. The District did apply for and receive nearly \$2 million in grants for the 2021 school year. These funds will off-set loses anticipated by the District and the state. Much of the grant funds will focus on upgrading technology to ensure students and staff have proper equipment to complete work during our hybrid model.

General Updates

1. Staffing

Greater Fall River's plan for 2021 was to add two new instructional positions. With careful calculations, we were able to make this a reality. Additionally, with retirements from 2020, we were able to expand course offerings to students to include added History classes and Art.

2. Cooperative Education

Our Cooperative Education program is up and running once again. The state has adjusted guidelines associated with Cooperative Education and Greater Fall River has made necessary changes to protocols and practices to ensure student safety and appropriate placements.

3. Professional Development

The District was able to offer numerous professional development opportunities to staff during the extending planning days (September 1-September 15). Topics were focused on ways to improve remote learning, student wellness, and staff wellness.

4. Dual Enrollment/CAP

Our Dual Enrollment and CAP programs will continue in 2021. We collaborate with Bristol Community College and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth to offer students opportunities to explore college level courses while enrolled full time at Diman Regional.



Practical Nursing Update

The program current has 45 full-time students enrolled, as well as 11 part-time students. The program opened in a hybrid model with students reporting to campus on identified days. When not on campus, students are working remotely with instructors in a synchronous manner to continue curriculum and pacing. Currently, graduates from the class of 2020 have a 100% passing rate on national exams. During the 2021 school year, the program will be conducting an accreditation with the Board of Registered Nurses.