

District: Natick  
School Name: Natick High School  
Category: Model School Program

### Recommendation

That the Town of Natick be invited into the Model School Pilot Program to explore the potential to adapt and re-use a model high school design for the construction of a new Natick High School.

### Background

The Natick Public Schools consist of five elementary schools, two middle schools and one high school which serve a student population of over 4,721 students. The District submitted one SOI, for Natick High School.

Natick High School was built in 1954 on a 23-acre site along the shore of Dug Pond, with an addition built in 1956. The school is 280,000 SF and was originally designed to accommodate 1,225 students. The 2008 enrollment for the high school is 1,257 students. The school is a campus style building, with academic wings enclosing two large open courtyards. The buildings are worn and show signs of deterioration. Systems are often down, there are termite problems, and the roof causes considerable leaking. The building systems have not been updated since the original construction of the building and they are at the end of their useful life and in need of replacement.

The most urgent issue is the heating and ventilation system. The original steam heating system and unit ventilators require constant repair and attention. The heating, ventilation, electrical, plumbing and water systems are outdated (50+ years old) and the roof is 20+ years old. These systems are obsolete and replacement parts are often unavailable. The District has identified educational program limits that include: 1950's era science labs; a building layout composed of three separate academic wings that prevent interdisciplinary education and causes staff fragmentation; doors to classrooms, corridors, and toilets that do not conform to ADA standards; and multiple doors creating security issues.

Given the success of the Model School Pilot Program with Norwood, MSBA staff recommend that, due to its enrollment and suitable site, the Town of Natick be invited into the Model School Pilot Program to explore, in collaboration with the MSBA, whether a Model School might be an educationally appropriate school and size for the Town of Natick.