

## **Benefits of 2018 School District Merger For Northfield and Williamstown Students and Taxpayers**

### **Financial Efficiencies and Savings**

- Annual savings of approximately \$500,000 due to Central Office staffing efficiencies. The new merged supervisory union employs a single superintendent, curriculum director, special education director, technology coordinator, business manager and financial service/ HF team.
- Comprehensive approach to Special Education budgeting and programming to build internal capacity and reduce the number of students in out-of-district placements
- Unified purchasing and the ability to negotiate for a lower cost for agreements for services like copier leases, audit services, facility contracts (i.e. electrical, plumbing).
- A single negotiated contract for transportation services, allowing for more buses at a reduced cost, as well as sharing of routes when appropriate. All students in Northfield now have access to transportation to and from school.
- A single negotiated contract with an outside provider for food service resulting in programs that no longer produce deficits.
- 10 year plans for facility maintenance for the purpose of financial planning.

### **Expanded Learning Opportunities**

- Extension of individual schools' most successful academic and social-emotional programming to include all schools.
- Unified Sports programs in both Northfield and Williamstown, enabling the middle and high schools to offer certain varsity and junior varsity sports and providing efficiencies in sports scheduling and transportation.
- Development of content expertise in all elementary schools, supported by a common approach to instruction and professional development with embedded coaching.
- Expanded data collection for program and curriculum evaluation.
- Opportunities to focus on early intervention and support for struggling learners, resulting in a reduction in special education referrals in the lower grades.
- Creation of relevant, student driven and high quality learning opportunities to encourage students in grades 11 & 12 to remain on campus and stabilize state revenues.
- Implementation of Flexible Pathways options and high school choice between both campuses and to support student interests and learning, including access to more Advanced Placement courses and foreign languages.
- Expanded partnership with Washington County Mental Health to support the social-emotional needs of students in all schools, resulting in less dependence on contracted 1-1 intensive services and more capacity to serve students needing social-emotional support.