WILLISTON
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

19 Payson Avenue, Easthampton, MA 01027
www.williston.com

October 30, 2026

To Members of the Easthampton Community,

A supportive relationship between Williston Northampton School and the City of Easthampton has long been an important foundation for the success of both the city and the school. Williston is proud to be part of the City of Easthampton—both as an educational institution founded here in 1841, and also as a neighbor, employer, partner, and steward of a campus that sits close to downtown. We take our civic responsibilities seriously and are committed to strengthening the vitality and prosperity of our community.

This annual letter outlines the tangible ways Williston supports the City of Easthampton and the organizations within it. While previous years' economic impact letters have offered abbreviated summaries, we are committed to providing a more detailed report of our school's contributions and impact. The specific initiatives outlined in this letter represent some of the more significant, quantifiable dimensions of Williston's support, yet they represent only part of our broader commitment to the community.

As a non-profit educational institution, Williston's primary mission is to educate and support students while maintaining a balanced and sustainable annual operating budget that is approved each year by the school's Board of Trustees. For fiscal year 2025-26 (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026) Williston served 430 high school students from 23 states and 24 countries, as well as 69 local middle school students in grades 7-8.

Beyond our educational mission, Williston is one of Eastampton's largest employers, with 182 full-time employees, including 75 (40%) who live on campus in dormitories and housing to oversee students, and 107 employees who reside in Easthampton and surrounding towns. Additionally, our athletic facilities and fields regularly host community sports organizations and youth groups, bringing families and visitors to our campus who support nearby Easthampton businesses.

Williston's partnership with Easthampton extends across multiple forms of engagement, including direct financial support, taxes and fees, in-kind donations, facility use, support for local organizations, and the broader economic activity generated by our students, families, employees, alumni, trustees, and campus visitors.

Direct contributions to the city of Easthampton

During FY26, Williston made direct contributions to the city of Easthampton, totaling approximately $35,000. These contributions included $25,000 in cash and in-kind support to the Easthampton Police and Fire Departments and $10,000 donated to the city itself.

Taxes, permits, fees, and other payments

During FY26, Williston made payments of ~$63,000 to the City of Easthampton, which included a combination of taxes, school bus pickup and public safety costs, police and

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fire department fees, and various inspections and permits. In addition, Williston paid approximately $195,000 for water and sewer charges. Looking ahead, this amount will increase significantly with the construction of a new academic building on campus. For FY 27, we anticipate additional payments of approximately $150,000 in taxes, permits, and fees for that project.

In-kind donations and facility use to the City of Easthampton

Beyond direct payments, Williston provides in-kind services to the City of Easthampton, such as lighting and plowing a 2.4 mile portion of the Manhan Rail Trail and donates or discounts use of our school facilities, including the use of our ice rink and indoor pool. In FY26, our in-kind support totaled approximately $27,000, based on the items below. These values are based on the cost of our facilities team's time, equipment, and materials (in the case of salt), and the facilities rates we charge to other outside organizations.

- 10+ instances of snow removal and salting for 2.4 miles of the Manhan Rail Trail.
- 120 + hours of donated and discounted use of Lossone Rink to the Easthampton Police Department, Easthampton High School Hockey, and Easthampton Parks and Recreation.
- 40 + hours of donated or discounted use of the Williston pool to the Easthampton High School swim team.

Financial Aid to Easthampton Residents

In FY26, 11 Williston high school and middle school students were Easthampton residents (this number does not include children of employees). That student group received financial aid awards totaling $235,500.

Donations to Easthampton nonprofit organizations

Williston recognizes that our investment in the greater Easthampton community, its nonprofits, youth programs, cultural institutions, and civic groups, directly benefits the prosperity and well-being of our neighbors. In FY26, Williston donated approximately $27,000 to local non-profits, including

- The Easthampton Public Library,
- Riverside Industries,
- The Easthampton Community Center,
- Cooley Dickinson Hospital,
- Friends of Nashawannuck Park,
- Easthampton Little League,
- The Nonotuck Valley Hockey Associations,
- The Easthampton Chamber of Commerce, and
- Unbroken Wings/Thunder in the Valley.

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In-kind support to Easthampton nonprofit organizations

Beyond cash donations, Williston provides in-kind support to Easthampton community organizations through discounted or donated use of our school facilities. In FY26, the value of in-kind support totaled approximately $49,000, reflecting our commitment to strengthening local organizations. These values are based on facilities rates we charge to outside organizations.

- Approximately 25 hours of donated or discounted use of athletic fields by Easthampton Little League
- Approximately 50 hours of donated or discounted use of athletic fields by Special Olympics
- Approximately 100+ hours of donated or discounted use of basketball courts by Easthampton Basketball

Broader economic impact

Beyond direct giving, taxes, fees, and facility use, Williston supports the local economy through its everyday operations. During FY 26, the school purchased approximately $401,000 in goods and services from businesses in Easthampton, Southampton, and Westhampton.

Williston students, families, employees, and visitors also contribute to the local economy when they patronize Easthampton businesses. Just to give one example, the Williston Northampton Sammy Card can be used by students in lieu of cash or credit cards at area businesses who choose to participate. In FY26, students spent $16,000+ using Sammy Cards at Easthampton restaurants and stores during that school year. Given that many students make purchases without using the Sammy Card, the total impact of student purchases on credit cards or with cash is much higher.

Ongoing partnership

Williston's commitment to Easthampton extends far beyond any single year or category of support. It is reflected in our regular financial contributions, partnerships with local vendors, facility access provided to community organizations, support for city departments and local nonprofits, and the daily presence of students, families, employees, and visitors who actively participate in the life of the city.

This ongoing civic support and involvement demonstrates a serious commitment on the part of Williston's Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students. We are grateful to be part of this community, and we remain dedicated to building a future in which Williston Northampton School and the City of Easthampton thrive together.

Sincerely,

Donna Falcetti

Donna Falcetti
Chief Financial Officer