



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Excellence in autism
education since 1966

Dear League School friends and partners,

This past year was an exciting one for us at League School. As we turn the page to what will surely be a prosperous 2023, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that 2022 had to offer and recognize those who contributed to our success.

Of note, we closed out the first year of our Strategic Plan by making considerable progress in several areas. In some areas we even accomplished goals and objectives ahead of schedule. The ultimate outcome of these projects and initiatives is to provide our students with the best possible education in the best possible environment with the best possible staff so they have the best possible outcome when they graduate from League School.

We also transitioned from a remote learning model to a full return to in-person learning. I cannot express enough gratitude for all of the staff who stayed with us through a very trying couple of years through the COVID-19 pandemic, the nationwide staffing crisis, and the lingering after effects of the pandemic on our student population and the field of special education.

On a sad note, Dr. Arnold Vetstein, the founder of League School with his wife Leona, passed away just a couple of weeks before the holiday break. All of us at League School will forever be grateful to Dr. Vetstein for creating this wonderful program that has touched the lives of so many students with autism and their families. We are also grateful for his family, especially his daughter Nancy, who carries on his legacy by serving on our Board of Directors and continuing to support all of us in our mission to provide our students with excellence in autism education.

We entered 2023 with a tremendous amount of hope and enthusiasm for the year to come. We are grateful to all of our corporate sponsors, community partners, educational partners, donors, and everyone else whose support throughout the year allows us to provide the very best education possible for the students we serve. Here's to a wonderful year to come!

Lawrence E. Sauer

Chief Executive Officer



LEAGUE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President

David Foster

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Ron Katz

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Mary Lou McDonough

Clare O'Callaghan

Robert M. Walsh

Robert Way

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Chief Operating Officer

Cheryl A. White

Chief Financial Officer

Ismael DaSilva

Director of Education

Patrick Fuller

Director of Human Resources

Jenna Federer

Director of Development

Tim McCabe

OUR EDUCATIONAL APPROACH

League School utilizes the SCERTS model, a comprehensive intervention model for children and older individuals on the autism spectrum and their families. SCERTS adapts to meet the unique demands of different social settings for younger and older individuals including home, school, vocational and community settings.

SC: Social Communication

ER: Emotional Regulation

TS: Transactional Support



WHAT IS NEURODIVERSITY?

League School strives to be the premier organization serving the autism community, so as to prepare individuals to thrive in and contribute to a neurodiverse world.

Neurodiversity describes the natural variation in human cognition and brain composition. Neurodiversity acknowledges the value inherent in diverse ways of thinking, learning, and being.

Neurodivergent describes an individual who integrates the neurodiversity paradigm into their identity because they think and learn in a manner which is divergent from socially constructed norms. This includes those who are diagnosed or self-identify with autism, ADHD, dyslexia, sensory processing differences and learning disabilities.



LEAGUE AT A GLANCE

Founded: 1966

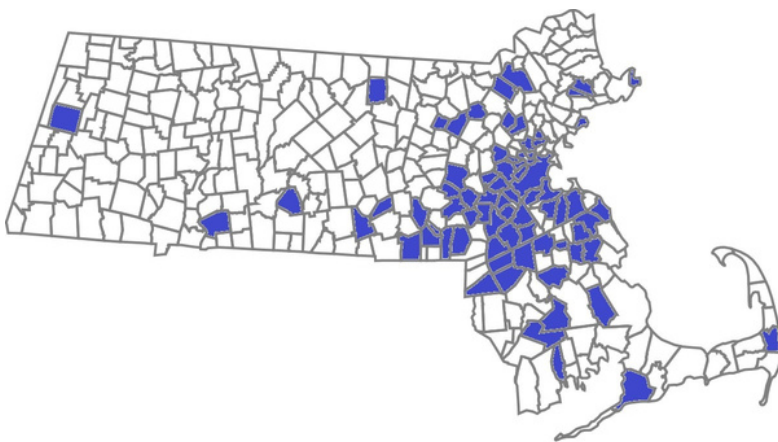
Status: Private nonprofit

Programs: Day and Residential

School Year: Year-round (216 school days/365 residential days)

Student Population: Licensed for 110 (including 32 residential) ages 3 to 22

Accreditation: Private Schools Accreditation Alliance



Our student population is drawn from over **70** Massachusetts communities

There are 28 students in our **Foundations** program, serving our youngest student population.

There are 37 students in our **Pathfinders** program, for students seeking a path to a high school diploma.

There are 34 students in our **Transitions** program, for students who are pursuing a vocational path.



AVERAGE
STUDENT AGE

13



DAY-SCHOOL
STUDENTS

77



RESIDENTIAL
STUDENTS

22



NUMBER OF
CLASSROOMS

17



EXPECTED 2023
GRADUATIONS

6



Our student-teacher ratio per classroom never exceeds **4:1**

SUPPORTING LEAGUE IN 2022

As the cost of educating a child with autism continues to rise, we must now look for outside support to maintain our mission and make sure our students receive the services they deserve.

League's community consisting of teachers, staff, board members, parents, family members, friends, foundations, and corporate partners who pledged their support for League School and our mission through grants, donations, events, or in-kind support.

Donors in 2022

721

Dollars Given in 2022

\$341,054

Donations in 2022

1,300

Participation (%) By Constituency

Staff

48

Parent

33

Directors

100

Participation #'s By Donor

Retained

199

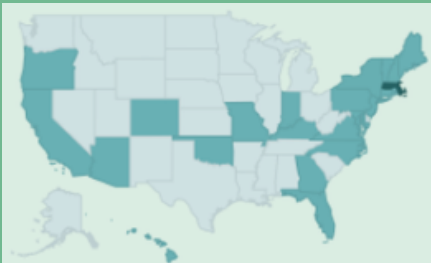
New

441

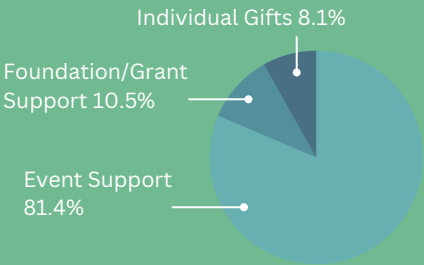
Reactivated

81

Donations by State in 2022



Donations by Solicitation in 2022



Making A Direct Impact

\$.89

of every dollar raised goes towards the immediate needs of League School's students and staff

WAYS TO GIVE

League School of Greater Boston is a recognized 501c3 non-profit organization. Maximize your charitable deduction and deliver immediate benefits by sending a gift made payable to League School or by making a secure gift online.

Donations in any amount are vital in supporting our mission and allowing us to deliver the highest quality of education to our students. To make a donation to League School, or to learn more about ways to give, visit leagueschool.org/support-league or scan the QR code to the right.



Donate by check

To make a donation to the school by check, mail to:
League School of Greater Boston
ATTN: Tim McCabe
300 Boston Providence Highway
Walpole, MA 02032

Development Staff

Tim McCabe

Director of Development

Michelle Melanson

Special Events Coordinator

Matthew Reid

Marketing Manager

COMMEMORATIVE BRICK PROGRAM

League School's Buy-A-Brick Program allows everyone an opportunity to commemorate a special individual or event. To purchase a brick, visit:
brickmarkersusa.com/donors/league.html

NAMED OPPORTUNITIES

Name a space at League School to link your name, or that of a loved one, to innovative and meaningful learning experiences that take place every day. Naming and funding opportunities are available at many levels.



EVENTS AND FUNDRAISERS

Throughout the year, League School hosted a variety of fundraising events that raised critical revenue for the school. It was a record setting year for our events in 2022. Thank you to all those who made them successful by either sponsoring, participating, or volunteering.

In April, the school held its second annual **#LEAGUESTRONG Bikeathon**, which attracted more than 50 participants to ride either in-person or at home in support of League School. This event generated \$5,500.



Our **5K Walk/Run For Autism** was an amazing opportunity for families, friends, and members of the autism community to see first-hand the impact of their support. With more than 140 registered participants, we raised a record **\$46,000** for our school.

In June, our **“FORE” Autism Golf Classic** featured a full field of golfers on a beautiful day at Franklin Country Club. With the generous support of our main sponsors, Shawmut Construction and Leggat McCall Properties, this event raised a record **\$82,000** for the school.



In August, we took part in the historic running of the **50th Falmouth Road Race**. With a dedicated team of **24 runners**, we set another record by raising **\$34,000**.

Night Of CHAMPIONS



Cox Engineering



MAAPS Exec. Director Elizabeth Dello Russo Becker (center)



Doug and Sammi Robertson



Sarah Lussier

Our largest annual fundraising event, Night of Champions, took place in September and brought more than **240** guests together to raise over **\$112,000**.

Each year, the event honors members of the League School community, who through their actions, have helped champion our mission.

The 2022 honorees included:

The Community Partnership Award - Cox Engineering

The Vetstein Award - Doug and Sammi Robertson

The Director's Award - MAAPS

(Mass. Assoc. of Approved Ch.766 Private Schools)

and for the first time, the school presented an award to a member of the school's staff in honor of long-time Executive Director, Frank Gagliardi.

The Dr. Frank Gagliardi Award- Sarah Lussier, BCBA

We look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events in 2023



FOUNDATION SUPPORT



In 2022, League School identified three areas of need within our community and searched for corporate and foundation support to fill those needs. In total, League was able to direct \$37,500 to the following areas:

- 1) An Outdoor Learning space
- 2) Increased access to appropriate technology for our students and staff
- 3) An expanded and enhanced Occupational Therapy (OT) gym

We proudly report our Outdoor Learning space project was fully funded and officially opened in 2022. It has already had a huge impact for our students, who benefit socially, emotionally, and physically from the space.

With grants from Bailey's Team for Autism, The Allison Kelleher Technology Fund, and DCU for Kids, League was able to provide student access to iPads across a variety of programs, including Speech and Language where the devices provide a voice for many of our students.

A major grant from the Christopher Catanese Children's Foundation enabled us to kickstart the enhancement of our Occupational Therapy gym, a space where a variety of activities take place for our students and teachers.

Thank you to these foundations for their commitment to our students and our mission.



A CASE FOR SUPPORT

We are currently looking to renovate our school's **Occupational Therapy gym space**. Our OT staff uses meaningful exercises to help students engage in a variety of activities, however our OT gym was designed to serve a much different student population than is currently being served today. The space is not only being used by more students than ever before, but also by students with broader ranges of needs and abilities.

As we continue to increase our student population, it will be crucial to provide functional, safe, and extensive equipment options in our OT gym to meet the varying sensory needs of our students.

A cost breakdown of estimates for this renovation project is at the right. By making a donation to League School in support of this critical project, you will be ensuring all of our students have the resources needed to reach their fullest potential.



➔ **Crash Pit • \$10,000**

Crash pits provide deep pressure which can help to calm high-arousal students and prepare their bodies for classroom learning.

➔ **Sensory Equipment • \$15,000**

Items such as swings, slides, bosu trainers, rockers, and bounce discs, provide vestibular input that alerts a body and increases neurological arousal.

➔ **Climbing Structure • \$25,000**

Students benefit from heavy work opportunities such as climbing up ladders and jumping off of structures which provide proprioceptive input to activate the joints and muscles to become more responsive.

➔ **Structural Upgrades • \$40,000**

These enhancements include new flooring and secure suspension of the sensory equipment.

➔ **Total Estimated Project Cost • \$90,000**



Donors and Sponsors

We are extremely grateful to our corporate donors and sponsors for supporting our many events and fundraisers throughout the year. These events allow us the ability to offer the best education possible for our students.

Corporate sponsors for 2022 included the following:

AAFCPA	DPR Construction	Norwood Bank
Arbella	Dynamic Air	Norwood Hospital
Atlantic Contracting	Essex Builders	O'Lyn Roofing
Axion Contracting	Fine Line Carpentry	One Digital
Bailey's Team for Autism	& Contracting	Orlando's Garage
Beacon Waterproofing	Gifford School	Philadelphia Insurance
Beacons Restaurant	Harbor Networks	PIDC Construction
Bowdoin Construction	Highpoint Engineering	Plumbhouse Construction
Charles D. Sheehy	HR Solutions	Schneider Electric
Christopher Catanese	Intelligent Network Sales	Shawmut Design
Children's Foundation	IQHQ	& Construction
Cleanco Maintenance Corp.	JBK Management	Siemens
Consigli Construction	Leggat McCall Properties	Telamon/Amplified
Cox Engineering	Liberty Mutual	The Learning Center
David Long	Lockwood/McKinnon	for the Deaf
Dedham Savings	McGovern Auto Group	Trane
Dellbrook/JKS	MGM Law	Wegmans
Dempsey Insurance	Middlesex Savings Bank	
Direct Federal	New England Applied Products	

Sponsorship opportunities for 2023 are available. To learn more, contact Director of Development Tim McCabe at tmccabe@leagueschool.com or 508-850-3900 ext. 313

MEETING STUDENTS' NEEDS

Our students require intensive, highly specialized, and individualized instruction and support to access learning. Students are able to participate in small group instruction with accommodations in place. Some students require 1:1 support for academic, emotional, or behavioral needs. Students may be enrolled in the day school program or may have residential programming incorporated into their educational experience.

Our goal is to meet the student where they are, to capitalize on their strengths and address their areas of need, rather than them to conform to a pre-existing educational curriculum. At League, we offer three distinct programs to best fit a student's unique circumstances. Below is a profile of a student in our Pathfinders program, referred to as "Student X".

"Student X is working toward a high school diploma and hopes to enter a community college with supports in place after graduating. He enjoys talking with others about preferred topics and engages in reciprocal conversations independently. He is independent in most self-care tasks with some reminders for thoroughness. He is able to express how he is feeling but needs support to understand the causes for those feelings, especially if it is related to another person's opinions or behaviors.

Though he has a number of helpful coping strategies, he benefits from a reminder to use these when he is experiencing mild dysregulation. Student X has difficulty understanding humor and sarcasm and tends to think very concretely. This can lead to challenges when engaging in peer interactions. Academically, he is working at grade level and is able to complete standardized testing in a quiet space. He takes MCAS with 1:1 support and accommodations."

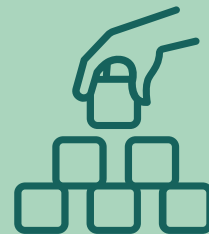


STRATEGIC PLAN

In January of 2022, the League School Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt a strategic plan to guide League through the year 2025 and beyond. As a first at League, there will be a three-year roadmap to position the school for future growth and continued excellence in educating students with autism. Goals of the plan include:

1: IMPROVED PROGRAMS

The strategic plan includes goals for expanding and enhancing the Vocational, Academic, Transition, and Residential programs for our students.



2: A COMMITMENT TO OUR EMPLOYEES

By working to increase compensation and benefits while providing career guidance within a positive work culture, we hope to retain employees while attracting highly qualified candidates to fill open positions.



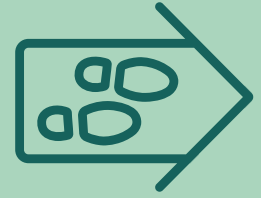
3: INCREASE AWARENESS

By developing a Marketing Department, League School will increase our outreach and expand awareness of the hidden gem that is League School both locally and beyond.



4: SECURE OUR FUTURE

League School is committed to maintaining solid financial stability while growing resources through fundraising and philanthropy to provide our students with enhancements to their educational experience.

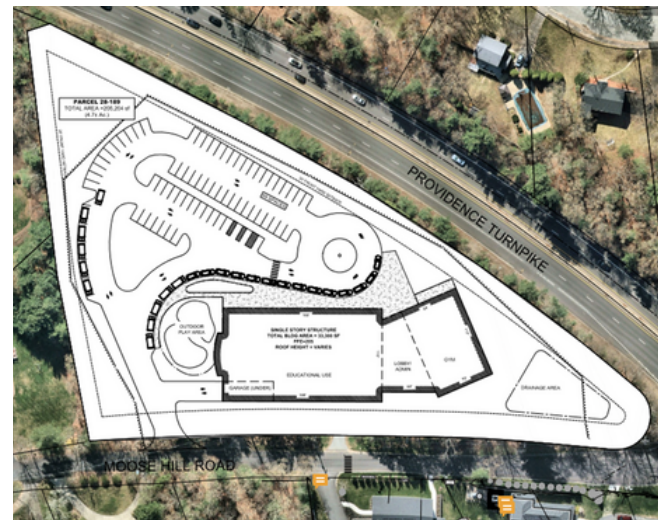


5: MOOSE HILL PROJECT

A notable highlight of the Strategic Plan is a new career education center to be developed and built at the Moose Hill property adjacent to the school. This exciting project will enhance the programs we currently offer while allowing us to serve additional students.

The center will give our vocational students real world experience on campus before they step out into the community. With plans in the preliminary stages, ideas include:

- *A retail café/garden store*
- *An expanded garden and greenhouse*
- *Classrooms for learning entry-level skills within the building trades*
- *Classroom space for learning computer skills, data entry and coding*
- *Expanded space for Vocational Center programming currently housed in the main school building*
- *Outdoor space with a athletic areas*



IN THE COMMUNITY

Students as young as 12 begin to experience vocational opportunities. This includes working within the school in paid vocational opportunities at our school store, the culinary kitchen, the vocational center, and in other areas around the building.

Beginning at age 16, students are able to begin “interning” in community vocational settings. Under the guidance of our job coaches, we currently have dozens of students who work in a variety of community settings where they can put into practice the skills they learned within the school. They also learn to work under the guidance of the community partners who supervise them. Students navigate the typical challenges of a workplace setting and get invaluable training, to hopefully gain employment in the future.



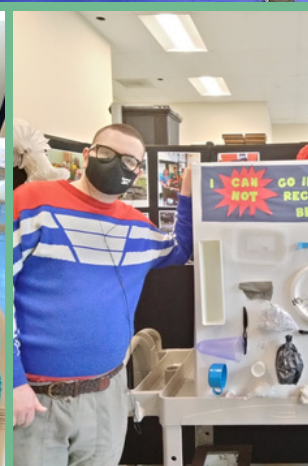
We thank our Community Partners for opening their doors to our students!

Amazon
Angelcat Haven
Attleboro Arts Museum
Bass Pro Shops
Batemans Senior Meals
Bay State Animal Cooperative
Big Y Walpole
Central Auto Group
Chili's
Coakley School
Direct Federal
Dr Detail Car Wash & Express

Fairfield Inn & Suites
Hanna Paper Shredding
Happy Tails Doggie Day Care
HESSCO
Hockomock YMCA
K and C Music Repair
Lark Center
Mass. Audubon Society
Mansfield Shredding
Walpole/Canton Meals on Wheels
Motorcycles of Manchester
Norwood Little League Park

Rojo's Car Wash
Siemens Healthineers
Stoughton YMCA
Sturdy Memorial
TRAX Recycling
Vanderbilt Club
Walmart
Walpole Public Schools
Winslow Farm
Wrentham DPW
Yards Unlimited

A LOOK BACK AT 2022



REMEMBERING ARNOLD VETSTEIN

“Co-founding the League School has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life.”

In the early 1960s, Arnold D. Vetstein and his wife, Leona, were concerned that their son (age 3) was exhibiting unusual behavior. They brought him to be evaluated at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he was diagnosed with autism. When they searched for education for their son, Richard, they discovered that public schools did not have a legal commitment to educating students considered “seriously disturbed.” This lack of education services became the impetus for co-founding the League School in 1966, and the Vetsteins’ important work continues to this day.

Arnold Vetstein died on December 12, 2022, at the age of 96. We work every day to honor his legacy and make his dream of excellence in autism education a reality.

To read our tribute to Dr. Vetstein, written by League School Board of Ambassadors member Cynthia McGrath, visit: leagueschool.org/remembering-arnold-vetstein.





Follow us on:



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