



Massachusetts School Building Authority

Deborah B. Goldberg

Chair, State Treasurer

James A. MacDonald

Chief Executive Officer

Mary L. Pichetti

Executive Director / Deputy CEO

December 12, 2025

Ms. Tari N. Thomas, Interim Superintendent
Gill-Montague Regional School District
35 Crocker Avenue
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Re: Gill-Montague Regional School District, Sheffield Elementary School

Dear Superintendent Thomas:

I am pleased to report that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (the “MSBA”) Board of Directors has voted to invite the Statement of Interest (the “SOI”) for the Sheffield Elementary School in the Gill-Montague Regional School District (the “District”) into the MSBA’s Eligibility Period. The invitation for the Sheffield Elementary School is for grades 2-5, and the potential during the feasibility study phase to examine the consolidation of the Sheffield Elementary School with the Hillcrest Elementary School, currently serving grades PreK-1, to serve grades PreK-5.

The 270-day Eligibility Period formalizes and streamlines the beginning of the MSBA’s grant approval process and benefits the District by providing a definitive schedule for the completion of preliminary requirements, assisting with the determination of financial and community readiness, and identifying needs for planning and budgeting. Successful completion of all activities in the Eligibility Period will allow the District to be eligible for an MSBA invitation to Feasibility Study.

Invitation into the Eligibility Period is **not** an invitation to Feasibility Study. Moving forward in the MSBA’s process requires collaboration with the MSBA, and an invitation to Feasibility Study will require a further vote of the MSBA Board of Directors. Communities that “get ahead” of the MSBA without MSBA approval will not be eligible for grant funding. Additionally, the District’s vote by the Board of Directors approving a potential invitation to Project Scope and Budget be no sooner than July 1, 2028. To qualify for any funding from the MSBA, local communities must follow the MSBA’s statute and regulations, which require MSBA partnership and approval at each step of the process.

The District’s Eligibility Period will commence on Friday, May 1, 2026, and conclude on Tuesday, January 26, 2027. During this time, the District must complete the preliminary requirements in accordance with the schedule on page three of this letter. The first item that requires completion by the District is the Initial Compliance Certification, which will be sent to the District electronically two weeks prior to its commencement date, on Friday, April 17, 2026.

The ability of the District to complete the preliminary requirements within the 270 days does not guarantee an invitation into the MSBA Capital Pipeline. Further, if the District cannot complete the preliminary requirements

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Gill-Montague Regional School District, Sheffield Elementary School Eligibility Period Board Action Letter

within the 270-day Eligibility Period, the MSBA will require the District to withdraw its SOI, and the District will have to re-file an SOI during the next open SOI filing period and/or when the District has the required financial and community support.

Upon completion of the preliminary requirements of the Eligibility Period and invitation to Feasibility Study, the District will be required to resolve any potential amendments to its Regional School District Agreement regarding any issues including, but not limited to, the level of participation from each member community and each member's apportionment of capital costs prior to the MSBA Board approving a recommendation for Preferred Schematic Design.

If the District has concerns about meeting any of the deadlines set forth on page three of this letter, please notify the MSBA in writing by Friday, May 1, 2026. If you have questions or would like additional information regarding the Eligibility Period, please refer to our website and/or contact Robin McElaney at the MSBA (Robin.McElaney@MassSchoolBuildings.org).

I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the MSBA's grant program process. As always, feel free to contact me or my staff at (617) 720-4466 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary L. Pichetti
Executive Director

Cc: Legislative Delegation
Charles Garbiel, Chair, Gill Select Board
Matthew Lord, Chair, Montague Select Board
Ray Purington, Gill Town Administrator
Walter Ramsey, Montague Town Administrator
Jane Oakes, Chair, Gill-Montague Regional School Committee
File: 10.2 Letters (Region 1)

Eligibility Period Schedule of Deliverables¹

Gill-Montague Regional School District Sheffield Elementary School

MSBA Board of Director Meeting – December 12, 2025

Eligibility Period Commences – Friday, May 1, 2026		
MODULE ONE - Eligibility Period		
Deliverable	Days	Due Date and Status
Initial Compliance Certification	30	Monday, June 1, 2026 Required
School Building Committee	60	Tuesday, June 30, 2026 Required
Educational Profile Questionnaire	90	Thursday, July 30, 2026 Required
Online Enrollment Projection	90	Thursday, July 30, 2026 Required
Enrollment Meeting Held	180	Wednesday October 28, 2025 Required
Maintenance and Capital Planning Information	180	Not Required
Local Vote Authorization	270	Tuesday, January 26, 2027 Required
Feasibility Study Agreement	270	Tuesday, January 26, 2027 Required
Eligibility Period Concludes – Tuesday, January 26, 2027		

¹If the District has concerns about meeting any of the following deadlines, please let the MSBA know by Friday, May 1, 2026. The MSBA will require districts that are unable to complete the preliminary requirements within the timeframes noted for each to withdraw its SOI and reapply when the District has the financial and community support required.