



Arthur R. Gould School
675 Westbrook St.
South Portland, ME 04106
Principal – Peter Badalament

July 10th, 2026,

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

Arthur R. Gould School is committed to providing students with enrichment opportunities while complying with Maine Department of Education standards. Our school provides education to detained and committed students and meets their academic needs while they are at Long Creek Youth Development Center. Educational opportunities include academic content areas, special education, education transition support, and supplemental learning programs. Every Student Succeeds Act is a grant that provides our school with funding opportunities to address educational needs for the coming school year. Based on a comprehensive needs assessment, our team developed the following projects and budget to ensure students' success in academics is supported.

Project Title: Supplemental Programming & Transitional Skills

Budgeted Amount: \$ 103,560.85

Proposed Project Overview:

Supplemental Programming provides students with learning opportunities focused on their areas of interest while complying with state education standards. Instruction can occur in-person or utilizing online platforms. This project will promote successful student transitions from Arthur R. Gould to the identified education pathway (i.e., High School, Adult Education, or College) and community. This includes partnering with local agencies, online programs, and curriculum focused on soft skill building and career exploration. This project may support hosting community events to enhance continued relationships with parents, guardians, and community providers as the student transitions to the community. A need for education-based supplies during student transition will be supported within this project, in addition to continuing professional development for teachers on curriculum support to meet the needs of all students.

Proposed Project Specifics:

Increasing Parent/Guardian Engagement

Opportunity for residents' parents or legal guardians to meaningfully engage with A.R. Gould teachers is currently limited. This goal focuses on the desire to provide regular communication between teachers and residents' parent or legal guardian to obtain parent feedback and update parents on student progress. Additionally, this project will support continued annual events for parents and students to come together that benefit the students' progress, not only in school but also the students' mental health. This project includes holiday dinners, virtual parents' night, student work event/display, etc. As part of the FY27 school year, A.R. Gould intends to host at least one parent teacher conference virtually and with extended hours to allow for increased participation. An annual parent survey will also be considered to obtain continuous feedback.

Improving Educational Data and Recordkeeping

A.R. Gould will continue to institute new and/or improved testing protocols for Committed and Detained students. During the FY26 school year, the school drafted a proposal for standardized data

and educational test tracking policies. A.R. Gould plans to finalize this drafted proposal within FY27 to create a formal policy/procedure. Additionally, the school plans to utilize NWEA, CASAS, STAR testing, Edmentum, and grade level data to determine which data tracking mechanism is most effective and to further determine student needs.

Increasing Student Readiness

Upon intake at the facility, students receive a Resident Handbook which contains information about being a student at A.R. Gould. Since this information has not been updated since 2019, part of this goal is to revise and update the A.R. Gould portion of the handbook to include updating available vocational courses, information around Response to Intervention – Level 1, and the Vision of a Graduate. Revising the Resident Handbook will allow students first entering the facility with a better understanding and preparedness of what is expected and what accurate educational programs are available to them.

Transitional Support Services

A.R. Gould will continue to expand on transitional services for students. As this is a critical period in a student's life, it is essential to provide robust and consistent transitional services to ensure successful reintegration into the community. This goal will focus on creating additional opportunities for students to build necessary skills, and learn more about their community, careers, and various educational paths that may be available and/or of interest to them.

The Arthur R. Gould School administration is inviting parents, guardians, and community members to share comments, suggestions, or questions regarding our proposed projects for the 2026-2027 School year.

Your feedback can be provided by July 24th, 2026, by the attached online submission form.

We thank you for your dedication to your students' continued success and connection with our education team.

Thank you.



Peter Badalament
Principal
Arthur R Gould School