

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members  
Boston School Committee

FROM: Nathan Kuder  
Chief Financial Officer



SUBJECT: Grants for Approval

DATE: October 21, 2020

Attached please find the grants for approval by the School Committee on October 21, 2020. Full copies of the grant proposals are available for your review and have been filed with the Office of the Secretary to the School Committee.



**GRANTS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL  
October 21, 2020**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>FY</b>	<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Fund Manager</b>	<b>Focus Area(s)</b>	<b>Sites</b>
\$20,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices - Boston Collaborative High School	New	Sherri Neasman	College and Career Readiness	Boston Collaborative High School
\$30,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices - East Boston High School	New	Phillip Brangiforte	College and Career Readiness	East Boston High School
\$30,000	2021	MassGrad Promising Practices Grant – Excel High School	New	Tracey Kimsey	College and Career Readiness	Excel High School
\$46,350	2021	OpenSciEd Field Test	New	Marianne Dunne	Curriculum and Instruction	12 Sites
\$379,603	2021	School Redesign Grant - Ellis	New	Danielle Costello	Turnaround	David A. Ellis Elementary
\$900,000	2021	Targeted Assistance Grant	New	Marguerite Vichier-Guerre	Transformation	14 Sites
<b>\$1,405,953</b>	<b>Total</b>					

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: MassGrad Promising Practices – Boston Collaborative HS

Status: New

Start & End Dates: Upon Approval – August 31, 2021

Funding Source: Federal through State

Grantor Contact: Lisa Harney  
Office for College, Career, and Technical Education  
MA DESE  
75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: 781-338-3903  
Email: [LHarney@doe.mass.edu](mailto:LHarney@doe.mass.edu)

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): Boston Collaborative HS

BPS Fund Manager: Sherri Neasman, Headmaster

Department Head/School Leader: Sherri Neasman, Headmaster

Annual Award Amount: \$ 20,000

Total Award Amount (if grant period more than a year): \$

Carry-forward option: N/A

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 175

Sites: BCHS

Key External Partners:

### **Grant Description**

BCHS is an alternative high school whose mission is to provide “opportunity youth” (youth who experience barriers to education) a non-traditional pathway to graduation and college/career. As BCHS specifically targets students who are off-track to graduate, and experience failure in the traditional setting, it is imperative that we offer wrap-around case management to all students as well as non-traditional academic delivery. Being awarded this grant will provide a way for BCHS to improve upon and deepen our practice of social emotional health and wellness and at the same time strengthen our online and non-traditional delivery methods. Through this grant, students will be provided with post-secondary traditional/non-traditional education paths, information, orientation and exploration, and stabilization and empowerment and life-skills coaching.

### **Expense Categories this Grant Pays For**

*Budget:*

*25%: Professional development & Curriculum development*

*30%: Experiential Learning Workshops*

*20%: SEL Activities*

*20%: Staff Stipends*

*5%: Community Events*

Grant will be dispersed between the BCHS programs as follows:

ABCD - 21.1%

EDCO - 19.4%

OHS - 19.9%

LogOn, Otro Camino, St. Mary's - 39.4%

### **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Goals**

**Goal #1:** Student engagement in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) will increase by 70% for 100% of the BCHS enrollment. In preparation for the upcoming school year and the impact of COVID on “how” school is experienced, it is crucial that students know and understand how to cultivate and maintain healthy, positive relationships with family, school, peers, and community. While learning transitions between multiple learning platforms it is imperative student engagement remains strong and steady. SEL provides a foundation for safe and positive learning and enhances students’ ability to succeed in school, college, and beyond. SEL will also help to provide an outlet for students to process any worries, anxiety and fears they might experience due to the COVID pandemic. All students will focus on the following SEL Competencies: Self-awareness, Self-management, Social Relations, and Decision Making.

**Indicator:** Pre and post survey/-assessments. (Qualitative Data will be collected and analysed.)

**Goal #2:** By June 2021 95% of BCHS students will have utilized the College and Career platform for future plans in any of the following ways: Perform college search/research/application, engage in college events, resume upload/job search/job training.

**Indicator:** MyCAP/Naviance analytics

## **SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM**

Grant Name: MassGrad Promising Practices – East Boston High School

Status: New

Start & End Dates: Upon Approval – August 31, 2021

Funding Source: Federal through State

Grantor Contact: Lisa Harney  
Office for College, Career, and Technical Education  
MA DESE  
75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: 781-338-3903  
Email: [LHarney@doe.mass.edu](mailto:LHarney@doe.mass.edu)

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): East Boston High School

BPS Fund Manager: Phillip R. Brangiforte, Headmaster

Department Head/School Leader: Phillip R. Brangiforte, Headmaster

Annual Award Amount: \$30,000

Total Award Amount (if grant period more than a year): \$ NA

Carry-forward option: No

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served:

Sites: East Boston High School

Key External Partners: NA

### **Grant Description**

The purpose of this federally funded targeted grant opportunity is to provide supplementary support to school districts with high concentrations of students at-risk for not graduating from high school. These students may: be expectant or parenting teens, have drug or alcohol addictions, have current or previous contact with the courts or juvenile justice system, be at least one year behind expected grade level for the age of the individual, have limited English proficiency, be a gang member, be a former dropout, have high or chronic absenteeism, and/or any other factors that would place students at-risk for not graduating.

### **Expense Categories this Grant Pays For**

~ 33% of the grant funds will be allocated for a Twilight School. will pay for stipends for teachers to teach Twilight and for an administrative coordinator of Twilight to serve approximately 150 students in the Spring of 2021

~ 67% percent of the funds will be allocated to implement additional Tier 2 academic and emotional supports for our at-risk population of students by creating a Student and Family Ambassador Team that is focused on providing adult advocates for supporting attendance and graduation for our at-risk students.

### **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Goals**

**Goal #1:** Based on the fact that the percentage of students present at East Boston High School was 88.4% from September 2019- March 2020, our goal is to increase this attendance rate by 5% points.

Indicator: Attendance in Aspen and BPS Data Warehouse

**Goal #2:** Based on the fact that our students' chronic absenteeism (>10%) is 29.8%, our goal is to decrease chronic absenteeism by 5%.

Indicator: Attendance in Aspen and BPS Data Warehouse

**Goal #3:** In 2019, our graduation rate was 74.6% and our adjusted graduation rate was 80.3%, our goal is to increase our graduation rates by more than 5% to at least 81.3% and 85.3%.

Indicator: Attendance in Aspen and BPS Data Warehouse

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: MassGrad Promising Practices – Excel High School

Status: New

Start & End Dates: Upon Approval – August 31, 2021

Funding Source: Federal through State

Grantor Contact: Lisa Harney  
Office for College, Career, and Technical Education  
MA DESE  
75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: 781-338-3903  
Email: [LHarney@doe.mass.edu](mailto:LHarney@doe.mass.edu)

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): Excel High School – South Boston

BPS Fund Manager: Tracey Kimsey, Director of Work-Based Learning and Partnerships

Department Head/School Leader: Dr. Renee K. McCall – Head of School, Excel High School—South Boston

Annual Award Amount: \$ 30,000

Total Award Amount (if grant period more than a year): \$

Carry-forward option: N/A

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 35

Sites: Excel High School

Key External Partners: Boston Private Industry Council; Arbour Counseling

### **Grant Description**

Funds will support a cohort Excel High School seniors at high risk not to graduate in Spring 2021. Each student will be matched with a school-based adult advocate who will provide ongoing informal academic and social emotional support and serve as a case manager to ensure each student has access to programs and/or services necessary.

### **Expense Categories this Grant Pays For**

~70% of funds will be used to compensate school-based adult engagement mentors. Mentors will work, on average, 5-6 hours per month from October through August.

~25% will be used to support ongoing program curriculum, material and service needs.

~5% of the grant will support ongoing program curriculum development, in conjunction with MyCAPP.

### **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Goals**

**Goal 1:** By January of 2021, average daily attendance for the program cohort students will increase by 5% from SY 2019-202 Term 4 daily average.

**Indicator:** Daily attendance data

**Goal 2:** By March of 2021, 100% of program cohort will have an updated resume and list of 3 professional references in Naviance.

**Indicator:** Students' Individual Naviance accounts

**Goal 3:** By June of 2021, 100% of program cohort will be on track to graduate in Spring 2021 and/or Summer 2021.

**Indicator:** Aspen Transcript Audits



## SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: OpenSciEd Field Test Fund Code 116

Status: New

Start & End Dates: Upon approval – June 30, 2020

Funding Source: State

Grantor Contact: Contact Name MA DESE  
Address 75 Pleasant St  
Phone Malden, MA 02148  
Email: e.hashimoto@doe.mass.edu

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): BPS STE Department

BPS Fund Manager: Marianne Dunne

Department Head/School Leader: Christine Landry

Annual Award Amount: \$46,350

Total Award Amount (if grant period more than a year): \$

Carry-forward option: No

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 25 teachers approximately 2,200 students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Sites: McKay, Sarah Greenwood, Rafael Hernandez, Gardner Pilot Academy, O'Bryant, Hennigan, McCormack, Umama Academy, Dearborn STEM Academy, Murphy, Mary Lyon, Roosevelt

Key External Partners: OpenSciEd, MA DESE

### **Grant Description**

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for instructional materials to BPS schools that are field testing OpenSciEd middle school standards aligned science curriculum. Twelve BPS middle schools are field testing the materials with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and providing feedback to the national development team of OpenSciEd

### **Expense Categories this Grant Pays For**

100% of the funds will be allocated to the BPS STE department to purchase the specialized instructional materials that are needed for the field testing during the 2020-2021 academic year and cover substitute costs when teachers attend professional learning.

### **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Goals**

Goal #1: BPS middle grade students involved with the OpenSciEd field test will increase their understanding of specific disciplinary core ideas and demonstrate their understanding of the 2016 MA STE standards that are aligned with the grade level standards that an OpenSciEd unit addresses.

**Indicator:** Specific unit assessments and student work will be collected and analyzed by BPS STE dept & OpenSciEd researchers using the rubric provided by the instructional materials.

Goal #2: BPS middle grade teachers involved with the OpenSciEd field test will apply new instructional strategies in their classrooms that increase middle grade students' abilities to enact the science and engineering practices that are included in the 2016 MA STE standards.

**Indicator:** Data collection (observations, student work, student discourse, and student surveys) will be shared between and among teachers involved with the field test to see the specific instructional strategies (use of routines, progress tracker, science circles) that illustrate students application of the science and engineering practices (developing and using models, creating explanations using evidence, critiquing arguments with evidence and communicating and evaluating information).

Goal #3: OpenSciEd field test materials will increase equity, access and student agency for all students to the STE disciplinary core ideas and science and engineering practices.

**Indicator:** End of year student survey, teacher unit evaluation.

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: School Redesign Grant - Ellis  
Status: New  
Start & End Dates: September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2022  
Funding Source: State  
Grantor Contact: Michael Seymour  
75 Pleasant St. Malden, MA 02148  
781-338-3514  
Email: mseymour@doe.mass.edu

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): Office of Turnaround and Transformation

BPS Fund Manager: Danielle Costello, Program Manager

Department Head/School Leader: Shira DeCovnick, Director

Annual Award Amount: \$379,603

Total Award Amount (if grant period more than a year): \$935,537

Carry-forward option: No

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 457 students

Sites: David A Ellis Elementary

Key External Partners:

### **Grant Description**

The School Redesign Grant is a federally-funded, competitive grant to help districts improve their lowest performing schools. Its overall purpose is to help districts and identified schools meet students' needs through funding improvement strategies such as professional development for educators, academic enrichment programs for students, or targeted interventions. The grant requires the development, implementation and revision of a transformation plan aligned to the Massachusetts Turnaround Practice Areas, which guides the approach to rapid school improvement.

### **Expense Categories this Grant Pays For**

~47% of the grant will be used to add staffing capacity for building climate activities and increased instructional coaching for teachers.

~30% will be allocated toward student supports such as academic interventions, before/after school tutoring, and enrichment opportunities.

~18% of the grant will be used to support teachers through increased time and professional development.

~3% will be allocated toward family engagement activities.

~3% will be used toward the district's indirect rate.

### **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Goals**

**Goal #1:** The gap between the Ellis Elementary School and the district in the percentage of English Learners who need significant support will decrease from 33% to 23% on the second BPS ELA interim assessment.

Indicator: BPS district ELA interim assessment

**Goal #2:** By June, 75% of students will have had at least one family member participate in at least one parent-teacher conference during the school year.

Indicator: Sign-in sheets during parent-teacher conferences and logs in ASPEN

**Goal #3:** By June, the percentage of students absent 10 or more days will decrease by 3 percentage points from SY19-20 to SY20-21.

Indicator: BPS data warehouse attendance report

## SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: Targeted Assistance Grant - Federal

Status: New

Start & End Dates: October 15th, 2020 – August 31, 2021

Funding Source: Federal through State

Grantor Contact: Michael Seymour  
75 Pleasant Street  
Malden, MA 02148  
Phone: 781-338-3514  
Email: MSeymour@doe.mass.edu

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): Office of School Transformation

BPS Fund Manager(s): Marguerite Vichier-Guerre, Office of School Transformation

Department Head/School Leader: Shira DeCovnick, Director, Office of School Transformation

Annual Award Amount: \$900,000

Carry-forward option: No

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: Approximately 10,000 students across 14 schools

Sites: Brighton High, Community Academy of Science and Health, Dearborn, Excel High School, Lyon Upper 9-12, Madison Park High, The English High, Washington Irving Middle, John D Philbrick, Charlestown High, Clarence R, Edwards Middle, Edison K-8, James J Chittick, James W Hennigan, Mario Umana Academy, TechBoston Academy, Lyndon, Henry Grew, Roger Clap, Joseph Lee, Mission Hill School, King K-8, Blackstone, Samuel W Mason, Sarah, Greenwood, Young Achievers, James P Timilty Middle, Higginson/Lewis K-8, John W McCormack, Lilla G. Frederick, Middle School, Orchard Gardens, Mather, Curley K-8 School, Condon K-8

Key External Partners:

### **Grant Description**

The purpose of this grant is to assist these schools with the implementation and improvement of their school Transformation plans. To be eligible, each school demonstrated a high quality improvement plan that included at least one (often more) federally recognized evidence based strategies associated with ESSA Evidence Tier I-III OR will be creating a Transformation Plan for the first time this year. These funds will support both district-facilitated and school-specific improvement strategies

### **Expense Categories this Grant Pays For**

~63% will be stipends for school-based personnel to expand time for the following activities (amount of time for each varies by school): planning rigorous integrated units; curriculum implementation activities; centrally facilitated professional learning on supporting the SEL needs of students; and ILT intensive planning meetings to take place in spring and summer 2020 to revise schools' transformation plans for the following year for schools that have a standing plan; planning time in Winter and spring 2020 for schools that are creating plans for the first time.

~30% will be used for professional development strategic partners to support leadership development and develop instructional leadership teams' capacity to recognize, coach, and develop standards aligned instruction in staff. One key partner in this will be Unbound Education, which leads evidence-based week-long professional learning on increasing rigor.

~2% of the grant will be used for materials and supplies needed to implement to specific schools' transformation strategies

~2% will be for instructional technology related to one schools' transformation strategy

**Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time-bound (SMART) Goals**

**Goal #1:** As evidence that their transformation plan is leading to changes in adult structures and practices, all 11 schools that receive an independent annual site visit will earn more practice ratings at the highest level than in SY18-19.

**Indicator:** American Institutes for Research's Monitoring Site Visit Practice Ratings

**Goal #2:** As evidence that the investment in staff and community participation in developing and preparing to implement a transformation plan is impactful, at each school creating a plan for the first time, at least 75% of staff will report that they believe the plan their school developed will lead to improved outcomes for students.

**Indicator:** Centrally administered survey

**Goal #3:** For schools implementing a Transformation plan this school year, the average growth students make compared to peers of similar performance will increase, on average, across Math and ELA in tested grades OR remain above 51.

**Indicator:** Student Growth Percentile (DESE Accountability Measure)