



March 16, 2016

Dear EEC/ELC Communities,

In efforts to fully balance the 2016-2017 budget, this week we were asked to make a reduction in surround care funding for our Early Education Centers that will result in programmatic reductions to each school. The five programs serve nearly 800 students, and they are located at West ELC, East Boston EEC, Baldwin EEC, Ellison Parks EES, and Haynes EEC. Each school has historically received a supplemental allocation for each student for several years to provide a longer school day for our youngest students. Our surround care programs were asked to re-examine their budgets to reduce this overall cost to the district, while still maintaining surround care programming for students.

This weekend and today, our five early childhood school leaders have worked together to closely examine our budgets and make strategic reductions. Each school has made a reduction in operating costs that represents between 67%-75% of the total funding reduction that we were originally asked to make. We, as school leaders, feel that this will allow us to maintain a level of programming to ensure that all students have care from the time that students are dropped off for early care, when buses arrive, until the end of the extended day, when buses leave for dismissal. Although some of the substance of our programming will be reduced, the cuts are being made equitably across our five schools and represent reductions that are similar to those that other schools have seen throughout the district.

We are committed to working collaboratively in partnership with the school district and our school communities to find grant funding to supplement these cuts. In the event that any funding is restored to the district, we would like the District to prioritize equitable redistribution to our schools. We would also like to continue this conversation and work with Dr. Chang and the central office team to ensure that moving forward the district is able to fully support an efficient and effective model for surround care programming.

Respectfully,

Donette Wilson-Wood,
Haynes ELC

Jean Larrabee,
West Zone ELC

Olga Frechon,
East Zone ELC

Natalie Ake,
Ellison-Parks EEC

Tavia Mead,
Baldwin ELC Pilot

