

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members
Boston School Committee

FROM: Tommy Chang
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Grant for Approval

DATE: October 20, 2016

Attached please find the grant that will be put forth for School Committee approval on October 26, 2016. Should you wish to review the proposal in more detail, the complete grant proposal has been filed with the Office of the Secretary to the School Committee.

If you have any questions, staff is available to respond.

Attachment

cc: Inez Foster, Assistant Director, Resource Development Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Relations



MEMORANDUM

TO: Tommy Chang
Superintendent

FROM: Eleanor Laurans
Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Grant for Approval

DATE: October 20, 2016

Attached please find the grant for approval by the School Committee. A full copy of the grant proposal is available for your review and has been filed with the Office of the Secretary to the School Committee.



GRANTS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL

October 26, 2016

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Focus Area	Sites
\$228,000	2017	School Redesign Grant - Cohort VII: Bridge Grant	New	Liza Veto	School Turnaround	Brighton High School, Excel High School
\$228,000	Total					

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: School Redesign Grant - Cohort VII: Bridge Grant
Status: New
Grant Type: Competitive
Start & End Dates: Upon approval – August 31, 2017
Funding Source: State - Federal through State
Grantor Contact: Russ Fleming, School Improvement Grant Programs
MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education
75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148
(781) 338-6259
rfleming@doe.mass.edu

Lead BPS Department and/or School(s): Strategy Division

BPS Fund Manager: Liza Veto, Director, Office of Turnaround and Transformation

Department Head/School Leader: Donna Muncey, Deputy Superintendent

Award Amount: \$ 228,000 (\$114,000 for each school)

Total Award Amount (if grant period more than a year): N/A

Carry-forward option: No

Approximate # of students served: 1450

Sites: Brighton High School and Excel High School

Key External Partners: Teachers 21; American Institutes for Research (AIR); others TBD

Grant Description

Brighton High School and Excel High School were designated underperforming (Level 4) in the state accountability system on September 26, 2016.

Boston Public Schools has applied for \$114,000 for each school (\$228,000 total) from ESE to support the development of Brighton's and Excel's Level 4 school turnaround plans and to jump-start key turnaround activities. This bridge grant is a standard grant award to districts upon the designation of new Level 4 schools, to "bridge" the time period between when a school is designated underperforming and when it will be eligible to apply for competitive federal School Redesign Grant (SRG) funds. The upcoming SRG competition will be held in spring 2017, and the district plans to apply for grants on behalf of both high schools. The Level 4 school turnaround plans developed with the assistance of the bridge grant funds will comprise a substantial portion of the district's SRG applications for the schools.

Expense Categories this Grant Pays For

Approximately 15% of grant funds will be allocated to support activities required to develop the Brighton and Excel Level 4 school Turnaround Plans, including Local Stakeholder Group meeting design and facilitation, creation of the Local Stakeholder Group's recommendations to the Superintendent (including all related documentation), and

development of components of the plan, such as the school's district-determined Measureable Annual Goals (MAGs) as defined in statute.

Approximately 22% of grant funds will be allocated to support the ESE-required two-day Monitoring Site Visits at each school, which include classroom observations, interviews, focus groups, and surveys of the instructional staff. The formative data from these visits will be utilized in the development of each school's Level 4 Turnaround Plan.

Approximately 60% of grant funds will be used to support learning strategies that will be identified in Brighton's and Excel's Level 4 turnaround plans. Supported strategies will be determined by the turnaround plan, in one or more of the following turnaround practice areas:

- Leadership, shared responsibility, and professional collaboration
- Intentional practices for improving instruction
- Student-specific instruction and supports to all students
- School culture and climate

Approximately 3% of grant funds will be allocated to indirect costs.

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

Goal #1: The Brighton and Excel Local Stakeholder Groups will complete all requirements assigned to the group as indicated in MGL Chapter 69 Section 1J, by completing its recommendations to the Superintendent for the school's Level 4 Turnaround Plan.

Indicator #1: The Local Stakeholder Group will conduct its first meeting within the 30-day window required by statute. (The first Brighton LSG meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2016; the first Excel LSG meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2016.)

Indicator #2: The two schools' Local Stakeholder Groups will submit their recommendations to the Superintendent regarding the contents of each school's Level 4 Turnaround Plan no later than 45 days following its first meeting (by Friday, December 9, 2016 for Brighton's LSG, and by Monday, December 12, 2016 for Excel's LSG).

Goal #2: Bridge grant funding will be used to support two-day monitoring site visits at each school, which will include classroom observations, focus groups, interviews, and a survey of instructional staff.

Indicator #1: The Monitoring Site Visits for Brighton and Excel High Schools will be completed by December 1, 2016.

Indicator #2: The data from the Monitoring Site Visits for each school will be incorporated into its Level 4 Turnaround Plan.