

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members
Boston School Committee

FROM: Tommy Chang
Superintendent 

SUBJECT: Grant for Approval

DATE: November 12, 2015

Attached please find the grant that will be put forth for School Committee approval on November 18, 2015. Should you wish to review this in more detail, the complete grant proposal has been filed with the Office of the Secretary to the School Committee.

Thank you for your cooperation. 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
Executive Director of School Finance

SUBJECT: Grant for Approval

DATE: November 12, 2015

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



GRANTS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL

November 18, 2015

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Focus Area	Sites
\$20,000	2016	Alternative Education State Grant: Education Pathways to Support Students Most at-Risk of Not Graduating from High School (Fund Code 790)	New	Alex Kalamaroff	At Risk	Charlestown High School
\$20,000	Total					

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: Alternative Education State Grant: Education Pathways to Support Students Most at-Risk of Not Graduating from High School (Fund Code 790)

Status: New,

Grant Type: Competitive

Start & End Dates: 10/19/2015 to 6/30/2016

Funding Source: State

Grantor Contact: Contact Name: Lisa Harney
Address: Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02148
Phone: 781-338-3903
Email: lharney@doe.mass.edu

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

BPS Fund Manager: Alex Kalamaroff, Programming Development & Partnerships

Department Head/School Leader: William Thomas, Headmaster of CHS

Annual Award Amount: \$20,000

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

Carry-forward option: No

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 8 staff and 75 students

Sites: Charlestown High School

Key External Partners: The Center for Collaborative Education, Restorative Justice and Social Justice partners

Grant Description

Our grant proposal seeks to provide more individualized academic and socio-emotional support in our Diploma Plus Alternative Education program, which currently serves 75 students, ages 16 to 22, all of whom are “over-age and under-credited.” There are two main goals of this proposal: #1. “Staying on the Same Page,” a program that works to strengthen the triangular relationship of student – family – school, and #2. Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development for our Competency-based Education System centered around contemporary social justice issues. We will also continue to meet the requirements of Massachusetts discipline law, Chapter 222.

Expense Categories this Grant Pays For

~51% of the grant is allocated to stipend staffs for their work in “Staying on the Same Page” family engagement and student socioemotional support work

~25% is allocated to support guest speakers and consultation work for our Interdisciplinary Curriculum Development around contemporary social justice issues

~24% is allocated for instructional supplies, printing costs, book purchases, and materials purchases

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

Goal #1: Increase average daily attendance for Diploma Plus students from where it's currently at—71%—to 80%, by April 01, 2016

Indicator: Students' daily attendance is a key factor for academic success. Students in Diploma Plus, who have not been successful in more traditional academic environments, often have struggles with daily attendance, due to a myriad of reasons, many of which concern external factors. We have found that family engagement is important when looking at mollifying external factors that impede students' attendance at school and when looking at connecting students to socio-emotional support services that help students balance external demands and stressors with in-school academic work. Therefore, we will use family outreach strategies, including home visits and connecting students and families to socio-emotional supports, in an effort to increase average daily attendance.

Goal #2: Increase by 20% the number of students who are qualifying as "Competent" in our competency-based education system in Quarters 2 and 3—compared to Quarters 1

Indicator: As part of the Interdisciplinary Curriculum development, Diploma Plus staff are looking to create more relevant instruction for students that will engage them with school. By focusing on political and social justice issues that are directly relevant to students' lives, the DP teachers will create more opportunities for students to reconnect to school and take ownership of their academic growth.

Goal #3: Increase the family participation rate in our Spring Family Conferences so that at least 95% of families are participating (compared to 75% families in the Fall Family Conference)

Indicator: In strengthening the triangular relationship of student – family – school, Diploma Plus staff will track how interactions with family and measure how school communication with family improves student engagement in school. Along with home visits, teachers will be required to make more family contact, which will be quantitatively tracked by the Diploma Plus assistant administrator.