

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members Boston School Committee

FROM: Mary Skipper
Superintendent

SUBJECT: Grants for Approval

DATE: May 22, 2024

Attached please find the grants that will be put forth for School Committee approval on May 8, 2024. Should you wish to review this in more detail, the complete grant proposals have 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.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mary Skipper
Superintendent

FROM: David Bloom
Chief Financial Officer

SUBJECT: Grants for Approval

DATE: May 22, 2024

Attached please find the grants for approval by the School Committee. Full copies of the grant proposals are available for your review and will be filed with the Office of the Secretary to the School Committee.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Bloom", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

GRANTS FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE APPROVAL

May 22, 2024

Amount	FY	Grant Name	Status	Fund Manager	Focus Area(s)	Sites
\$5,000	FY25	BU Consortium Grant	New/ Competitive	Cesar Ortega	Extracurricular activities	Mildred Avenue School
25,000	FY24	Black Male Advancement Grant	New	Cory McCarthy	College Prep	District Wide
\$ 30,000	TOTAL					

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: BU Consortium Grant

Purpose: After School Film Club partnership with FC Academy

Grant start date: July 1, 2024

Grant end date: June 30, 2025

Status: Accepted

Grant Type: Competitive

Grant Manager : Cesar Ortega

Email: cortega@bostonpublicschools.org

Telephone: 617-905-8365

Funding Source: BU Consortium

Grantor Contact: Brakonieccki, Aaron

Email: brak@bu.edu

Annual Award Amount: 5,000

Carry-forward option: no

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 25-40

Sites: Mildred Ave

Key External Partners (if any): FC Academy

Grant Description: Funding for school projects

Desired Outcomes/ Priority: See grant application for additional details

Project Goals

We have high expectations for this new partnership and have already consulted with the director of the organization on our goals for next school year.

Increase middle school student's sense of belonging at Mildred Ave

As shown in the screenshots (sense of belonging over time, climate comparison, and sense of belonging question breakdown) from our winter climate survey only 43% of our students in grades 6-8 responded positively to the questions related to student belonging. While this was five percentage points higher than than the district average, we know that we can do better! We are confident that if this aspect of our school culture were improved it would have a positive impact on the sense of belonging as well as student attendance and classroom engagement.

Provide an extra curricular space for middle school students interested in the arts to grow their craft and build community.

As a school we have a few after school options for middle school students interested in sports like lacrosse and basketball, but very few opportunities for students interested in the arts. When researching organizations to possibly partner with, we came across FC Academy and realized that film, as an art form, is unique in its ability to bring together many different forms of art as a good film incorporates music, visual art (and possibly graphic design), writing, acting, composition. In addition, with so many students using social media, many students are interested in video making. The hope is that this film club will be a space of artistic amalgamation where all students interested in the arts can find a place for themselves.

Increase sources of academic support for middle school students, especially in terms of their literacy development.

As a school we have an instructional focus on equitable literacy development (see district toolkit for details). In our most recent MAP reading assessment data (see screenshot below) we have noticed that not all students are growing their skills at a rate we would like. This is especially concerning for students "in the red" because that data is essentially telling us that not only are these students multiple grade levels behind in their literacy development but they are not currently making the accelerated progress necessary to be able to catch up to their national peers before high school.

It is important to note that we do have a significant population of MLLs (multilingual learners) new to the country who are taking the test in English and skewing the achievement data a bit, but these students should still be making growth on par with their peers. With that said, another great aspect of film as an artistic medium is it can help develop literacy skills regardless of one's native language.

Please specify how this grant aligns with the district's focus areas (Please select which district Priority/ Priorities this grant aligns with and give brief description of no more than two sentences This Section must be fully completed):

- Prioritizing and Accelerating Academic Performance
- Strengthening Access to Social-emotional Learning
- Streamlining Operations and Ensuring Student Safety
- Developing Authentic Family and Community Engagement Practices
- Improving Internal and External Communication with Families and Staff
- Increasing Accountability for both the Central Office and our Schools

See above for alignment details.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ACCEPTANCE FORM

Grant Name: Black Male Advancement Grant

Purpose: This grant is designed to create as well foster academics and athletic enrichment programming. Funding will be used to also support the college prep process for BPS athletes

Grant start date: 8/1/23

Grant end date: 7/31/24

Status: Active

Grant Type: New

Grant Manager : Cory McCarthy

Email: cmccarthy2@bostonpublicschools.org

Telephone: 617-905-0685

Funding Source: City of Boston

Grantor Contact: Frank Farrow

Phone: 617-331-7378

Email: frank.farrow@boston.gov

Annual Award Amount: \$25,000

Carry-forward option: Yes

Approximate # of students (or teachers, central office staff) served: 250 students across the district

Sites: District Wide

Key External Partners (if any): REACH 1000 Mentoring Advisory council

Grant Description:

Mentoring and Out-of-School Time: providing quality mentoring, literacy and out-of-school time programs when and where they are needed, offering developmentally appropriate learning environments that support social emotional and physical wellbeing.

Youth and Young Adult Pathways: providing educational and career pathways for youth and young adults navigating their own course to economic prosperity.

Housing Mobility: providing a continuum of housing opportunities, resources, and supports that

are effectively resulting in pathways to affordable housing and homeownership.

Economic Inclusion and Wealth Building: supporting individuals to experience financial empowerment and economic mobility.

Workforce Training and Development: helping unemployed and underemployed individuals attain livable wage jobs and helping businesses with training for employees to support a pipeline of skilled workers.

Fatherhood Engagement: supporting fatherhood education, case management, and peer-to-peer support to strengthen positive father-child interaction, improve social and economic outcomes for fathers and their families and improve healthy relationships.

Mental Health and Wellness: helping support and improve the mental health and wellbeing of men.

Desired Outcomes/ Priority

Goal 1: Mentorship

Goal 2: Increased access to the college prep process

Goal 3: Academic support and tutoring

Please specify how this grant aligns with the district's focus areas (Please select which district Priority/ Priorities this grant aligns with and give brief description of no more than two sentences This Section must be fully completed):

Prioritizing and Accelerating Academic Performance

This grant will allow us to provide tutoring exclusively for black male students who typically do not have access to high level, high impact tutoring. We will be able to provide supplies and adequate resources for students.

Strengthening Access to Social-emotional Learning

Through mentorship, our students will have access to men of color who are driven by their commitment to young black males and their success. We will also provide mental health support through continuous use of best practices relative to the needs of the young men.

