

Increasing Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services

This report describes anticipated awarding of grants and contracts related to funds allocated from Chapter 273 of the Acts of 2018, line item 7061-0010, to assist public school districts in connecting students with community-based services to maximize coordination with service providers and establish more comprehensive continuums of care, and to support increased professional development opportunities for public school employees to identify students in need of mental and behavioral health support.

June 2019

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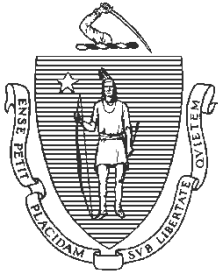
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Jeffrey C. Riley
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June 12, 2019

Dear Members of the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance:

I am pleased to submit this report to the Executive Office of Administration and Finance and to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means, *Increasing Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services*, pursuant to Chapter 273 of the Acts of 2018, line item [7061-0010](#) that reads in part:

“...provided further, that the department shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than March 1, 2019 on the awarding of grants and details of anticipated contracts, by school district.”

Behavioral and mental health and wellness is a goal and concern amongst educators and leaders, students and families, stage agencies and partners across the Commonwealth. [Supporting social-emotional learning, health, and safety](#) is one of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education’s (Department) strategic priorities designed to help prepare all students for success after high school. The primary goal is to promote systems and strategies that foster safe, positive, healthy, culturally-responsive, and inclusive learning environments that address students’ varied needs and improve educational outcomes for all. The efforts funded through this supplemental line-item will help further the ability of communities across the Commonwealth to increase student access to behavioral and mental health services, including grant funded services for students, delivered in partnership with community based providers; and contract funded professional development coordinated by the Department, which will be offered to school staff to improve their ability to identify students’ behavioral and mental health needs as part of comprehensive, integrated, tiered approaches to promoting wellness for all students, and to addressing needs of students requiring additional supports.

This report outlines efforts underway to fund activities supported through this line item. We look forward to continuing to facilitate and coordinate this work, and thank the Governor and Legislature for your commitment to the students of the Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Coordinated Efforts to Support Increased Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services.....	1
Selection of Participating Districts and Vendors	2
Appendix A: Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services Grantee (Fund Code 336)	4

Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) respectfully submits this Report to the Executive Office of Administration and Finance and to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means: *Increasing Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services*, pursuant to Chapter 273 of the Acts of 2018, line item [7061-0010](#) that reads:

“For a grant program to assist public school districts in contracting with licensed community-based mental and behavioral health service providers for services in public schools; provided, that said program shall be administered by the department of elementary and secondary education in coordination with the executive office of health and human services; provided further, that the department shall make efforts to notify all public school districts of said program; provided further, that the department shall prioritize grant applications submitted by school districts with limited access to mental and behavioral health services and limited existing financial resources; provided further, that the department shall prioritize grant applications submitted by school districts that have created action plans based on the safe and supportive school framework, or whose applications are consistent with infrastructure and coordination efforts linking schools to community-based resources in accordance with item 7061-9612; provided further, that grants may be expended to assist school districts in connecting students with community-based services to maximize coordination with service providers and establish more comprehensive continuums of care; provided further, that grants may be expended to support increased professional development opportunities for public school employees to identify students in need of mental and behavioral health support; and provided further, that the department shall submit a report to the executive office for administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than March 1, 2019 on the awarding of grants and details of anticipated contracts, by school district”

This report outlines efforts to date to establish grants with public school districts and contracts to provide professional development pursuant to this line item.

Progress toward grant disbursement during school year 2018-2019 includes inter-agency consultation between the Department, the Executive Office of Education (EOE), and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services agencies (EOHHS), including the Departments of Public Health and Mental Health (DPH and DMH), to leverage existing and planned initiatives and to promote complementary and supplemental activities.

Coordinated Efforts to Support Increased Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services

Funds totaling \$7,500,000 will support a series of coordinated efforts that include:

- \$1M to supplement the DPH [School and Community Based Targeted Intervention Services](#) grant;
- approximately \$1M [procured through contracts](#) that coordinate and deliver professional development to increase public school district staff and community partners’

understanding of and ability to implement comprehensive, integrated student support approaches in the context of a safe and supportive learning environment, including supporting public school employees to identify students in need of mental and behavioral health support;

- approximately \$5.5M [in grants](#) to Massachusetts public school districts to: create and/or implement school and/or district action plans with goals related to improving student access to behavioral and mental health services; develop and improve comprehensive continuums of care among and between schools, community-based providers, and other organizations supporting behavioral and mental health services for students; and access professional development (related to students' behavioral and mental health) offered by the Department or its partners.

Selection of Participating Districts and Vendors

This winter, DPH reviewed proposals submitted through the [School and Community Based Targeted Intervention Services](#) Request for Responses (RFR). Additional information about funded applicants will be available later this spring.

The Department posted the fiscal year 2018-2019 (FY19) Fund Code 336 –[Increasing Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services](#) Request for Proposals (RFP), for which Massachusetts public school districts were eligible to apply. Grantees will use funds to:

- Create and/or implement school and/or district action plans with goals related to improving student access to behavioral and mental health services;
- Develop and improve comprehensive continuums of care among and between schools, community-based providers, and other organizations supporting behavioral and mental health services for students; and
- Access professional development (related to students' behavioral and mental health) offered by the Department or its partners.

Proposals were due March 12, 2019, and the Department completed the competitive review process and posted the list of 55 [awarded grantees](#) in early April (see Appendix A for a list of grant recipients).

The Department also posted a [Request for Responses \(RFR\)](#) to secure one or more partners who will assist grantees with the coordination and delivery of high-quality professional development to their public school employees. Selected partners will be confirmed in late spring, and a calendar of offerings is expected to be available this summer. Participants will not be charged to participate, and those receiving grant funding through the aforementioned Fund Code 336 grant are eligible to use grant funds to cover local costs associated with participation in the Department sponsored professional development programs (e.g., transportation, costs for substitutes, stipends for those participating in train the trainer sessions for subsequent local trainings, etc.).

The funding opportunities for districts and vendors were written in a way that awarded entities will have eligible costs covered through June 30, 2019. Any needed costs for July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020 were described by applicants, and will only be provided contingent upon a continued appropriation beyond the line-item expiration date of June 30, 2019. In early May (May 2, 2019),

the Governor filed a supplemental appropriations bill that included a request to have any unexpended funds from 7061-0010 (see Introduction section above for the current text) not revert but be made available for the purpose of the line item until June 30, 2020.

Please note that Department staff are available to provide updates to this information and to answer any questions.

Appendix A: Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services Grantee (Fund Code 336)

Funds Allocated:	\$5,458,683 (State)
Funds Requested:	\$5,778,833
Purpose: The goal of this competitive state-funded grant program is to improve student behavioral and mental health outcomes. This grant will support Massachusetts public school districts and communities to student access to behavioral and mental health services by building the capacity of school districts and community-based providers to develop comprehensive, integrated systems for student support.	
Number of Proposals Received:	58
Number of Proposals Awarded Funding:	55
Number of Proposals Not Awarded Funding:	3
Result of Funding: A total of 55 grantees (working with more than 59 districts and 234 schools) will receive funds to implement activities that increase student access to behavioral and mental health services. In particular, Category A of this grant will support efforts related to: contracting with licensed community-based providers; improving coordination with community based-services and community-based providers to improve connections for students and establish more comprehensive continuums of care; and increasing opportunities for related professional development for school staff, including on how to identify students in need of behavioral and mental health support. Category B of the grant will support participation in state-offered professional development provided by DESE and its partners. Amounts below reflect the total amount awarded to the applicant, including amounts needed for July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020, which will only be provided contingent upon a continued appropriation beyond the line-item expiration date of June 30, 2019. Grant awards range from \$12,637 to \$311,150.	

Grant Recipients	Amounts
Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public (Worcester) [FY19-Cat A: \$8995; FY20-Cat A: \$26412; Cat B: \$0]	\$35,407
Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter (Marlborough) [FY19-Cat A: \$11998; FY20-Cat A: \$87913; Cat B: \$9997]	109,908
Agawam [FY19-Cat A: \$8000; FY20-Cat A: \$85725; Cat B: \$0]	93,725
Amesbury [FY19-Cat A: \$5050; FY20-Cat A: \$90000; Cat B: \$0]	95,050
Attleboro [FY19-Cat A: \$5000; FY20-Cat A: \$95000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Berkshire Arts and Technology Charter Public (Adams) [FY19-Cat A: \$6691; FY20-Cat A: \$65848; Cat B: \$0]	72,539
Berkshire Hills (Stockbridge) [FY19-Cat A: \$10000; FY20-Cat A: \$90000; Cat B: \$0]	100,000
Boston [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Bourne [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Cambridge [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$0]	100,000
Chelsea [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Chicopee [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Codman Academy Charter Public (Boston) [FY19-Cat A: \$9800; FY20-Cat A: \$88800; Cat B: \$9600]	108,200
Concord-Carlisle [FY19-Cat A: \$3000; FY20-Cat A: \$94500; Cat B: \$0]	97,500
East Bridgewater [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$30800; Cat B: \$0]	30,800
Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District (Hathorne) [FY19-Cat A: \$20000; FY20-Cat A: \$80000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000

Fall River [FY19-Cat A: \$15000; FY20-Cat A: \$85000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Framingham [FY19-Cat A: \$10000; FY20-Cat A: \$90000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Gardner [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$65000; Cat B: \$10000]	75,000
Greater Fall River Regional Vocational Technical [FY19-Cat A: \$9935; FY20-Cat A: \$79731; Cat B: \$10000]	99,666
Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$92750; Cat B: \$0]	92,750
Greenfield [FY19-Cat A: \$5000; FY20-Cat A: \$90000; Cat B: \$10000]	105,000
Hampden-Wilbraham [FY19-Cat A: \$20000; FY20-Cat A: \$80000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Hatfield [FY19-Cat A: \$1540; FY20-Cat A: \$11097; Cat B: \$0]	12,637
Haverhill [FY19-Cat A: \$5000; FY20-Cat A: \$95000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Holyoke [FY19-Cat A: \$560; FY20-Cat A: \$99440; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Hudson [FY19-Cat A: \$4000; FY20-Cat A: \$96000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
King Philip (Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham) [FY19-Cat A: \$26350; FY20-Cat A: \$264800; Cat B: \$20000]	311,150
Lowell [FY19-Cat A: \$13640; FY20-Cat A: \$86360; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Map Academy Charter (Plymouth) [FY19-Cat A: \$4000; FY20-Cat A: \$96000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Marblehead [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$5000]	105,000
Martha's Vineyard [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$8041]	108,041
MATCH Charter Public School (Boston) [FY19-Cat A: \$3000; FY20-Cat A: \$45000; Cat B: \$2500]	50,500
Methuen [FY19-Cat A: \$50000; FY20-Cat A: \$50000; Cat B: \$0]	100,000
Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical (Lexington) [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$93600; Cat B: \$10000]	103,600
Nauset (Orleans) [FY19-Cat A: \$8694; FY20-Cat A: \$79176; Cat B: \$0]	87,870
Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public (South Hadley) [FY19-Cat A: \$2170; FY20-Cat A: \$68251; Cat B: \$0]	70,421
Plymouth [FY19-Cat A: \$9197; FY20-Cat A: \$90803; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Quabbin (Barre) [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Quaboag Regional (Warren) [FY19-Cat A: \$15625; FY20-Cat A: \$84375; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Reading [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$63762; Cat B: \$0]	63,762
Sandwich [FY19-Cat A: \$36000; FY20-Cat A: \$64000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Shrewsbury [FY19-Cat A: \$10000; FY20-Cat A: \$90000; Cat B: \$0]	100,000
Somerset [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$89000; Cat B: \$10000]	99,000
Somerville [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Southbridge [FY19-Cat A: \$30000; FY20-Cat A: \$70000; Cat B: \$0]	100,000
Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical (South Easton) [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$99991; Cat B: \$0]	99,991
Taunton [FY19-Cat A: \$5480; FY20-Cat A: \$91550; Cat B: \$10000]	107,030
Wachusett (Jefferson) [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$0]	100,000
Wareham [FY19-Cat A: \$10850; FY20-Cat A: \$89150; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Weymouth [FY19-Cat A: \$10080; FY20-Cat A: \$89920; Cat B: \$0]	100,000

Whittier Regional Vocational Technical (Haverhill) [FY19-Cat A: \$1800; FY20-Cat A: \$56336; Cat B: \$6000]	64,136
Winchendon [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$100000; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Woburn [FY19-Cat A: \$0; FY20-Cat A: \$40000; Cat B: \$0]	40,000
Worcester [FY19-Cat A: \$1633; FY20-Cat A: \$98367; Cat B: \$10000]	110,000
Total State Funds	\$5,458,683