

# SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWSLETTER

October 26, 2021

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

Congratulations to Christine Esposito for being selected as one of the Massachusetts Farm to School Kale Blazer Award recipients. The Kale Blazer award is given to an individual who has demonstrated excellence and leadership in the farm to school realm. Ms. Esposito was nominated by our Food Service Director, Ellen Nysten. Ms. Nysten states, "Chris has enthusiastically embraced local procurement by being adventurous in trying out new recipes and techniques with produce sourced through multiple vendors." On behalf of our students, we thank Ms. Esposito for her dedication and commitment to preparing healthy foods for our students!



On October 25<sup>th</sup>, our Adult Education Linkage Program hosted a rebranding event at Bay Path to highlight the name change from the IET program to the Mass STEP Program. This advanced manufacturing program for adult learners is very successful due to our ongoing partnership with Bay Path.

The Adult Education Director received a citation from Senator Ryan Fattman's office and it was fantastic to see the adult students interacting with teachers of the program and local business partners!

Photo: Adult Education Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction Ava Landry, Webster Superintendent Dr. Goguen, DESE High School Equivalency Specialist Michael A. Farma M.Ed., Adult Education Director Jenna Gouin, and Bay Path Superintendent Kyle Brenner.

Photo: Communications Director from Senator Fattman's office, Bill Frederickson.

**ESSER** = Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund).

Under the ESSER Fund, established as part of the Education Stabilization Fund in the CARES Act, State Educational Agencies (SEAs) have been awarded sub-grants to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to address the impact that the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the Nation.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the feedback questionnaire on the use of the ESSER funds the Webster Public Schools has and will be receiving. The District received 195 responses in English, 3 responses in Spanish, and 0 in Portuguese to the WPS ESSER III Survey 21-22. Respondents included students, parents, extended family, school administrators, teachers, support staff, local business owners, members of local civic or faith-based organizations, and local citizens.

Stakeholders rated the following priorities the highest:

- Providing mental health (very important = 129 responses)
- Addressing needs of special populations and diverse learning needs (very important = 125 responses)
- Providing educator support (very important = 114 responses)
- Addressing learning loss (very important = 110 responses)
- Extra support for student remediation (very important = 107 responses)
- Addressing facility needs (very important = 105 responses)

The results are attached in graph form for your review.

In an effort to keep everyone informed the following list details how ESSER funds have been and will be used. The areas align directly with the feedback that we have received.

**ESSER I: \$594,975**

Paraprofessional Support  
Guidance Support  
Special Education Teacher  
Nursing Assistant  
Private Schools received a portion  
Transportation  
PPE  
Instructional Technologies

**ESSER II: \$2.1 million**

Academic Interventionists  
Special Education Teachers  
School Adjustment Counselors  
Paraprofessionals  
RN Assistants  
Re-Engagement Specialist  
Building Subs (3)  
Additional Maintenance Subs  
Extended Day Stipends  
PD Stipends  
Hill Literacy Coaches  
Remote Tutors  
After-School Activities  
PBIS Supplies  
Second Step Materials  
Translation Services  
Family Engagement Supplies  
Technology Software  
Maintenance Supplies  
Transportation  
Storage  
Phone System Upgrade

We have not yet been approved for the ESSER III funds of \$4.6 million. These funds, once approved, will be used for ongoing supports as mentioned above to

- Address facility needs
- Address needs of special populations and diverse learning needs
- Provide mental health support
- Provide educator support
- Address student learning loss
- Continuation of Accelerated Academies
- Provide extra instructional support for student remediation
- Provide educational technology/software
- Provide high quality instructional materials
- To establish Innovation Labs grades 5-12
- Increase materials for career exploration in middle and high school
- To address public health issues

### **COVID Safety Protocols, Masks, and COVID Dashboards**

The COVID Weekly and Cumulative Dashboards are attached for your review.

October 26th, the Commissioner of Education Jeffrey Riley extended the mask mandate for school through at least January 15th, 2022.

***As a reminder, we ask parents/guardians to ensure all students come to school with their own masks.*** While we have disposable masks on hand for the occasional mask that breaks or student who forgets one, we are not prepared to provide a mask to each student every day for the entire year. We ask that you ensure your child/ children have masks of their own for school. Thank you for your assistance in this area.

### **Looking ahead into November:**

November 11 - No School; Veteran's Day

November 17 - ½ day of school for students due to Parent/ Teacher Conferences PreK-12

November 18 - Evening Parent /Teacher Conferences PreK-12

November 24 - ½ day of school for Thanksgiving Break

November 25, 26 - No school for Thanksgiving Break

Kind Regards,

Dr. Ruthann Petrino-Goguen