

April 24,  
2019

# Lowell Public Schools Awarded an FY19 Teacher Diversification Pilot Program Grant

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*Education is  
not the filling  
of a pail, but  
the lighting of  
a fire!*

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## **Purpose of Grant:**

- To strengthen and diversify existing teacher recruitment and retention programs.
- To increase the number of effective and diverse teachers.

## **Priorities:**

- Currently employed paraprofessionals with a bachelor's degree or higher
- District graduates
- Provisionally-licensed teachers within LPSD faculty

## **Funding:**

- \$174,552

## **Accepted Proposal Part A:**

Lowell Public Schools (LPS) are partnering with the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) and Fitchburg State University (FSU) to offer an ESL Licensure Program (PreK-6 and 5-12). This partnership will provide a “pipeline” for paraprofessionals (and others who may qualify) to achieve their Initial License in ESL.

The length of this program will be approximately 2 years.

## **Details**

CAS will provide the Curriculum (a DESE approved Plan of Study that includes six courses and a Practicum) and support staff.

Qualifying participants will have access to Chromebooks, tablets, Smartboard, etc. (purchased with grant funding) to build/enhance their technology skills.

Participants will be given prepaid test vouchers for the Communication and Literacy MTEL as well as the ESL MTEL.

## **Accepted Proposal Part B:**

### **Accepted Proposal Part B:**

**Lowell High School (LHS) in partnership with University of MASS (UML) College of Education (COE) and Project Learn, plan to develop an education-specific pathway for LHS students. UML and LHS are currently in the development phase of a “Grow Your Own” initiative with the intention of recruiting diverse students to enter the teacher workforce. They have created an Educational Pathway for high school students with intentional coursework, mentoring and support for racially and ethnically diverse students thinking about teaching as a career.**

### **Details:**

**A diverse team of LHS and UML faculty, with Project Learn, will work together to create a cohesive and well-articulated Education Pathway to pilot in Fall of 2019. This team will support LHS faculty and students through mentoring, curriculum and pedagogy support. Project Learn will provide supportive services and serve as liaison to the Citywide Family Council.**

**We are grateful to DESE for the opportunity to build a truly expert and diverse workforce to serve our diverse learners and their families.**