



TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment *Robin Desmond*

DATE: August 14, 2019

RE: *21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant Awards*

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The Lowell Public Schools was recently (August 9, 2019) awarded two Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education grants.

**FC 646 Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers – Exemplary Programs Grant.**

The three year grant award of **\$1,208,559** (\$402,853 each year for three years) grant will provide 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center programs at the following schools: McAuliffe, Lincoln and Shaughnessy Elementary and the Stoklosa Middle School.

**FC647 Massachusetts 21st Century Community Learning Centers - Supporting Additional Learning Time**

This three year grant of **\$570,000** (\$190,000 per year for three years) will provide a new 21<sup>st</sup> Century program at the Butler Middle School.

Lowell's 21<sup>st</sup> Century programs provide more than 1,500 students with after school and summer programs free of charge. Our goal is to provide high quality learning opportunities for at-risk students through engaging project based activities. LPS also operates programs at the Murkland, Sullivan, Lowell High School, Bartlett, Robinson, McAvinnue and Morey Schools.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program, students receive assistance with homework and tutoring each day followed by engaging high interest academic programming. The type of programs provided include: engineering and STEM, physical activities such as Fit Math, Environmental programs with Audubon, and programs focusing on creative arts (drama, spoken word poetry, chorus, mixed media art). We work extensively with community partners such as the Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Mill City Grows, Green Dragons, UMASS Lowell, and the Tsongas Industrial History Center to bring the community into the schools. Students also receive dinner each night before they return home and most schools provide afternoon transportation for students.

The Coordinator of Special Programs, Carolyn Rocheleau, was responsible for the writing of the grant proposals and will oversee the implementation of the grants. It is also important to note that the Lowell Public Schools is the largest grantee of 21<sup>st</sup> Century funds in Massachusetts. I want to thank Carolyn for the effort she put into successfully obtaining these grants.