



**Raymond J. Grey Junior High School**

16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts 01720-2995  
(978) 264-4700 x3303 FAX (978) 264-3343

**Andrew Shen, Principal**

**Acton-Boxborough Regional School District**

**James Marcotte, Assistant Principal**

**Allison Warren, Assistant Principal**

**David Lawrence, Assistant Principal**

13.1

Date: Thursday, January 17, 2019  
To: Peter Light, Superintendent of Schools,  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee  
From: Andrew Shen, RJ Grey JHS Principal  
Re: Gift from Alliance Energy

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Dear Peter,

We would like the School Committee to know that we have received a gift of \$500.00 from Alliance Energy/Exxon Mobil Gas Station. These funds will be used towards the purchase of JH STEM-related items. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Andrew Shen

/attach



**Global Partners LP will Donate \$228,000 to 456 Schools Across the Northeast  
as Part of the Educational Alliance Program**

**Waltham, MA, December 1, 2018** – Global Partners, LP today announced that it will again participate in the Educational Alliance Program, contributing \$228,000 to 456 schools across the Northeast. Each school will receive \$500 from a local Global-affiliated gas station to apply towards a STEM-related item of their choice, including lab supplies, field trips and more.

“We are proud to partner with the Educational Alliance to foster math and science education for children in the towns we serve,” said Global’s Executive Vice President Andrew Slifka. “By promoting math and science, these grants enrich students’ lives, create future opportunities and strengthen the educational fabric within the schools themselves. These outcomes reflect the commitment of Global to maintain a positive, vital role in our communities.”

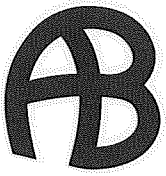
Participating Global Partners stations include Alltown convenience stores, dealers and Mobil retail gasoline distributors. Donations will be distributed at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019. Global has participated in the program since 2000, and contributed over \$1.2 million.

“I want to start by saying how appreciative we are at The High School for Arts & Business to have such wonderful neighbors. It is such an honor for your business to nominate our school. We are a strong community and together we can accomplish great things,” said Ana Zambrano-Burakov, Principal, High School for Arts & Business, Corona New York.

The Educational Alliance Program is a nationwide initiative created by ExxonMobil to enhance math and science learning at K-12 institutions. Since its inception, ExxonMobil has committed over \$34 million to the program.

**About Global Partners LP**

Global Partners delivers the energy, goods and services that make life better. With an extensive network of terminals, gas stations and convenience stores, Global helps people heat their homes, operate their businesses and get where they’re going conveniently and quickly. Centered in the Northeast, the company is a third-generation, family-owned business with operations throughout the U.S. Global is committed to strategic growth and to supports the communities where it works. For more information please visit, [www.globalp.com](http://www.globalp.com).



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Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019  
To: Peter Light, Superintendent of Schools,  
Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee  
From: Andrew Shen, RJ Grey JHS Principal  
Re: Gift from Applied Materials

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Dear Peter,

We would like the School Committee to know that we have received a gift of \$300.00 from Applied Materials. This represents a donation from Jeff Lischer, an 8th grade parent, along with matching funds from his employer, Applied Materials. We are planning to use these funds to purchase plants for our school vegetable garden this spring. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Andrew Shen

/encl.

**TOWN OF ACTON  
2019 ELECTION CALENDAR**

**Annual Town Election is Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

**Annual Town Meeting is Monday, April 1, 2019**

Last day to obtain nomination papers February 1, 2019

Last day to file nomination papers with Board of Registrars February 5, 2019

Last day to object / withdraw February 21, 2019

Last day to register voters March 6, 2019

Last day to post town warrant March 12, 2019

**TOWN OFFICIALS TO BE ELECTED IN 2019 - TERM OF OFFICE**

**Moderator**

1 Member - 1 year term

**Acton Board of Selectmen**

2 Members - 3 year term

**School Committee**

2 Members - 3 year term

**Trustees Memorial Library**

1 Member - 3 year term

**Water Supply District of Acton**

1 Commissioner - 3 year term

**TRUSTEES - TO BE ELECTED AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
MUST BE NOMINATED AT TOWN MEETING**

**Temporary Moderator**

1 Member - 1 year term

**Trustees, West Acton Citizen's Library**

1 Member - 3 year term

**Trustees, Charlotte Goodnow Fund**

3 Members - 3 year term

**Trustees, Elizabeth White Fund**

1 Member - 3 year term

**Trustees, New Fireman's Relief Fund Acton**

1 Member - 3 year term



**BOXBOROUGH TOWN CLERK**  
29 Middle Road, Boxborough, Massachusetts 01719  
Phone: (978) 264-1727 · Fax: (978) 264-3127  
[emarkiewicz@boxborough-ma.gov](mailto:emarkiewicz@boxborough-ma.gov)

## Boxborough 2019 Election Calendar

Currently there is only one election planned for 2019—the annual town election.

**Annual Town Meeting: Monday, May 13**

**Annual Town Election: Monday, May 21**

**January 14:** Nomination papers for town offices available in the Town Clerk's office. The following offices will be on the ballot:

- **Select Board**, 3-year term, 1 seat
- **Board of Health**, 3-year term, 1 seat
- **Library Trustees**, 3-year term, 2 seats
- **Planning Board**, 3-year term, 2 seats
- **Planning Board**, 1-year term, 1 seat
- **School Committee**, 3-year term, 1 seat
- **Constable**, 3-year term, 1 seat
- **Moderator**, 1-year term, 1 seat
- **Town Clerk**, 3-year term, 1 seat

**April 2:** Last day to file nomination papers with the Board of Registers/Town Clerk in order to be on the ballot for the May 21 Annual Town Election. Papers are due in the Town Clerk's office by 5:00pm. A minimum of 25 signatures is required.

**April 23:** Last day to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote at Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election. The Town Clerk's office will be open from 9:00am-8:00pm on that day.

**May 13:** Annual Town Meeting begins at 7:00pm at the Blanchard Memorial School gym.

**May 21:** Annual Town Election. Polls open at Boxborough Town Hall from 7:00am – 8:00pm.

**ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**  
2018-2019 (revised 1/10/19)

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Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committee meetings are usually held on the first and third Thursdays of the month, at 7:00 p.m. in the R.J. Grey Junior High School Library. Materials are posted at <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee/meetings-agendas-packets-and-minutes> usually on the Friday night prior to each meeting. Meeting agendas are posted at least 48 hours prior at [www.abschools.org](http://www.abschools.org)

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**Annual Workshop:** Monday, July 16 at 5:00 p.m.

**Summer Business Meeting:** Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

September 6  
September 20

October 4  
October 18

November 1 (*MASC Annual Meeting is Nov 7-9*)  
November 15

December 6  
December 20 13

January 10  
January 26 (Sat) **School Committee Budget Saturday**  
*(Preliminary Budget must be prepared at least 20 days prior to final Budget Adoption.)*

February 7 **Open Budget Hearing** - required by law  
*originally scheduled for February 13*  
*(Final Budget must be adopted not later than 45 days prior to start of Acton Town Meeting, 4/1/19 . 45 days = 2/15/19)*

February 13 (Wed)

March 7  
March 21 – to be held in the Administration Building auditorium

April 11

May 9  
May 23

June 6 13  
June 20

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Summer Business Meeting: ~~Thursday~~, August 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. TBD

*Note:* Acton Town Meeting begins April 1, 2019. Boxborough Town Meeting begins May 13, 2019.  
1/11/19 <http://www.abschools.org/school-committee>



## CASE Collaborative Family Community News & Resource Pages



### **CASE Collaborative Parent Coffees and Support Groups**

**\*\*NEW DATE FOR PARENT GROUP - RESCHEDULED FROM DECEMBER\*\***

Dear CASE Parents & Guardians,

Parent Groups are great opportunities for parents/guardians looking for a way to connect with others as well as share information and resources. These informal get-togethers are open to all CASE parents/guardians.

This month we will once again offer both a morning and an evening session for our parent meetings. This would give families who work during the day another opportunity to participate. Attendance during these meetings will help us determine the need to offer both day and evening groups. We hope you will join us!



**What? CASE Collaborative Parent Group**

**When? Thursday, January 24 , 2019, 9:15 - 10:45am  
and  
Thursday, January 24, 2019, 6:30 - 7:30pm**

**Where? Ripley Administration Building, 120 Meriam Road, Concord MA**

RSVPs are needed for planning purposes to [scampbell@casecollaborative.org](mailto:scampbell@casecollaborative.org). Please specify which gathering you plan to attend and your child's classroom teacher's name.



## Community Workshops and Conferences

*Friends of Lurie* presents

### LURIE CENTER FOR AUTISM



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL



MassGeneral Hospital  
for Children

1 Maguire Road, Lexington, Massachusetts



Join us **Wednesday, January 16**

**6:30pm - 7:30pm**

for a discussion with  
Rachel Goldin, PhD and  
Brett Mulder, PsyD

#### ***Disclosure and ASD:***

Knowing how to talk about your child's diagnosis is often very difficult for parents and caregivers:

The Lurie Center for Autism is pleased to host a forum to help families learn where diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder can be made, when is an appropriate time for disclosure, how to disclose, and should you disclose. Tips and strategies will be provided and discussed through case examples.



Rachel Goldin, PhD  
Clinical Psychologist  
MGH Lurie Center



Brett Mulder, PsyD  
Director Teen & Adult Services  
MGH Aspire

**Registration is Required**

Email: [LurieCenter@partners.org](mailto:LurieCenter@partners.org)

Call: 781-860-1700



## Groton Dunstable SEPAC



### **Groton Dunstable SEPAC Presents: Healing Our Children: A Mind-Body Workshop for Parents**

**When: January 16, 2019 from 6 - 9 pm**

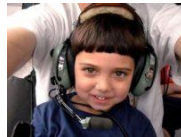
**Where: Blackbox Theater in the GDRSD High School 703 Chicopee Row, Groton, MA**

Elizabeth Goranson, M.S. Ed., ERYT, RCYT <http://www.stretchwhatmatters.com/special-needs-workshops/>

In this workshop, parents understand how body-mind health affects a child's development and behavior. Participants will learn simple steps towards achieving balance. Please bring a towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing.

Please RSVP to [gdsepac2@gmail.com](mailto:gdsepac2@gmail.com) so we can plan accordingly. We look forward to having you join us!

## LexSEPAC



**"Including Samuel" with discussion after the film moderated by Joe Petner, PhD**

**When: Thu, January 17, 2019, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Where: Lexington Venue, 1794 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington, MA**

Please join the Lexington Special Education Parent Advisory Council (LexSEPTA/LexSEPAC), the Lexington Commission on Disability, the Lexington Human Rights Committee, the Cary Library, Temple Isaiah, and the Lexington Venue for a screening of the film. "...Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about inclusion every day. Shot and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning documentary film, Including Samuel, chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film honestly portrays his family's hopes and struggles, as well as the experiences of four other individuals with disabilities and their families. Including Samuel is a highly personal, passionately photographed film that captures the cultural and systemic barriers to inclusion." Read more and register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/including-samuel-film-screening-tickets-52451249098>



### **Being Person - Centered with Cheryl Ryan Chan - Parents of Teens Workshop**

**When: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Where: HMEA's Autism Resource Central, 712 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA**

Families are invited to learn about person-centered approaches that support the idea of placing their child's own vision, gifts and dreams first in the conversation about supports. Cheryl Ryan Chan is a person-centered practitioner helping individuals & families identify next steps to success as they face transitions, and teaching organizations and large groups how to steward the humanity of those they support.

*(continued next page)*

*Being Person-Centered*  
with Cheryl Ryan Chan 

*Becoming Person Centered: For Families*  
Wednesday January 23, 2019  
7-9 PM

*Join Us - Open to all Parents !*

This evening, originally scheduled for January 9th has been postponed due to Cheryl not wanting to share her flu with us! Join us on January 23rd .



**MassHealth 101**

**When: Thursday, January 24, 2019, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Where: Haverhill Public Library (Milhendler Room), 99 Main Street, Haverhill, MA**

Emily Herzig from the Northeast Justice Center will provide an overview of basic MassHealth (Medicaid) eligibility and coverage for children and children transitioning to adulthood. Your child may be eligible for MassHealth/CommonHealth based on their disability, not just your family income. MassHealth offers different types of insurance programs for Massachusetts families whose children have special health care needs and can help provide additional services and supports inside the home and community. To register visit

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efzg06lh9b6169c0&oseq=&c=&ch=>



## Wakefield SEPAC

The Wakefield SEPAC is pleased to host a unique opportunity to learn about Department of Developmental Services, SSI & Public Benefits

**When: January 24: DDS/SSI & Public Benefits, 7:00 PM -9:00 PM**

**Where: Galvin Middle School, Learning Common, 525 Main Street, Wakefield, MA**

DDS with Lauren King, DDS Transition Coordinator. "DDS' mission is to create, in partnership with others, innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to, their communities as valued members."


Come learn about their services, applying and transition.

\*SSI & Public Benefits with Gail Havelick, SSI/Public Benefits Training & Policy Specialist, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs, DPH.

\*Information on accessing federal and/or state public benefit programs such as SSI (Supplemental Security Income), MassHealth, CommonHealth, Kaileigh Mulligan Home Care Program, Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund;

\*How to screen for which program a child with special health needs may be eligible, and application process for each.


RSVP: [wakefieldsepac@gmail.com](mailto:wakefieldsepac@gmail.com)




**Boston Children's Hospital**

# Ask an Audiologist

*Monthly Saturday morning coffee chats with  
Alison Leschinski, ScD and Cailin Shanahan, AuD*



**January 26, 2019**  
**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**



Parents and caregivers of deaf and hard of hearing children ages 0-3 welcome!

Connect with audiologists about habilitation, language, routine maintenance, and develop a support network with other families



We will provide coffee and refreshments

Join us at Boston Children's Hospital main campus!  
333 Longwood Avenue  
3rd floor conference room  
Boston, MA 02115

RSVP with Alison at [Alison.leschinski@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:Alison.leschinski@childrens.harvard.edu)  
Validated parking available upon request

**Family-centered activities provided!  
Bring your child and meet other families!**

The monthly coffee chat was made possible with generous funding through



## Understanding Executive Functioning in Adults with ASD: Associated Difficulties and Practical Interventions with Brian Willoughby, Ph.D

**When: January 29, 2019, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**Format: Webinar Cost \$25**

Disorganized? Scattered? Never on time? This presentation examines the relationship between executive functioning and Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). The first goal of this presentation is to demystify executive functioning and provide a clear understanding of this frequently used (but commonly misunderstood) term. Second, this presentation outlines the executive functioning weaknesses often associated with ASD, such as disorganization, trouble getting started or following through on certain tasks, and difficulty shifting focus. Lastly, this presentation will review practical strategies for managing executive functioning concerns and review local resources for those seeking to better develop these skills. This talk would be relevant for adults with ASD, caregivers of individuals with ASD, and professionals seeking to better understand the interplay between executive functioning difficulties and ASD. To read Dr. Willoughby's bio and registration visit

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/WhctKJVJcmQgRKsjQwVQjTXPJtvGrINLkqCJZSbLjHXMGjKtxKPKQsdxSWCVKDtKBCvwL>

### Riverside Family Support Center A SERVICE OF RIVERSIDE COMMUNITY CARE

## Self Direction Workshop!

Come and learn about the alternative service option offered by DDS in relation to the management of the individuals funding and tailoring it to their unique needs, desires, and circumstances.

Special Guest Speaker from DDS, Beverly McGovern!  
She is the Self Direction Support Manager at DDS and will be presenting this workshop which will include these topics:

- What are self directed services and how they can help you
- Review of DDS Services Delivery Models

**Date:** January 29, 2019  
**Time:** 6:30-8:30pm  
**Location:** Riverside Family Support  
300 West Cummings Park, Suite 354  
Woburn, MA 01801

RSVP: Please e-mail Katie Davis at [kdavis2@riversidecc.org](mailto:kdavis2@riversidecc.org) to register for this *free* workshop!

\*Light Dinner will be served\*

300 WEST CUMMINGS PARK, SUITE 354  
WOBURN, MA 01801  
781-801-5247



### **The Impact of Anxiety & Depression on Learning**

**When: Tuesday, January 29, from 7-8:00 PM**

**Where: Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury MA**

Cognitive dysfunction is believed to have a strong correlation with mental health diagnoses like depression and anxiety. These conditions can significantly alter cognitive functioning, particularly memory retention and the absorption of knowledge. Dr. Erica Kalkut of Child & Family Psychological Services will present a free, public lecture on anxiety, depression, and learning on Tuesday, January 29, from 7-8 p.m. at Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road, Sudbury. Hosted by the Sudbury and Lincoln-Sudbury SEPACs. For more information, contact [lssepacchair@gmail.com](mailto:lssepacchair@gmail.com)

### **\*\*A Free Parent/Guardian Training\*\***

#### **Planning for a Secure Future: The Special Needs Trust**

As caregivers for children with special challenges, obtaining timely information is crucial for your loved one's security, success, and above all, their happiness. Whether your goal is to maintain your family member's eligibility for government benefits and/or to ensure they are cared for after your death, it is essential that a supplemental needs trust is crafted to fit your family's needs.

*Please join us for this evening of essential information and discussion.*

**Meredith Greene, Esquire**, an attorney at Fletcher Tilton and mother to a child with Williams Syndrome, brings both competence and passion to her work. Her practice focuses on special needs planning, estate planning, guardianship and conservatorship, elder law and government benefits advocacy. She was trained as a parent advocate through the Federation for Children with Special Needs and is a member of numerous professional organizations including Council of Parent Attorney and Advocates, Inc., Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc. and National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys. Meredith is on the Board of Directors at Minute Man Arc, is a parent-mentor through MMA's Early Intervention Program and participates in Operation House Call through the Arc of Massachusetts.

**Date: Thursday, January 31, 2019**

**(Snow Date: Thursday, February 7th)**

**Time: 6:45-8:45 P.M.**

**Place: Minute Man Arc for Human Services  
35 Forest Ridge Road Concord, MA**

To register for this workshop, R.S.V.P. by **Monday, January 28th** to Michele Klein: [MKlein@minutemanarc.org](mailto:MKlein@minutemanarc.org) or 978-287-7900. Please include your phone number when registering.

**\*If the weather is questionable, call 978-287-7900\***

I hope you can attend ~  
Gail Palm, Family Training Coordinator



### **ABA for Parents**

**When: : Monday Evenings 7-9 PM February 4, 11, 25th , March 4, & 11th Snow date March 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Where: HMEA's Autism Resource Central, 712 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA**

This winter HMEA's Autism Resource Central will offer a parent training course on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for parents of children with Autism. ABA is a research based approach that has been shown to be effective in the education and treatment of children. Parents who attend will gain an understanding of the basic concepts and principles of ABA, and how these are applied in the treatment and education of children with autism. Parents will work with the instructor to identify a behavior to shape, create a program to address the behavior and implement the program. Topics will include:

- \*What is ABA?
- \*ABA and Effective Treatment Programs
- \*Basic Concepts and Principles of ABA
- \*Using ABA to teach
- \*Using ABA to address problematic behavior

The class format is intended to provide parents with ample opportunity to discuss and apply what they are learning to their child, and to assist them in understanding how they can be effective in doing so. Instructor: Stacey Hansen BCBA Director of HMEA Children's Services. Included in your registration is the supplemental text: Raising a Child with Autism : A Guide to ABA for Parents Class size is limited to 14 parents please send payment with the information below by mail or register online at [www.autismresourcecentral.org](http://www.autismresourcecentral.org)



### **HARC & CANDO Educational Series: DDS Services & Supports for Transition Aged Youth**

**When: Feb 5, 2019, 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Where: HMEA's Autism Resource Central, 712 Plantation St, Worcester, MA**

DDS Services & Supports for Transition Aged Youth Presented by Pamela Ferguson – DDS. Register at <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efxr1p38e46e3b9c>



**NORTHBOROUGH/SOUTHBOROUGH  
SPECIAL EDUCATION  
PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **Meet Deborah Vlock, author of "Parenting Children with Mental Health Challenges: A Guide to Life with Emotionally Complex Kids."**

**When: Wed., Feb. 6: 7-8:00 PM**

**Where: Northborough Library, 34 Main Street, Northborough MA**

Deborah offers overwhelmed readers guidance, solidarity, and hope. The author, a "mental-health mom" who's survived indignity, exhaustion, and the heartbreak of loving a child with multiple mental-health disorders, writes with frankness and occasional humor about the hardest parenting job on earth. Drawing on her own experiences and those of other parents, plus tips from mental health professionals, Vlock suggests ways of parenting smarter, partnering better, and living more fully and less fearfully in the shadow of childhood psychiatric illness. Books will be available for sale.



### **A FULL LIFE AHEAD: THE ABCS OF AFC AND PCA**

**When: February 7, 2019 - 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**Where: Advocates Main Office, 1881 Worcester Road, Framingham, MA**

The Adult Family Care (AFC) and Personal Care Assistance (PCA) Programs are two Masshealth funded programs that can support you and your loved one. Come and learn which of these benefits will work best for your family. The Adult Family Care provides financial assistance and the resources your family needs to thrive. An experienced team of case managers and nurses partners with your whole family to help you care for your loved one in the comfort of home. The PCA Program helps people with permanent or chronic disabilities keep their independence, stay in the community, and manage their own personal care by providing funds to hire personal care attendants (PCAs).

\*A Full Life Ahead is a workshop series offered by Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC) for parents and guardians of young adults with a disability. The series focuses on transition, employment, housing, friendships and other topics that will lead to interdependent, full lives. Advocates is proud to partner with MFOFC to offer workshops in the Metro Boston/MetroWest region. To register visit <https://www.advocates.org/full-life-ahead-abcs-afc-and-pca>



### **What Parents Need to Know About Depression & Anxiety**

**When: February 7, 2019**

**Where: Stony Brook Middle School in Westford, MA**

Free and open to the public. Appropriate for parents, teens, teachers, and anyone else who works with children and young adults. The speakers will be Sue Hanly, RN, and Dianne Walsh, LICSW, who run a mental health support group in Westford. The presenters will offer information to share, both from a professional standpoint and from their own personal lives. Program organizers characterize the presenters as knowledgeable and compassionate, and completely unflappable in terms of talking about mental illness. To RSVP or for more information visit [www.westford.org/wpc/](http://www.westford.org/wpc/) or contact [mary.anne.seraphin@gmail.com](mailto:mary.anne.seraphin@gmail.com). NAKATA \*information provided by [www.spedchildma.com](http://www.spedchildma.com)



### **Planning For Two Generations (2 dates & locations)**

**When: Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

**Where: Dearborn Academy, 575 Washington Street, Newton, MA**

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**When: Friday, February 15 - Noon**

**Where: Broad Institute, Cambridge, MA**

Special Needs Financial Planning is planning for two generations. Many children with a disability must be supported their entire lives, even long after their parents have died. Our approach reaches beyond the limited boundaries of Wills and Trusts to provide you with a road map to address your own family's Special Needs. Planning for Two Generations centers upon our Special Needs Planning Timeline™. The timeline highlights the various planning pressure points where parents should be aware of changes relating to their child's benefits, legal and financial issues. The primary focus is to help parents avoid common mistakes and pitfalls in their own planning. In addition we will also discuss the new ABLE account and its potential role in planning for your child. Contact Alexandria Nadworny for more information about Planning for Two Generations at 781.756.1804.



**A Full Life Ahead: Creating a Vision – A Person Centered Approach [Facebook Live]**

**February 14, 2019 from 12:00 PM**

**Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/familyconnectionscenter>**

Join us as we chat with Ross Hooley, the Director of the Building Futures, as he provides an overview of Person Centered Planning, as an effective tool to help your loved one identify and create a full life. For more information, contact: Kathleen Amaral, Southeast Coordinator at [kathleenamaral@nemasketgroup.org](mailto:kathleenamaral@nemasketgroup.org) or 508-999-4436 ext.133



**A Full Life Ahead: Person-Centered Planning [Fitchburg]**

**When: February 26, 2019 from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM**

**Where: North Central Seven Hills 1460 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA**

Vision shapes reality when it is based on dreams, shared with others and accompanied with a concrete action plan. Learn how Person Centered Planning is an effective tool to help your loved one identify and create a full and rich life. Speakers will give examples of how this process has worked for them. RSVP to [IAvorvie@sevenhills.org](mailto:IAvorvie@sevenhills.org) or 978.602.8695



**Friendship & Social Coaching: Tweens & Teens**

**When: Thursday, February 28, 2019, 6:30 PM 7:30 PM**

**Where: Ephraim Curtis Middle School**

This workshop, co-sponsored with Sudbury Extended Day program, is for parents and professions who have or work with tweens or teens in need of guidance toward positive peer relationships. Donna will provide tips on social anxiety management, increasing positive interactions with others, and how to handle it when other people are mean. We will also discuss the important role that parents and professionals play in social coaching and tips on how to teach social independence and increase tweens'/teens' social success. Presented by Donna Shea, Founder of The Peter Pan Center Free and open to the public.





**Registration for Visions of Community is OPEN!**

**When: Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Where: Seaport World Trade Center, Boston MA**

Visions of Community (VOC) is FCSN's annual conference for parents and professionals caring for children with special needs. The day includes intensive workshops on topics such as Autism, IEPs, self-care, and transition planning, offered in English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese. VOC also offers an opportunity for families and professionals to connect – not just with each other, but with the statewide vendors and service providers in our Exhibit Hall. Earlybird registration (through 2/8/19) is \$80/person and \$95/person thereafter. PARTIAL scholarships are available – please contact us for more information. Detailed descriptions of workshops and registration can be found here <https://fcsn.org/voc/>



**Floortime® for Parents**

**When: Wednesdays from 7:00 PM —9:00 PM : March 27th, April 3rd, April 24th, May 1st, May 8<sup>th</sup> & May 15th**

**Mentoring Dates will be Saturdays, April 6th and May 4th**

**Where: HMEA's Autism Resource Central, 712 Plantation Street, Worcester, MA**

HMEA's Autism Resource Central, in conjunction with the Astra Foundation will once again be offering a course on DIR® /Floortime for Parents, starting in March and running through to May.

DIR® is an abbreviation for Developmental, Individual Differences, Relationship-based. DIR® is a model, a framework, for thinking about a child's complete development, from infancy into whole joyful personhood. While DIR® can be a helpful way to think about any child's development, it is particularly useful in working with children with developmental delays. In this course, we'll discuss the basic principles of DIR®, and learn about Floortime, a strategic, emotion-driven way of playing and interacting with a child that helps a child initiate and respond at higher and higher developmental levels. We'll also discuss the importance of understanding each child's unique sensory profile and how to incorporate this knowledge into Floortime sessions. Participants will be provided with a copy of The Child with Special Needs as part of their registration fee. Due to popular demand, this course will include the opportunity for parents to have 1:1 consultation with their child with instructor Sarah Measures on two separate dates as the program progresses. Fee: \$25.00 for Parents registered with Autism Resource Central For Floortime. \$50.00 for Parents from outside the Central Massachusetts area. Make checks payable and mail to: Autism Resource Central, 712 Plantation Street, Worcester MA 01605 or register online., [www.autismresourcecentral.org](http://www.autismresourcecentral.org)



## Save the Date



Save the date for Vinfen's 12th Annual Moving Images Film Festival!

**Join us on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at the Joseph B. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School.**

The event is free and open to the public, but a donation of \$10 is suggested and appreciated. CART Interpreter Services will be provided for panel discussions. Lunch will be served and parking at the venue is complimentary.

Donations can be made [online](#) or at the event.

To learn more and register visit <https://www.vinfen.org/events/moving-images/register/>



## **Transition (ages 14-22) and Beyond**



### **Guardianship in Massachusetts**

**When: January 22nd, 2019 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Where: Charles River Center, 59 East Militia Heights Drive, Needham MA**

Are you concerned that your child may be unable to make his/her own decisions after he/she turns 18? Come learn how to become a guardian in Massachusetts, when it is appropriate to do so, and what the guardians' duties entail. Rogers guardianships will also be discussed. Presented by: Karen B. Mariscal, Esq. of Mariscal Special Needs Law. Please RSVP to Carly Ackerley by January 21st to [Cackerley@charlesrivercenter.org](mailto:Cackerley@charlesrivercenter.org) or 508-651-5913. Please inform Carly if an interpreter is needed for the event.



### **Guardianship & Alternatives**

**When: January 29, 2019**

**Where: Seven Hills Family Support Center, Fitchburg, MA.**

Free and open to the public. Cathy Keese, a Department of Developmental Services Supervisor for the State of Massachusetts will explain the steps to guardianship and alternatives that are available. Geared towards an audience of caregivers of special needs who are ages 14-22, however those of a child with any age will find the topic helpful. To RSVP or for more information visit [www.sevenhills.org/whats-happening/calendar/seven-hills](http://www.sevenhills.org/whats-happening/calendar/seven-hills) or contact Kathy Black at 987.602.8697 or [kblack@sevenhills.org](mailto:kblack@sevenhills.org) \*information found at [www.spedchildmass.com](http://www.spedchildmass.com)



### **AANE Writing Workshop: Creating a Healthcare "Elevator" Speech (ages 16-25 years)**

**When: January 31, February 4, February 7 @ 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Free**

**Where: AANE, 51 Water Street, Watertown, MA**

Thanks to a generous grant, AANE is pleased to offer a writing workshop designed to help young adults (ages 16-25 years old) with AS/ASD create a health focused "elevator speech"; which they will use to introduce themselves and their healthcare needs to new providers. Topics covered will include what participants need in a patient/doctor relationship, how they best learn and communicate, sensory difficulties, and side effects and symptoms they may be experiencing or have experienced in the past. Each participant will attend three 90 minutes sessions where facilitators will support participants through the following:

Session one will introduce the concept, including brainstorming, discussion of disclosure of autism, and focus on identifying the individual issues that should be included in the "elevator speech."

\*Session two will focus on developing the speech which includes writing drafts and editing.

\*Session three will include practicing and honing the speech in dyads and with a healthcare professional.

If there is interest, an optional fourth session will be offered to those who would like additional practice time with a variety of health care providers. To register visit <https://www.aane.org/event/aane-writing-workshop-creating-a-healthcare-elevator-speech/>



### **Learning about Housing presented by Autism Housing Pathways**

**When: Sat, February 2, 2019, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Where: Advocates, 1881 Worcester Rd., Framingham, MA**

Fees Apply. This is a day long workshop in which families are guided in working through a housing manual that will help them determine what housing options might be appropriate for their family member. Topics include public funding streams, level of support needed, living skills development, assessment of personal resources, housing models, person-centered planning, and service providers. Tickets must be bought in advance. Hardship scholarships are available; please contact us at 617-893-8217 or [ahphousing@comcast.net](mailto:ahphousing@comcast.net). To purchase a ticket visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/learning-about-housing-framingham-tickets-54310753927>



### **Planning a Life Conference**

**When: 2/7 & 2/8, 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

**Where: FCSN office, 529 Main Street, Suite 1M3, Boston MA**

Transition planning for life after school begins at age 14 for students with IEPs. Planning a Life from the LINK Center at the Federation for Children with Special Needs (FCSN) is a two-day transition conference for families, educators, and professionals. Topics include creating a vision, transition assessments, career preparation and resources, community connections, healthcare, and more. The conference will be held February 7 and 8 from. at Cost is \$125/individual or \$175/family. Scholarships are available. Click here for more information or to register <https://fcsn.org/linkcenter/pal>.



### **Robots are Taking Over! Technology Assists Human Supports to Fade, Opening the Door to Independence**

#### **Description**

**When: Feb 19, 2019 - 1:00 PM**

**Format: Webinar, Cost: Free**

Though smart speakers and robots are not the answer to all of life's challenges, there are very practical ways we all use technology to be more independent in our lives and in our work. This session will support participants to think about assistive technology when supporting people to reach independence on their employment pathway.

About the Speaker Ryan Farrow:

Ryan has worked as a trainer, job coach, and job developer. His assistive technology background is fueled by an enthusiasm in finding both high-tech and low-tech interventions to support people in their independence— both on and off the job. This includes providing technical assistance to help employment specialists in setting up worksite accommodations and building natural supports. He enjoys training on topics such as video resume creation, assistive technology, job development, job coaching fading, and efficient communication strategies. He has facilitated Apple Accessibility Workshops at Apple stores both in Oregon and Washington and strives to promote training and collaboration within the business community. Ryan has a Certificate in Advanced Professional Development for Assistive Technology Applications from California State University, Northridge. To register visit

<https://communityinclusion.zoom.us/webinar/register/e27758c9077686827510d14dfea9e911>



### **Jody Acford Adult Benefits Conference**

**February 23 @ 8:15 AM - 4:30 PM, \$100**

**Where: Crowne Plaza in Newton, 320 Washington Street, Newton, MA**

This conference is geared towards adults and parents of older teens and adults with AS or related Autism profiles. Experts explain the many public and private supports that may be appropriate for adults who live in Massachusetts including:

- \* federal income subsidies
- \*state services
- \*public & private housing options
- \* public & private vocational supports
- \*legal & financial planning
- \* healthcare

To learn more and for registration visit <https://www.aane.org/event/jody-acford-adult-benefits-conference2019/>



### **Transportation Guide**

There are many options to utilize, below is a graph of different opportunities; this chart is a starting place to help ensure educators, students and families know their accessible transportation options and can take full advantage of their communities. Transportation education creates a culture that engages students, families, educators, pupil transporters, and public transportation professionals to empower and support student learners. Transportation can begin in grade school and carries students through all their transitions, including to postsecondary education, employment and independent living. Transportation education is especially important for students with disabilities who may have fewer transportation options than their peers without disabilities.

To view/download this guide visit [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fU8habll-cAU-vs9yX\\_8iVIWmRI\\_OTKv/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fU8habll-cAU-vs9yX_8iVIWmRI_OTKv/view?usp=sharing)



# Community Support, Advocacy, & Research Opportunities



## Telling Your Story

**When:** Jan 15, 2019 - 12:00 PM

**Format:** Webinar

Presented by Herb Cabral and Julie Heffernan, Advocacy Alliance Coordinators, The Becker Center for Advocacy FREE thanks to the Becker Family Foundation. The most powerful thing our legislators can hear are the life experiences of families like yours. This training will teach self-advocates, family members, and service providers how to effectively tell their personal stories. It is based on the belief that a well-told story is the best way to communicate our ideas, connect with others and advocate for our needs. Participants will learn how to talk about who they are, what they need and what they want – all by telling their story. To register visit

<https://arcmass.zoom.us/meeting/register/ab6d6a38684f94de66858a512be5123a>

Are you the parent/guardian of a child age **9-13** on the **autism spectrum** in the greater Boston area?



Researchers at Northeastern University want to understand how your child uses media and technology in their daily life.

### What will happen?

- A researcher will interview you at your home for about 90 minutes.
- Later, that researcher will interview your child and observe them at home doing a media or technology activity that they enjoy. It will last for about 30-90 minutes.

### Why is this study being done?

- The information from this study could help parents/guardians and clinicians understand children's unique needs, as well as help producers and designers create better media and technology for children on the autism spectrum and their families.

### Do participants get anything?

- Families who complete the study will receive a \$30 CVS gift card.

### Does my child need to be verbal or speaking?

- No. The interview can be adapted for children who are non-speaking, non-verbal, and/or who use AAC. You may also provide communication support to your child if necessary.

### What should I do if I'm interested in participating?

- Parents/guardians should contact Dr. Meryl Alper at the information below with their name, telephone number, and email address.
- She will contact you to ask some questions to see if your family qualifies for the study.

Contact:  
Dr. Meryl Alper  
Email: [AutismFamilyMedia@gmail.com](mailto:AutismFamilyMedia@gmail.com)  
Phone: 858-858-0165  
Department of Communication Studies  
Northeastern University



APPROVED  
NU IRB# 16-08-25  
VALID 9/25/18  
THROUGH 9/25/19



# STUDY GROUP: Customized Employment

SIGN UPS ARE DUE JANUARY 31st.

The Northeast Region of Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change is delighted to invite you to join an online study group of family members exploring CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT. \*

Our group will pair the National Institute on Disability's (NDI) self-paced curriculum with online video calls. Members will be responsible for viewing one hour's worth of content, responding to emails, and joining a 90 minute call each month February through May.

Topics include: "Customized Employment: Moving Beyond the Basics," "Customizing Employment: Success Through Partnerships", "Guided Group Discovery: Paving the Way to Employment", and "Financial Literacy and the Workforce Development System." \*\*

Participants will be expected to register for an account with NDI's online learning portal; be responsive to email communications from fellow members; be able to access a device where they can watch an hour-long webinar; and access a computer, smartphone, or tablet where they can utilize Zoom uninterrupted for our 90 minute video calls.

QUESTIONS? Email Sophia Johansson, Northeast Regional Coordinator  
[o.sophia.johansson@gmail.com](mailto:o.sophia.johansson@gmail.com).

\* According to the United States Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy, "Customized employment is a flexible process designed to personalize the employment relationship between a job candidate and an employer in a way that meets the needs of both."

\*\* Please note that this content was developed for professionals working in the field of human services and that we will interpret the information to reflect on 1) what we can do to support our loved ones, 2) collaborate effectively with providers and stakeholders in our respective communities, 3) develop a strong understanding of best practices for employment opportunities and supports.

**Please apply here:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHG9xWUCabyqdXk9qqxHtio3yRXhkYj3KWZ5nEvubOwTo-yA/viewform>



Join The Arc of Massachusetts for  
**Supporting Families Day &  
New Legislator Reception**

**Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

**The Arc of Massachusetts**  
*Connecting Families  
and Legislators*

**10:00AM - 11:30AM**

The Grand Staircase

**Speakers**  
Legislative Champions and  
Family Advocates

**The Arc's Priorities**

Family Support & the Workforce

Contact Maura Sullivan for more info at [sullivan@arcmass.org](mailto:sullivan@arcmass.org)







### **Seeking Study Participant: ASD Ages 9-13**

The Department of Communication Studies at Northeastern University is seeking participants for a study. Our study looks at how young people on the autism spectrum use media and technology with their friends and family, and how this shapes their social communication and relationships. We want to use the insights of kids and parents to make recommendations to clinicians about how to best guide families about media, and to help designers develop technology experiences that are more inclusive of young people on the autism spectrum.

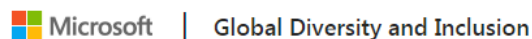
We are looking to recruit parents/guardians in Eastern Massachusetts who have a child ages 9 to 13 with a diagnosis of autism, autism spectrum disorder, Asperger's syndrome, or pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS).

There are two parts to this study:

In Part 1, we are asking parents/guardians to allow us to interview them at home for about 90 minutes about their child's use of media. This will be a one-time interview. At the end of the interview, parents/guardians will be given a questionnaire to fill out to provide the researcher with some background information about their family. It should take about 10 minutes to fill out.

In Part 2, conducted on a different day, the researcher will interview the child and observe them doing a media or technology activity that they enjoy. The interview can be adapted for children who are non-speaking, non-verbal, and/or who use AAC. If the child needs communication support, parents are welcome to assist their child during the in-person interview. The child in-person interview/observation will last for 30-90 minutes, the length of which will depend on the type of interview, if the child needs to take any breaks, and the type of activity they select.

Participating families will receive a \$30 gift card after completing Part 1 and 2. The study has been approved by the Northeastern University Institutional Review Board #16-08-35. Parents/guardians can contact me by phone at (818) 856-0165 or email at [AutismFamilyMedia@gmail.com](mailto:AutismFamilyMedia@gmail.com)



### **Microsoft disAbility Scholarship**

The disAbility Scholarship at Microsoft delivers on the mission of Microsoft's cross disability employee resource group to empower and enable people with disabilities. This scholarship enables high school students with disabilities to go to college and target a career in the technology industry. In addition, we hope to contribute to increasing the pool of persons living with a disability enrolling in higher education and, in the long term, decrease the unemployment bias for this demographic. This scholarship will be awarded to promising high school seniors who plan to attend a vocational or academic college and have a financial need. The amount of this renewable scholarship to be awarded is \$5,000 per year, up to \$20,000 total, which is paid through the Seattle Foundation on behalf of the disAbility Employee Resource Group (ERG) at Microsoft to the recipient's school's Financial Aid Office. All completed applications must be submitted by March 1, 2019. Learn more here <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx>



## Social & Recreation

Massachusetts' Premier Magazine for Families  
**baystateparent**



### **New Hampshire's Ice Castles Open January 11<sup>th</sup>! (not a disability specific event)**

This year, visitors can also take a horse-drawn sleigh ride through an enchanted winter forest. A horse-drawn sleigh ride through an Enchanted Winter Forest and a new location highlight this season of icy fun in New Hampshire. Each year, this popular winter attraction draws ten of thousands of visitors from across New England. The Ice Castles open this year on Friday, January 11 at a new, permanent location just a few miles away on Clarks Farm Road in North Woodstock, New Hampshire. Tickets are now available at [icecastles.com](https://www.icecastles.com). "We are thrilled to bring Ice Castles back to New Hampshire this season," said Ryan Davis, CEO of Ice Castles, LLC. "And now, families looking to enjoy time together outdoors this winter can not only experience the magic of Ice Castles, they also have the option of taking a fun sleigh ride through a beautiful snow-covered forest." The new location in North Woodstock is just 2.5 miles from Hobo Railroad in Lincoln where Ice Castles has been in previous years. Ice Castles features ice-carved tunnels, fountains, slides, frozen thrones and towering ice formations. The acre-sized castle in North Woodstock is one of six Ice Castles locations in North America. Other locations include Midway, Utah; Dillon, Colorado; Excelsior, Minnesota; Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; and Edmonton, Canada. Article found here <https://www.baystateparent.com/news/20190110/new-hampshire-ice-castles-open-this-weekend?utm> Visit the Ice Castle website for additional information at tickets <https://icecastles.com/lincoln/>



### **Fun with All Out Adventures at Wendell State Forest**

**When: Saturdays: 11:00 AM –3:00 PM, January 12, 19, 26, February 2, 9, 16 & 23, (March 2 & 9 are "snow dates")**

**Where: Wendell State Forest, 392 Wendell Rd, Millers Falls, MA**

Enjoy the winter woods with outdoor ice skating, gentle sled hockey, cross-country skiing, sit-skiing, snowshoeing, kicksledding, and snowmobile rides (as weather conditions permit). Bring a lunch and warm up by the wood stove before heading out on the groomed trails for a group excursion! Call (413) 577-3840 or email [jackie.brown@mass.gov](mailto:jackie.brown@mass.gov) to sign up! No cost to attend! Pre-registration is required!



### **Autism Eats - East Bay Grille**

**When: January 28, 2019, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM**

**Where: East Bay Grille, 173 Water St, Plymouth, MA**

Join Autism Eats for an autism friendly dinner event to celebrate the New Year! We will have our own room and a delicious buffet dinner. A big thank you to East Bay Grille and the Plymouth North High School's Marketing Tech Program for their generosity and support! Purchase tickets here <http://www.autismeats.org/events/January-28-2019.html>



**Hit the Trails this Winter with Stavros Outdoor Access – Accessible Skiing**

**When: Sundays: 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM, January 27, February 3, 10, 24 & Monday (President’s Day), February 18**

**Where: Leo J. Martin Ski Track, 190 Park Rd, Weston, MA**

This popular location offers outdoor recreation on a groomed course. Register for an hour-long adventure on the trails using a kicksled, sit-ski, snowshoes, or cross-country skis.

Call to inquire about weekday programs! Cost for these programs is by donation. For more information or to register contact Brenda Kennedy Davies: 413-259-0009. Learn more about Stavros Outdoors Access here

<http://www.stavros.org/index.php/outdoor-access.html> \*Want to learn how to ski or kicksled, but can’t make it to one of our Sunday programs? The Weston Ski Track (WST), operating out of Leo J. Martin Ski Track in Weston, provides private lessons with experienced instructors. Staff works with individuals of all ages and abilities. WST staff can accommodate individuals and small groups weekdays and weekends by appointment only!

Advanced notice allows staff to customize your lesson. For more information or to sign up, contact Deb Laufer at [deb@paddleboston.com](mailto:deb@paddleboston.com) or (617) 965-5110 ext.0.

## WALKFIT – Winter, 2019

EXERCISE and ACTIVITY designed to INCLUDE People of All Abilities

Activity and comradery for everybody



The program’s purpose is to unite and connect individuals of all ages, all backgrounds and all abilities; to foster dialogue and sensitivity, to enhance personal and public mental and physical health and to build and enlarge community.



Indoors at St. Vincent Hospital, the Atrium, on the north end  
Thursdays at 12:30 pm and Saturdays at 10:00 am

January 17, 24, 31, 19, 26

JANUARY 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				17	19	
				24	26	
				31		

February 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23

FEBRUARY 2019						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						2
				7	9	
				14	16	
				21	23	



Questions? Email us at [WalkFit.Info@gmail.com](mailto:WalkFit.Info@gmail.com)

Find us on Facebook at [fb.me/WalkFitVIPs](https://fb.me/WalkFitVIPs)





## DISCOVER GREATNESS THROUGH SERVICE.

### WHO ARE THE EPIC SERVICE WARRIORS?

EPIC Service Warriors is a community service and leadership development program for youth with disabilities between the ages of 16-23. The EPIC Service Warriors meet for one year to participate in community service projects and leadership development workshops in the Worcester area. By creating the change they want to see in the world, the Service Warriors learn more about their local communities and develop both knowledge and practical skills that will help them pursue future goals. We believe that every young person has a Warrior within!



"People think that because I have a disability I can't do things. I like being an EPIC Service Warrior because it shows others that I am a leader and I can create change!"



"The most important thing I learned as an EPIC Service Warrior is that I don't need to be afraid to speak up. I have found my voice."



### WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM START? FOR HOW LONG WILL IT GO?

The EPIC Service Warrior Program runs for a full year. During these 12 months, Service Warriors will participate in an Orientation, Opening Ceremony, a minimum of 12 community service projects, and 10 leadership development workshops in the Worcester Area, culminating in a graduation celebration.

### WHO CAN JOIN?

Any young person between the ages of 16 to 23 with a disability in the Worcester Area is eligible to apply to become a Warrior.

### HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications for the 2019-2020 Service Warrior Worcester Team are available online now!

Find more information and the online application at [epicleaders.org/worcesterwarriors](http://epicleaders.org/worcesterwarriors)

Application Deadline: January 31, 2019

For more information, or to become involved with EPIC, contact:

EPIC  
89 South Street, Suite 406  
Boston, MA 02111  
(617) 917-5181  
[worcestera@epicleaders.org](mailto:worcester@epicleaders.org)  
[www.epicleaders.org](http://www.epicleaders.org)

Proud to be part of  




### Discovery Museum Announces 2019 Especially for Me Series of Free Events for Families of Children with Developmental Challenges – Sensory Friendly Evening

**When: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 - 1:30 pm to 4:30 PM — Drop in**

**Where: Acton Discovery Museum, 177 Main Street (Route 27), Acton, Ma**

Cost: Free with pre-registration. Come explore the accessible Discovery Museum and Discovery Woods. Sensory-Friendly Afternoons are all about inclusion. During these events the museum is open to the general public, but group visits and birthday parties are not scheduled, to avoid crowding and support access to exhibits. You may want to prepare for your visit by downloading our Story Guide to Discovery Woods, and visiting the Exhibits section of our website. Please note that Discovery Woods is open year-round but closes at dusk. Space is limited, and pre-registration is required. A registration will be posted here about 6 weeks prior to the event.

<https://www.discoveryacton.org/event/sensory-friendly-afternoon-0>



**Discovery Museum Announces 2019 Especially for Me Series of Free Events for Families of Children with Developmental Challenges - Autism Friendly Evening**

**When: Saturday, February 9, 2019 - 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM —Drop in**

**Where: Acton Discovery Museum, 177 Main Street (Route 27), Acton, Ma**

Tonight's Program: Adaptive Yoga! Join H2K Fitness for a modified family Yoga experience. No prior yoga experience is necessary to have a ton of fun with supportive props, music, yoga adventures, mindfulness, and healthy goal setting. Mini-classes will be offered every 15 minutes from 5:30 – 7:00pm.

Cost: Free with pre-registration. Registration Required: Register Now <https://www.discoveryacton.org/event/autism-friendly-evening-1> Come join in all the fun and explore the accessible Discovery Museum and Discovery Woods during this special evening event just for families with members on the autism spectrum. Your family can play, explore, experiment, and imagine together, while we are closed to the general public. Space is limited and pre-registration is required



**Beyond Spectrum Teen Studio**

**When: January 19, 2019 10:30 AM**

**Where: MFA, Avenue of the Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, MA**

Beyond the Spectrum is a specially designed program for children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Classes meet on select Saturdays from 10:30 am–12 pm. Each class lasts an hour and a half and combines gallery exploration with an art-making activity. \$9 per student (includes materials and Museum admission).

Programs:

**Beyond the Spectrum (age 8–12)**

Classes offered for 8 to 12-year-olds feature a structured gallery tour led by an experienced instructor, followed by a creative art-making workshop. Children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. Classes meet one Saturday per month.

**Beyond the Spectrum Teen Studio (age 13–18)**

Classes offered for 13 to 18-year-olds focus on specific art topics and incorporate discussion, critical inquiry, and sketching in the galleries. Students then work independently on a project with guidance from an experienced instructor. Caregivers and parents are welcome, but are not required to attend. Classes meet one Saturday per month. To purchase tickets visit <https://www.mfa.org/programs/community-programs/beyond-the-spectrum>



### **Become a Waypoint Adventure Leader-In-Training! Application Deadline January 30th!**

Are you an adventurous young adult looking to fine-tune your leadership skills and practice some real-life decision-making alongside a social, supportive community!? Become a Waypoint Adventure Leader-In-Training! Waypoint Adventure's Leaders-In-Training (LIT) series is an adventure-learning, leadership development program for young adults with disabilities between the ages of 16-28 (Some exceptions may apply to age parameters). LITs participate in adventures and events 1x/month for seven months. All of these programs are specifically designed to develop leadership skills, improve self-determination and increase self-confidence in transition-age youth. At Waypoint, we believe that at the intersection of challenge and support, people learn and grow. On challenges like rock climbing, kayaking, hiking, and backpacking, LITs learn practical adventure skills as well as important life and leadership lessons equipping them for the pursuit of future goals. "Graduates" of the LIT Adventure Series will be added to a growing community of young adults who adventure and socialize together outside of Waypoint programs. Waypoint will organize and staff three parent-sponsored socials open to any LIT Graduate between January and April (the off-season of LIT). In addition to these socials, graduates can offer their leadership skills to Waypoint in various capacities even after the series is over. For example, LIT graduates can help recruit participants for future programs, blog about events, manage equipment at Waypoint's office, write thank you letters to Waypoint donors, or, for those who meet our Volunteer Eligibility Requirements (available upon request), help paddle a tandem kayak or belay a participant up a rock wall. Most importantly, LITs benefit from the friendships formed with each other throughout the months of fun and adventure! Based on the goals of this series, this cohort of LITs would have the following qualities. It would consist of individuals who are familiar and comfortable with new social settings, can participate in group discussions around a theme or goal, can mostly follow multi-step instructions, or can stick to a task independently or with few prompts. To learn more and download an application visit <http://www.waypointadventure.org/leadersintraining/>



### **OPEN- Indoor Rock Climbing- Spaulding Adaptive Sport Center**

**When: Saturday, February 9**

**Where: Central Rock Gym 74 Acton St, Watertown, MA**

Description:Waypoint Rock Climbing programs provide a safe, supportive and challenging environment that is fully adapted to fit your needs. During this program you will be encouraged to challenge your limitations and reach your goals while also being introduced to the sport of rock climbing. Waypoint will provide equipment, personal instruction, ample climbing time and trained staff who will support and instruct you as you experience the benefits and freedom that are found in this amazing sport. This day is split into 4 hour-long sessions sponsored by Spaulding Adaptive Sports Center. Sessions are 10-11am, 11am-12pm, 1-2pm, or 2-3pm and it is \$20 per session. To register for one of these sessions, call Spaulding at 877-976-7272 or go to <https://sasc.spauldingrehab.org>



### **February Vacation Music Activity**

**When: February 19, 2019 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Where: Elks Club, 450 Union Ave, Framingham, MA**

February Vacation would not be complete without some music and fun with our friends from Roman Music Therapy. The group is open to current members of the Autism Alliance. It is for children with autism and siblings ages 12 and younger. This activity will run from 10am -11am with Snacks to go. This program is limited to 20 children.

We will have a waiting list. To register please click on Kathy's email. [kpaquette@advocates.org](mailto:kpaquette@advocates.org)

Graciously sponsored by the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation. <https://autismalliance.org/events/february-vacation-music-activity#overlay-context=users/kgryglewicz>



### **Berklee College of Music: Free Group Lessons at AANE**

**When: Lessons are on Tuesday evenings 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM on the following dates - 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/19, 3/26, 4/2, 4/9, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/21**

**Where: AANE Office, 51 Water Street, Watertown, MA**

The Berklee Institute for Arts Education and Special Needs (BIAES) has been kind enough to offer free group music lessons to adults on the autism spectrum. Participants are expected to attend all lessons as students will participate in a public performance at the end of the lesson period. Students may choose from the following instruments:

- \*Alto Saxophone
- \*Clarinet
- \*Flute
- \*Trombone
- \*Trumpet

Cost: Please note that lessons are free, but instrument rental from Berklee is \$20 for the semester. You can arrange for and pay online for instrument rental when you register for lessons. Because some students in the past have neglected to return their rented instruments, a security deposit of \$400 (in the form of a check or money order) made out to Berklee College of Music is also required. You must bring the security deposit with you to the first lesson in order to participate. Berklee will hold these security deposits until the last lesson. If you return your instrument to Berklee, you will receive your security deposit back. If you don't return your rental instrument by May 21, Berklee will cash the security deposit. Register By: Registration closes on February 8, 2019 so register soon to guarantee your spot!

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07efvckeis8f156d0e&oseq=&c=&ch=>



## **Night to Shine Prom 2019**

**When: Friday February 8 2019**

**Where: Various locations in Massachusetts**

Every year the Tim Tebow Foundation provides financial support to hundreds of churches around the world as they host proms for individuals with disabilities. The proms are free of charge and open to all. The proms are all held on the same night – This year the proms will be held at various churches throughout Massachusetts. See locations listed below. To learn more about this event visit <https://www.timtebowfoundation.org/>

**\*Grace Church in Avon, 101 Wales Avenue, Avon MA**

Click here to register for Night to Shine 2019: <https://thatsgrace.cbchurch.com/goto/forms/215/responses/new>

**\*North Shore Community Baptist Church, 9 Hart Street, Beverly MA**

This church is listed as a host church on the Tebow web site but does not have information on the Prom on the church web site. Contact the church for more information at 978-927-2014

**\*LifePoint Church, 603 New Ludlow Road, Chicopee, MA**

This church is listed as a host church on the Tebow web site but does not have information on the Prom on the church web site. Contact the church for more information. (413) 536-2775, email: [office@lifepoint.online](mailto:office@lifepoint.online)

**\*Gateway Christian Center, 4966 Falmouth Road (Route 28), Cotuit, MA**

Click here to register for Night to Shine 2019:

<http://www.gatewaycc.cc/night-to-shine/index.html>

**\*Waters Church, 57 John L Dietch Square, North Attleborough MA**

This church is listed as a host church on the Tebow web site but does not have information on the Prom on the church web site. Contact the church for more information. 508-695-1300

**\*Calvary Baptist Church - Event Venue: Pembroke Country Club**

Click here to register for Night to Shine 2019: <http://connectocalvary.com/night-to-shine>

**\*Valley Chapel, 14 Hunter Rd, Uxbridge MA**

Click here to register for Night to Shine 2019:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuViC4R6vfKZJAq-KDcA-JyT3BOWjH9QMpJ2YZ-eVnckbGIw/viewform>

Contact Rev. Joshua Howard, Associate Pastor, [pastorjosh@valleychapel.us](mailto:pastorjosh@valleychapel.us) with questions.



## **iCan Bike Camp (Register Now as Camps fill up quickly!)**

**When: April 15th – 19th, 2019 (Vacation Week)**

**Where Lawrence Academy, Powderhouse Road, Groton, MA**

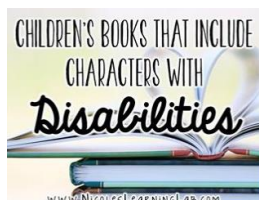
We understand that the vast majority of people with disabilities never have the experience of independently riding a conventional two-wheel bicycle during their lifetime. Research shows that over 80% of people with Autism and 90% of people with Down syndrome never experience this thrill. Defying these odds is why we exist! Register here

<https://icanshine.org/ican-bike-groton-ma/> For information or questions about this bike camp please e-mail Mary Evans directly at [icanshinebike\\_rehab@emersonhosp.org](mailto:icanshinebike_rehab@emersonhosp.org) or call 978-589-6774.





## Family Support & Resources



### Children's Books That Include Characters with Disabilities

"...In this list, I have included books with characters that happen to have various disabilities and illnesses, but those disabilities and illnesses are not the complete focus of the books. This blog post contains affiliate links from Amazon. If you make a purchase through one of these links, you will not pay a penny extra but I will earn a small commission."

Click here to see list [https://nicoleslearninglab.blogspot.com/2018/07/childrens-books-that-include-characters.html?fbclid=IwAR1Gvz7LddHRxw6tMmltvgWV4TsU5kc4xN4wZ5CFdkDgSn79RrS\\_168pnrM](https://nicoleslearninglab.blogspot.com/2018/07/childrens-books-that-include-characters.html?fbclid=IwAR1Gvz7LddHRxw6tMmltvgWV4TsU5kc4xN4wZ5CFdkDgSn79RrS_168pnrM)



### Inclusion Grants

Inclusion Grants are offered to families whose child has a Youth YMCA Membership and who are DDS eligible, and under the age of 18. Parents must register at the YMCA for the membership within 30 days of request for funding. To learn more about inclusion opportunities click on the following link

<http://www.autismresourcecentral.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Winter-2019-Resource-Connection.pdf>

Please call Donmarie at 508-298-1609 to request Inclusion Grants for Youth YMCA Memberships. The Autism Resource Center will provide scholarships to the following YMCA's for children under 18 with ASD who are DDS eligible, which will run through to the end of June 2019.

- \*Greendale YMCA in Worcester, Montachusett YMCA in Fitchburg
- \*Tri Community YMCA in Southbridge
- \*Hockomock YMCA, Franklin Branch, Boroughs YMCA Branch in Westborough
- \* The Clark YMCA in Winchendon
- \* Whitins Community Center in Northbridge

Children who qualify may be accompanied by a parent or a 1:1 aide. Access to some of the program areas for children under the age of 13 may require the person accompanying the child to have a CORI & SORI check done, which would take 24 hours.



### Autism Spectrum Disorder: Parents' Medication Guide

[http://www.wraparoundfamily.org/uploads/4/2/8/9/42898129/autism\\_spectrum\\_disorder\\_parents\\_medication\\_guide.pdf](http://www.wraparoundfamily.org/uploads/4/2/8/9/42898129/autism_spectrum_disorder_parents_medication_guide.pdf)



### **Monthly Parenting Support Hour (EI through High School)**

Join us the first Sunday of the month (1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7, 5/5, 6/2) during the school year from 2:30 PM -4:30 PM in the Acton Memorial Library upstairs conference room for informal peer support for parents and guardians of children with learning differences, disabilities, or other challenges. This is a place where we share our experiences, resources, and ideas. Facilitated by parents of the AB SEPAC. Drop-ins welcome. Free and open to all communities. For questions, contact Jeanne Hobbie at [mysticrivermusik@aol.com](mailto:mysticrivermusik@aol.com) or Carolyn Sprague at 978-793-1094.



### **Online – Parents of Adults SG Series**

**When: February 20 @ 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM, 3rd Wednesday of each month – Online Support Group Series for Parents of Adults**

**Format: On-line - Fee \$120**

This parent of adult support group series is designed for parents of adult children, who have completed high school and who are 19 years or older. Through this support group series, parents can build an ongoing connection with a small community of other parents. AANE parent of adult support groups also give parents an opportunity to voice their concerns and frustrations. It also lets them acknowledge hard-won and unexpected victories.

Moderator: The group will be moderated by Jennifer DeSanctis-Narby. Jennifer is an AANE LifeMap coach and she also facilitates several New Hampshire in-person AANE Parent of Adult Support groups as well as the Chelmsford, MA support group. Jennifer also leads both AANE PoA online groups. Jennifer's motto is "What else can go right?"

Coaching LifeMap clients and leading parent groups is her passion. By helping them shift their perspective to what can go right, she is able to help them make significant positive changes in their lives. Jennifer says, "I'm constantly amazed by parents' commitment to their adult child's future, but I also recognize that this commitment can be all-consuming and draining." Contact: [jennifer.desanctisnarby@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.desanctisnarby@gmail.com). All meetings will be held online. We will meet monthly for 8 months on the third Wednesday of each month from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Dates: February 20; March 20; April 24; May 15; June 19; July 17; August 21; September 18

Common topics of discussion are:

- \*Now that your child is an adult, how do you parent without power?
- \*How do you keep the lines of communication open?
- \*How can you help your child find and sustain employment or live independently?
- \*How to get your adult child expand his or her social network?
- \*What local providers, programs, and services have other parents used and what were the results?

How have other parents tapped into health, income, housing and other benefits





Cost: Group members need to register in advance and membership is limited to 12 individuals. Members must be parents or other adult family members of an adult with Asperger's or a related profile. The cost, which covers all 8 meetings in the support group series, is \$120 per person (\$60 for a second parent or family member of the same adult).

This payment covers all eight meetings and you must register for the entire series. Financial Assistance: The AANE POA support group program is entirely self-sustaining and is not supported by any grant funding. However, we do recognize that registration fees may be a hardship for some families. If this is the case, contact [Stephanie.Birkdale@aane.org](mailto:Stephanie.Birkdale@aane.org) for a fee discount or waiver. We want to make sure that you get the support you need. To register visit

<https://www.aane.org/event/online-parents-of-adults-sg-series-3/>

# YOUR WORDS

# MATTER

	INSTEAD OF...	TRY
	Be quiet.	Can you use a softer voice?
	What a mess!	It looks like you had fun! How can we clean up?
	Do you need help?	I'm here to help if you need me.
	I explained how to do this yesterday.	Maybe I can show you another way.
	Do I need to separate you?	Could you use a break?
	Stop crying.	It's okay to cry.
	Do you have any questions?	What questions do you have?
	You're OK.	How are you feeling?
	It's not that hard.	You can do hard things.
	We don't talk like that.	Please use kind words.

**WE ARE TEACHERS**

*Please Note: These resources are provided for informational purposes only.  
Please do your own due diligence and research.*

***Annual Report***  
***FY 2018***  
***SY 2017 - 2018***



***Strength in Diversity,  
Quality through Collaboration***



## Table of Contents

About EDCO Collaborative . . . . .	2
Contact Information . . . . .	2
From the Executive Director . . . . .	3
Mission and Vision . . . . .	4
Objectives . . . . .	4
History . . . . .	5
Governance and Leadership . . . . .	6
Standing and Advisory Committees . . . . .	6
Informational Technology . . . . .	7
Organizational Chart . . . . .	8
Districts . . . . .	9
Programs and Services . . . . .	10
Special Education Programs . . . . .	10
Contract Services . . . . .	15
Professional Learning / Partnerships . . . . .	21
Other Services . . . . .	25
Tuition Comparisons - Appendix A . . . . .	26
FY 17 Audit - Appendix B . . . . .	27
Financials . . . . .	35

## About EDCO Collaborative

EDCO is a collaborative of 17 urban and suburban school districts serving the Greater Boston area and beyond. We are governed by a board of directors comprised of superintendents and school committee members representing each of our member school districts.

All EDCO programs and services are developed and implemented through consultation with member school districts and other sponsoring agencies. EDCO Collaborative Roundtables often facilitate the gathering of information needed for planning programs, services, and professional learning opportunities. Programs align with EDCO's mission, reflect the priorities of EDCO's primary constituencies, and are provided in a cost effective manner through interdistrict and interagency collaboration.

EDCO Collaborative's range of services includes professional learning opportunities for educators; special education and alternative education programs for students with disabilities and at-risk youth; in-district consultation, special education transportation through a cost effective consortium of adjacent communities; and cooperative purchasing of utilities and other items upon request.

In addition, EDCO provides services to youth and adults through a variety of state and federally funded programs, including the Massachusetts Migrant Education Program, the Special Education Surrogate Parent Program, Wrentham Habilitative Services, Boston Public Schools Titles I & II programs, and the EDCO Youth Alternative Program.



*36 Middlesex Turnpike, Bedford Massachusetts*

## EDCO Collaborative – Contact Information

Chairperson, Board of Directors:

Diana Fisher Gomberg  
School Committee, Newton Public Schools  
diana\_gomberg@newton.k12.ma.us

Executive Director:

Nadine Ekstrom  
nekstrom@edcollab.org  
36 Middlesex Turnpike  
Bedford, MA 01730  
617-738-5600

Please visit the EDCO Collaborative website: [www.edcollab.org](http://www.edcollab.org)

## From the Executive Director

During FY18, EDCO Collaborative's senior leadership team consisted of four members; Director of the McSwiney Center for Professional Learning, Instructional Technology Director, Director of Business Management, and Executive Director. This representation is a result of efforts in creating an efficient central office that began in FY12. In June of 2018, Colleen Dolan, the Executive Director, retired and the position was assigned to Nadine Ekstrom.

EDCO Collaborative's programs, servicing students with special needs, continued to gain recognition in FY18 by its member districts and beyond. In fact, North Crossing Academy expanded to include middle school programming, servicing students with social and emotional needs.

In FY18, EDCO hosted the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Regional Meetings on three occasions. Due to EDCO's technology capacity and gathering space within the facility, the organization was delighted to assist the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Educational Department in providing space for their meetings. Furthermore, the McSwiney Center has been utilized by many organizations on Saturdays. EDCO continued to build partnerships with local community educational organizations to create a space for professional learning.

In November 2017, EDCO provided a full-day professional development program in partnership with another collaborative, to service member districts. The collegiality between both collaboratives made for a very effective day.

The IDEAS program successfully celebrated their first annual conference at Bentley College. This conference occurred in April 2018. The feedback was extremely positive and planning for a second annual conference is being arranged for FY19.

The Partners Program was relocated in FY18 to Bedford's location. In addition, classroom and office space was leased to CASE Collaborative until June 2019. These additions, along with EDCO's current tenants Nu Path and Van Pool, brought 36 Middlesex Turnpike to full utilization.

  
**Nadine Ekstrom**  
*Executive Director*

# EDCO Collaborative's Mission & Vision

## Since 1969 EDCO's mission has been to:

*Improve education through interdistrict and interagency collaboration.*

*Provide high quality education and related services to students-at-risk.*

*Enhance equity, intercultural understanding and equal opportunity in education.*

## EDCO Collaborative's vision is to:

- Sustain its role as a statewide leader for excellence in education with a strong and positive political influence
- Support member districts through a variety of services that
  - Meet the special education service needs of students with low incidence disabilities
  - Provide the benefits of economies of scale
- Support the recruitment, retention, and development of high quality teachers and administrators.
- Integrate new Board members quickly into the roles and responsibilities of the Board and enjoy steady commitment and engagement from all Board members.
- Develop a budget annually from a balanced mix of member services and contract services.

## Objectives of EDCO Collaborative

- To provide day programs and other services for students with low-incidence disabilities in the least restrictive environment consistent with MGL c. 40 § 4E and 603 CMR 50.00
- To provide day programs and services for at-risk students
- To provide therapeutic services for adults with disabilities in collaboration with the Department of Developmental Services and/or other agencies
- To offer quality professional learning opportunities to general and special education teachers and administrators, related service providers, school committees, and charter school boards
- To explore and pursue grants and other funding to support identified needs of the member districts and community
- To offer cooperative and regional programs and/or services to help member districts maximize cost efficiency and program effectiveness through a collaborative effort



# History of EDCO Collaborative

EDCO Collaborative has a long and diverse history, beginning in 1969 as a private consortium of public schools prior to the enactment of the first Massachusetts collaborative legislation and continuing to the present as a public collaborative. EDCO's mission has been consistent throughout its history, focusing on the power of interdistrict and interagency collaboration to meet the needs of underserved and at risk students and adults.

In its first form, Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. was a private, not-for-profit charitable corporation formed by superintendents from seven member school districts. Their purpose was to increase communication and understanding among staff and students in urban and suburban school districts. Initial programs were designed to cross racial, economic and social barriers. Early on, ECGB, Inc. received funding to operate voluntary desegregation programs, using the City of Boston as a classroom and bringing suburban students into Boston to work with inner city students. Over time, school districts began to see the value in collaborating on other education issues such as special education, school-to-work, vocational education and professional development for teachers. A grant from the Ford Foundation in the early 1980's allowed for the development of additional programs related to curriculum and instruction, and membership grew along with the services offered.

In 1988, after the passage of the legislation encouraging collaboration, EDCO Collaborative was formed as a public collaborative under Chapter 40, Section 4E, to complement the services offered by the private not-for-profit corporation. Many of the programs operated under the original organization were shifted to the public collaborative. The private corporation remained as an affiliated agency with shared administration.

When additional changes in the legislation were anticipated, the dissolution process of Education Collaborative for Greater Boston, Inc. occurred from FY12 through FY14. All of its assets were transferred to EDCO Collaborative, and the contracts and programs managed by ECGB, Inc. were reassigned by the funding agencies to EDCO.

Today, EDCO continues to strengthen programs and services to its member communities and to support both local and statewide educational programs funded by federal and state contracts.



## Governance / Leadership

A Board of Directors that includes one voting representative from each member district governs EDCO Collaborative. District School Committees vote annually to appoint either a School Committee member or the superintendent to EDCO's Board of Directors.

### Board of Directors

William McAlduff, Int. Superintendent, Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

Kathleen Bodie, Superintendent, Arlington Public Schools

Jon Sills, Superintendent, Bedford Public Schools

Andrea Prestwich, School Committee, Belmont Public Schools

Helen Charlupski, School Committee, Brookline Public Schools

James O'Shea, Superintendent, Carlisle Public Schools

Laurie Hunter, Superintendent, Concord Public Schools/Concord Carlisle Regional

Mary Czajkowski, Superintendent, Lexington Public Schools

Rebecca McFall, Superintendent, Lincoln Public Schools

Bella Wong, Superintendent, Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District

Diana Fisher Gomberg, School Committee, Newton Public Schools

Anne Wilson, Superintendent, Sudbury Public Schools

Drew Echelson, Superintendent, Waltham Public Schools

Deanne Galdston, Superintendent, Watertown Public Schools

Midge Connolly, Superintendent, Weston Public Schools

### Administrative Team

Colleen Dolan, Executive Director

Thomas Markham, Director of Business Management

Andrew Kelley, Director of Professional Learning and Community Education

James Sullivan, Director of Informational Technology

## Standing Committees / Advisory Committees

### Executive Finance Committee

The Executive Finance Committee meets with the EDCO Leadership Team prior to each Board meeting to discuss matters that will be considered by the Board of Directors. The committee reviews finances, policies, and other relevant information in order to make recommendations to the Board. The Executive Finance Committee also prepares the Executive Director's annual evaluation for presentation to the Board and makes recommendations on salary and benefits.

# Information Technology at EDCO Collaborative

The Information Technology department once again had a busy year. The goal of our department is always first priority, and has not changed: to support the needs of teaching and learning and drive success towards EDCO's mission. Some of our accomplishments this year include completing upgrades to two of our Bedford conference rooms - the Central Office Resource Room and the School IEP Conference Room. We added a high-definition TV and mobile device charging station to the Central Office conference room to allow for presentations and better collaboration. In addition, we also added an interactive whiteboard and projector to the school side conference room to allow for more effective IEP meetings and allow the room to be used for small group instruction as well.

In addition, EDCO had another tenant move into the space behind the McSwiney Center. As part of this transition, we assisted the tenant in getting their technology online and added capacity to our data center to allow for the tenants to use our existing Internet Service Providers making it easier for them to quickly settle in and get to work.

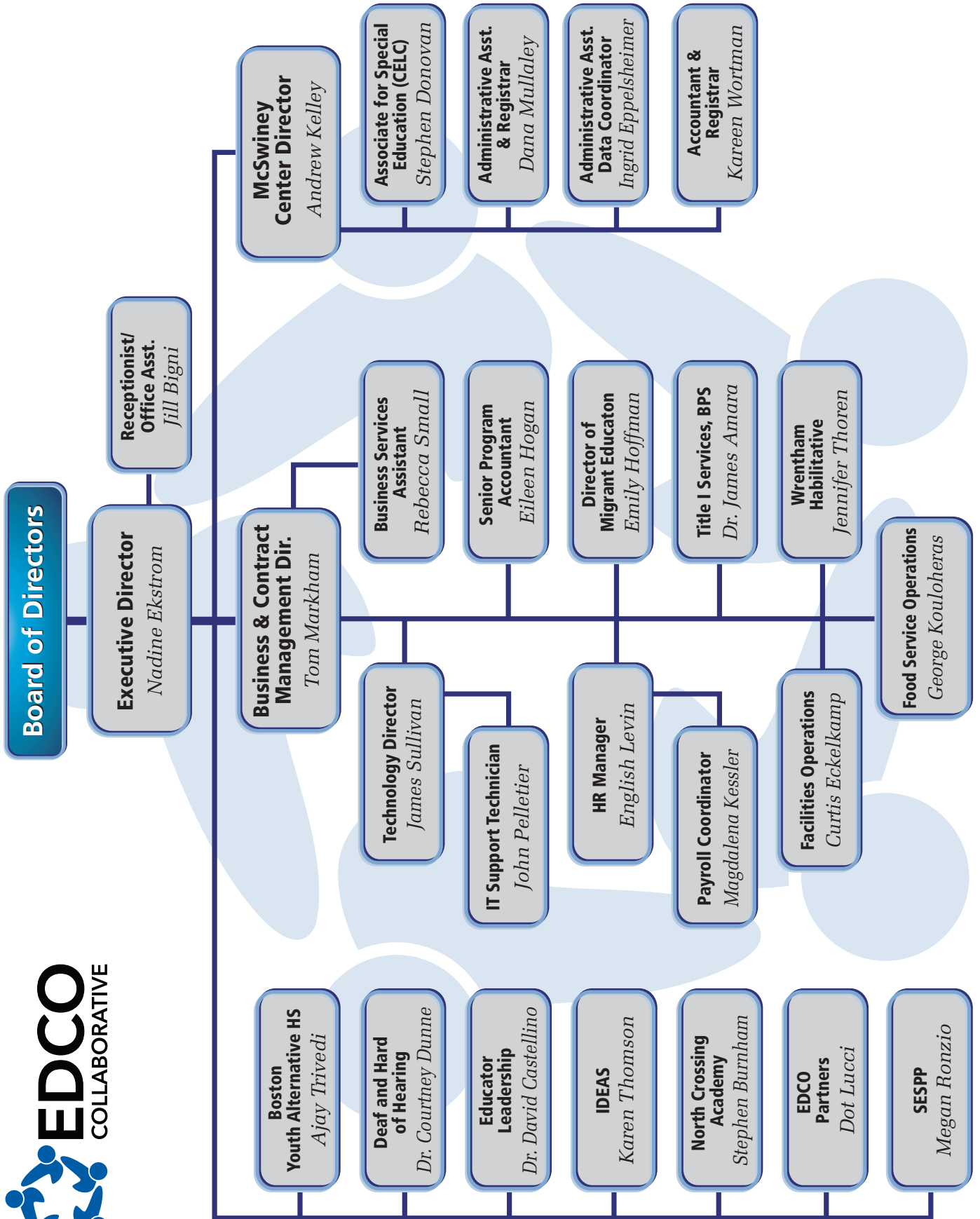
As part of the Technology services we support, this was EDCO's first full year of using the SchoolBrains Student Information System. We were proud to be one of the first education collaboratives in Massachusetts to be fully operational and compliant with SIF for data reporting and accomplished this through the use of SchoolBrains. This process gave us the ability to manage data accurately throughout the school year and not duplicate data and effort on separate databases and spreadsheets to be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Moreover, we also assisted our New England High School Equivalency Program (HEP) with changing service providers for their student tablets. Originally we had all of our students using Verizon Wireless data on their devices, but we found that some students were continuously exceeding data usage and using the devices for other purposes. To resolve this, we moved all our devices over to Kajeet as the service provider. This change gave us the ability to manage what sites the students can and cannot go to, and throttle Internet access when they exceed their quota. This transition has been successful and has resulted in increased student productivity and cost savings.

Finally, we also made some improvements to our online registration system for the McSwiney Center for Professional Learning. This year we moved the site to our own domain and it is now hosted at [courses.edcollab.org](https://courses.edcollab.org). We were also able to move the system to new virtual servers to increase resources and enhance system performance. We will continue to work on this system next year and plan to add functionality as well.

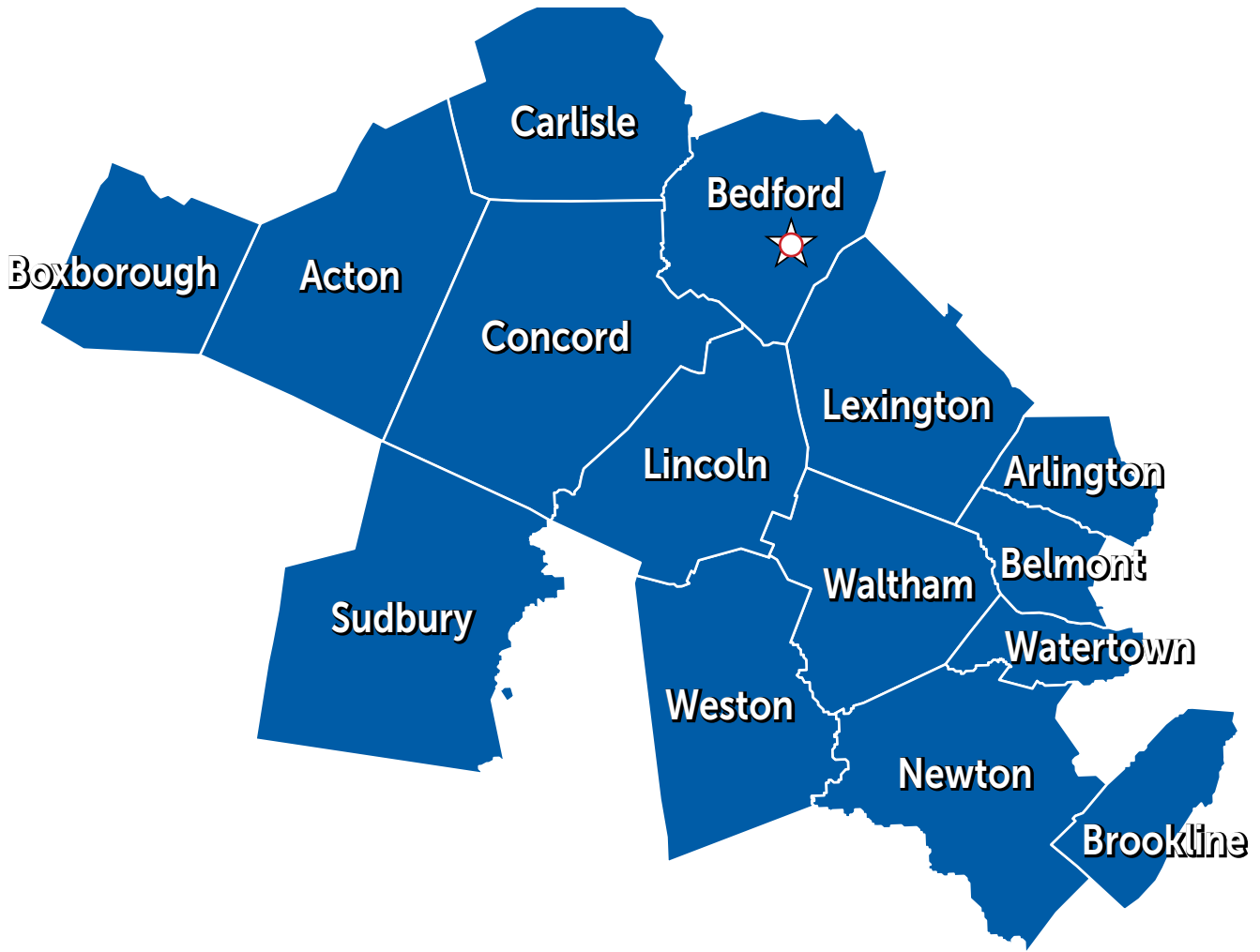


*Seefurth Room at the  
McSwiney Center for Professional Learning*

# EDCO Collaborative Organizational Chart - FY 2019 (as of July 1, 2018)



# EDCO Collaborative Districts



## Acton-Boxborough Regional School District

- Arlington Public Schools
- Bedford Public Schools
- Belmont Public Schools
- Brookline Public Schools
- Carlisle Public Schools
- Concord Public Schools

## Concord-Carlisle Regional School District

## Lexington Public Schools

Lincoln Public Schools

## Lincoln-Sudbury Regional School District

Newton Public Schools

Sudbury Public Schools

Waltham Public Schools

Watertown Public Schools

Weston Public Schools



## Programs and Services

### Special Education Programs

#### **EDCO Collaborative objective:**

- To provide day programs and other services for students with low-incidence disabilities in the least restrictive environment consistent with MGL c. 40 § 4E and 603 CMR 50.00
- Improve education through interdistrict and interagency collaboration
- Provide high quality education and related services to students at-risk
- Enhance equity, intercultural understanding and equal opportunity in education

#### **Progress toward objective:**

EDCO Collaborative offers four special education programs to meet our districts' needs for programming for students with low incidence disabilities. These programs are EDCO Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, EDCO Partners Program, EDCO North Crossing Therapeutic Day School and EDCO 45-Day Assessment Program.

Both the EDCO Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and EDCO Partners Program offer opportunities for students to be included in general education classes located within the public school district where the program is housed or in another member district, thus ensuring students are placed in the least restrictive educational environment.

# EDCO Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing



Dr. Courtney Dunne, Program Director

*Located at F.A. Day Middle School and Newton North HS, Newton, MA*

The EDCO Program for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing serves students who are deaf or hard of hearing in grades 6-12. Located within Newton Public Schools, students are offered a full range of services with opportunities for small group (sub-separate) instruction and full inclusion in the general education setting. The program provides services designed to meet individual learning needs with a specific regard for language, communication modality and choice of amplification. Teachers of the Deaf provide specially designed instruction in the small-group setting. Educational Interpreters provide language access to students who use American Sign Language (ASL) as their primary mode of communication. All general education classrooms are equipped with infrared soundfield amplification systems, providing greater access for our students who use audition and spoken English. In SY 2017-2018, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program served 19 students.

In 2017-2018, the EDCO Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing expanded services to include outreach to member and non-member school districts. The program provided monthly language consultation to a Watertown high school student attending Beacon High School and professional observation, consultation and IEP meeting participation for two elementary-age students in the Winchester Public Schools.

## Program Highlights:

- Interdisciplinary staff: Teachers of the Deaf, Educational Interpreters, Counselor, Speech and Language Pathologist
- Participation in general education courses in Newton Public Schools
- Participation in self-contained class geared towards small group specially designed instruction
- Critical mass of age-appropriate peers and common language users
- Training and support for Newton general educators
- American Sign Language (ASL) classes offered at the high school level
- ASL Clubs at the middle school and high school level
- Deaf History and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Identity Development
- RedCat infrared technology in all classrooms
- Weekly academic support
- Counseling and speech and language services
- ASL and English literacy
- Transition services
- Participation in Newton Public School's comprehensive Career and Vocational Technical Education (CVTE) program
- Full-range of extra-curricular offerings, including varsity athletics
- Social events promoting involvement in the Deaf community
- Academic Bowl for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, sponsored by Gallaudet University
- Outreach consultative services related to serving deaf and hard of hearing students in the public school system

For FY18 the daily rate for members of EDCO Collaborative was \$299.56; for non-members it was \$344.49. Comparable programs in the area average \$307.60 per day with a range of \$250.68 - \$368.75.

# EDCO Partners Program

Dot Lucci, Program Director

*Located at 36 Middlesex Turnpike in Bedford, MA*



The EDCO Partners Program mission is to provide comprehensive academic instruction as well as intensive instruction in the 3 S's (social competency, self-awareness, and stress management) to academically capable students diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (i.e. Asperger's Syndrome), Non-Verbal Learning Disability or similar profile. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and belonging among all students so they feel valued and honored for who they are. The program is dedicated to helping students better understand and accept themselves, while reaching their full potential.

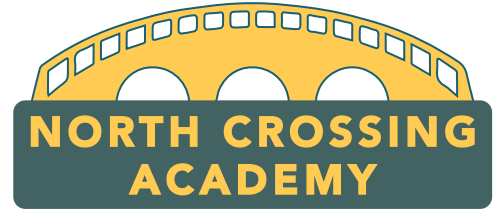
## Program Highlights:

- Small student teacher ratio 2:1, small group instruction and frequent 1:1 instruction
- Evidenced-based instruction including Empower, Social Thinking, Dialectical Behavior-Therapy/Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Zones of Regulation, HeartMath/Biofeedback tools, Mindfulness and more
- Individual Chromebooks are provided for each student; students also utilize iPads and iMac Desktop computers
- Every classroom is equipped with a SmartBoard and teachers incorporate its usage into instruction
- An online Google site is utilized to keep students and families informed and to provide access to curriculum, homework and calendar/due dates
- Home-school communication is done by a variety of means: phone, email, in-person periodic meetings and a Habits of Work and Learning communication form completed by students and staff
- Ongoing milieu counseling, individual and group counseling is provided for every student by a licensed mental professional
- ESY is available for students that focuses on the 3S's and may include transition planning, vocational experiences and community service
- A transition coordinator is shared with the North Crossing Academy (NCA) to provide transition related programming, linkage to adult agencies including MRC and DDS
- Students enrolled in the Partners Program participate in a pragmatics group once a week led by a SLP; direct services as specified in a student's IEP are also provided
- An OT provides a variety of services including push-in classes, sensory processing instruction, emotional regulation instruction and other direct services as specified in a student's IEP
- A music teacher and an art therapist is shared with NCA
- Additional programming is offered for students 18-22 who require continued transitional support before leaving special education. This program is individualized and does not follow a "typical school calendar". For instance students may enroll in classes at Mass Bay Community College or Middlesex Community College, attend Partners for a half-day taking transition classes, vocational readiness, or financial literacy. Some may have an internship or be taking MCAS prep classes to meet this requirement.
- CVS has been established as an internship site for Partners and NCA students to access to a variety of vocational experiences at the store including stocking, cashier etc

For FY18 the daily rate for members of EDCO Collaborative was \$346.71; for non-members it was \$416.04. Comparable programs in the area average \$396.18 per day with a range of \$312.58 to \$466.20.



# EDCO North Crossing Therapeutic Day Program



Stephen Burnham, Director (FY18)

Dr. Maryellen Pambookian, Director (FY19)

*Located at 36 Middlesex Turnpike in Bedford, MA*

The North Crossing Academy Therapeutic Day program offers a range of services for students in grades 6-12 who are diagnosed with clinical mental health issues that adversely impact their daily performance in the classroom both academically and socially.

NCA offers a comprehensive Therapeutic Day School Program that provides educational instruction to students with unique academic, emotional and social challenges by offering a highly structured therapeutic environment while maintaining academic integrity. The program is dedicated to helping students reach their full potential by fostering individuality and personal growth within a safe and supportive learning community. Students participate in individual and small group learning which is interactive and frequently 'hands on' to foster success that students have previously not found in larger environments. Members of our program clinical team provide individual and group counseling using successful evidence-based strategies. Treatment modalities may include but are not limited to: Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Cognitive Behavior Therapy as well as therapies designed to help students deal with issues related to trauma, gender identity, emotional dysregulation and family issues. These counseling services are designed to support students in building skills of independence, problem solving, making positive choices and to prepare them for life beyond high school. The EDCO NCA Therapeutic Day School Program is committed to promoting diversity, acceptance and a sense of community for our students. In SY 2017-2018 a total of 36 students were served in the program.

## Program highlights:

- Licensed special education and/or regular education teachers with content area expertise
- Small student to staff ratio with frequent 1:1 academic support
- Individualized and multi-modal approaches to teaching
- Mental health services offered in 1:1 and small group settings
- Commitment to engaging reluctant and discouraged learners
- Targeted instruction in college and career readiness skills
- Staff meet daily to collaborate across the program about student and daily events
- Creative electives including Expressive Art, Music, Philosophy and Cultural Exploration
- Direct instruction to help students identify emotional and social responses to stressors and to learn new coping skills
- Interventions focused on self-monitoring and self-management of responses to daily stress
- Access to multiple types of technology throughout the day and throughout school settings
- Community trips designed to practice and reinforce skills learned
- NCA offers a summer program designed to minimize social and academic regression over summer months
- Consistent ongoing communication with the school district, family and outside providers.

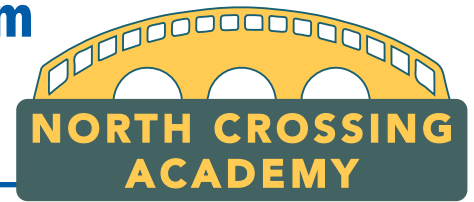
For FY18 the daily rate for members of EDCO Collaborative was \$308.22; for non-members it was \$369.87. Comparable programs in the area average \$346.03 per day with a range of \$284.36 to \$400.91

# North Crossing 45-Day Assessment Program

Stephen Burnham, Director (FY18)

Dr. Maryellen Pambookian, Director (FY19)

*Located at 36 Middlesex Turnpike in Bedford, MA*



The 45-Day Assessment Program serves students in grades 6-12 who are referred by their school districts for an in-depth analysis of learning, social, emotional and behavioral needs. Our small student population enables for the 45-Day Assessment Program staff to provide individualized instruction as part of the evaluation, keeping the student on track with their school curriculum. Curriculum guidelines are obtained from the students' home district and lessons are designed to keep the students current in their academic schedules.

The 45-Day Assessment Program utilizes EDCO clinical staff to support students while evaluating their psychological status. Our clinical staff provides individual and group counseling using evidence-based strategies. Treatment modalities may include but are not limited to: Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Cognitive Behavior Therapy as well as therapies designed to help students deal with issues related to trauma, gender identity, emotional dysregulation and family issues. Students in the 45-Day Assessment program can participate in counseling groups within the milieu of North Crossing Academy. Participation in these groups allows staff to evaluate peer interactions and relationship skills as part of their comprehensive evaluation of social-emotional skills.

Depending on the referral questions provided by the school district, assessment services include but are not limited to: classroom observations, clinical observations, structured interviews with student, their family or caregivers, school district staff and collateral agencies and outside providers. Staff can conduct clinical inventories and cognitive and academic testing if needed.

At the end of the 45-Day Assessment, staff produce a thorough written assessment which offers the school district, student and their care-givers specific recommendations for maximizing and fostering student academic, emotional, behavioral and social gains in a school setting. In SY 2017-2018 a total of 9 students were served in the program.

## Program Highlights:

- Formal and informal assessment measures are matched to district referral questions and student needs.
- Commitment to engaging reluctant and discouraged learners
- Placement culminates with a thorough written academic and psychosocial report
- Staff meet daily to collaborate across the program about student and daily events
- Students are encouraged to identify their emotional and social response to stressors and learn new coping strategies
- Opportunities to participate in larger group setting outside of the 45-Day Assessment Program to facilitate social interaction and to increase evaluation settings
- Interventions focused on self-monitoring and self-management of responses to daily stress
- Access to multiple types of technology throughout the day and throughout school settings
- Consistent ongoing communication with the school district, family and outside providers
- Enrollment in 45-Day Assessment Program also available during the summer months

For FY18 the daily rate for members of EDCO Collaborative was \$310.00; for non-members it was \$371.00. Comparable programs in the area average \$345.37

# Contract Services

## EDCO objectives:

- To provide day programs and services for at-risk students
- To provide therapeutic services for adults with disabilities in collaboration with The Department of Developmental Services and /or other agencies
- To explore and pursue grants and other funding to support identified needs of the Member Districts and EDCO Collaborative community

## Progress toward objectives:

- In support of our mission, to improve education through interdistrict and interagency collaboration, to provide high quality education and related services to students-at-risk and to enhance equity, intercultural understanding and equal opportunity in education EDCO has partnered with state and federal agencies. The partnerships allow us to serve diverse populations. Contracts have been awarded to EDCO as a result of the competitive grant process or interagency agreements.
- EDCO enjoys a robust partnership with Boston Public Schools. First, EDCO manages the Youth Alternative Program. The City of Boston, the Boston Public Schools, the Department of Labor and other sponsoring agencies fund the program. The EDCO Youth Alternative has a 35-year track record of serving at-risk youth and returning high school dropouts, making it one of the longest-standing alternative education and school-to-career programs in the nation. EDCO Youth Alternative has the capacity to support and empower youth to achieve their educational and career goals.
- EDCO Collaborative also works on behalf of Boston Public Schools as the provider of Title I, Title IIa and now Title IV services for private and parochial schools in Boston. In 2017-2018 these supplemental services contributed to the academic support for children in 41 schools in the city of Boston.
- EDCO is the lead agency for a Title III consortium, comprised of five EDCO districts with fewer than 100 English language learners enrolled: Bedford, Concord, Lincoln, Sudbury and Weston. For 17-18, the grant amount was \$54,428.
- EDCO has been awarded the contract as a subgrantee of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Massachusetts Migrant Education Program. During FY18 the program served almost 500 migratory children and youth.
- For FY18, EDCO was in the second year of a federal High School Equivalency Grant to support migrant adults in earning a high school diploma. The grant amount is \$1,977,442 over 5 years.
- EDCO Collaborative's Special Education Surrogate Parent Program works in partnership with the Massachusetts Federation for Children appointing volunteers to act as special education decision makers for children in Massachusetts who are in the custody of a state agency.
- Lastly, through a grant from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), EDCO Collaborative provides therapeutic services to residents of the Wrentham Habilitative Center. The partnership meets EDCO's objective to provide adult services in partnership with DDS. In FY18, over 250 adults with developmental disabilities received related services through EDCO's Wrentham Habilitative Program. Services including occupational therapy, physical therapy, adapted physical education and orientation and mobility provided residents with significant opportunities for improved health, safety, recreation, and leisure throughout the year.

# EDCO Youth Alternative Program



Ajay Trivedi, Program Director

*Located in Kenmore Square, Boston*

The mission of EDCO Youth Alternative (EYA) is to educate young people and guide them toward their goals of a high school diploma and a successful step beyond graduation. We seek to create a diverse community and supportive environment that empowers students to work through difficulties, learn academic and life skills, and become advocates for a promising future. EYA provides a full academic program, along with counseling and related support services, for students who have dropped out, are significantly at risk of dropping out, or are several years delayed in earning a high school diploma. These students require a more supportive environment than a large, traditional high school can offer. The program is funded by the City of Boston and Department of Labor through the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, along with the Boston Public Schools. Students at EYA enjoy small, accredited classes in regular high school subjects with the goal of attaining a Boston Public Schools high school diploma. An individualized case plan is developed for each student to set high, attainable, goals. At a minimum, these goals include the attainment of a high school diploma and a successful step beyond graduation. In SY 17-18, 51 students were served in the program. EDCO Youth Alternative has enjoyed a long and successful relationship with Boston Public Schools due to the excellent services and positive results it has achieved over its 30+ years.

## **Program highlights and emphases:**

- August Leadership Institute with Boston Public Schools Headmasters
- EDCO teacher designed and kicked off a new marine biology course with consultation from New England Aquarium educators and Youth Rowing in the Inner Harbor
- EDCO students dual-enrolled for coursework through Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology.
- Students connected to More Than Words bookstore for youth employment and Future Chefs for culinary training
- Two students nominated to Boston Youth Service Network youth council
- Professional development from outside consultant focused on student engagement, cultural proficiency, and classroom management in the context of urban education.
- School coordinator working with Boston's Office of Workforce Development and Re-Engagement Center staff to build grant enrollments.
- Collaboration with Boston University School of Education through their School Counseling Program, working to establish placements at EDCO and consultation from BU staff members on support services and individual graduation plans.
- Building of entrepreneurship into Media Arts course: building a brand, designing a logo, layout of business cards, leading to printing of personal cards

# Boston Public Schools, Title I, Title II and Title IV

Dr. James Amara, Director

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*Located in the Boston Public Schools, Boston MA*

EDCO Collaborative serves as fiscal agent for the Boston Public Schools providing Title I, Title IIa and Title IV services to eligible students and staff for parochial and private schools in Boston. In FY 18, 41 schools and over 2,000 children were provided supplemental Title I services focused on improving student outcomes by implementing strategies that were uniquely aligned to a school's specific goals, challenges and culture. A total of 227 highly qualified educators were contracted under EDCO utilizing Title I funds either full time or part time that supported the work of individual teachers, tutors and consultants within Boston private schools.

Through Title IIa programming, teachers, administrators and tutors participated in a variety of learning opportunities that focused on the diverse learner and differentiation. Among the trainings that benefited teachers and students this year included the following: Analyzing Assessment Data, Understanding Learning Differences, Standards Based Learning, Teaching Tolerance, Keys to Comprehension, Collins Writing, Understanding Executive Functioning, Making Student Thinking Visible, Keys to Content Writing, Race and Writing, Student Motivation, and more.

With Title IV funding EDCO was able to support school leaders, students, teachers and parents through high quality professional development and programming. Most noteworthy for FY18 were: Bullying Prevention and Social Emotional Learning; The Courage to Speak program; train the trainer workshops in social emotional learning; Effective use of Technology in the Classroom; the use of Google applications for student learning; the Ready Rosie program for reaching out to parents with concrete techniques for social emotional learning. In addition, Young Audiences provided onsite lessons in art, music, history, civic and cultural awareness.

In addition, EDCO also provided information sessions, workshops and technical support to schools that wanted to expand their curriculum utilizing a hands-on project-based learning curriculum that is aligned to the National Standards called Project Lead the Way. This highly recognized K-12 STEM pre-engineering, engineering, computer science and biomedical science program is currently being used in over 10,000 schools across the US.

## Wrentham Habilitative Services

Jennifer Thoren, Program Director

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*Located at the Wrentham Developmental Center, Wrentham, MA*

EDCO's Habilitative Services Program (HSP) at Wrentham Developmental Center (WDC) provides therapeutic services to over 250 adult residents with intellectual disabilities through a grant awarded by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The HSP provides residents with significant opportunities for improved health, safety, recreation, and leisure through adapted physical education, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and orientation and mobility services. Although the majority of the therapies are preventive and designed to maintain or improve a resident's current level of functioning, treatments are also provided to individuals with short-term acute and rehabilitative needs, fractures, and following surgery or a community hospital stay.

*(continued)*

## Wrentham Habilitative Services (continued)

The HSP team is responsible for ongoing training and orientation to WDC employees on topics such as wheelchair safety, mechanical lifts, dysphagia, sensory integration/sensorimotor processing, fitness equipment, sensitivity to vision impairment and blindness, and techniques of orientation and mobility. They also provide ongoing consultation for the purchase of durable medical equipment, bathing equipment, beds and mattresses, adaptive technology, and adaptive equipment required by the unique needs of the residents.

As active participants on several WDC committees, including Health Care, Diversity, Risk Management, Training, Alzheimer's and Bereavement, the team demonstrates leadership by sharing their expertise in each respective focus area. The team also impacts the greater community by providing consultations and evaluations to DDS consumers living in the community, volunteering at the annual Cracker Barrel Fair, providing student observations and mentorship for aspiring therapists at the Urban Youth Collaborative Program, and providing administrative and fiscal oversight of the Quinn Gymnasium at WDC, which is utilized by numerous community groups on an ongoing basis.

### Notable program highlights for FY18 in each therapeutic area follow:

**The Adapted Physical Education (APE)** team provided movement and exercise opportunities to an average of 123 residents (46% of the population) per month. Additional accomplishments by the APE team include:

- "Let's Move!" This incentive-based walking program for both residents and staff was introduced this past spring to all three resident units at WDC. Prizes were awarded based on attendance, distance walked, and greatest unit participation. A total of 150 residents and staff participated in this highly successful program that was offered again this fall due to popular demand.
- "Drums Alive." This upbeat movement program continues to be offered weekly and is attended by an average of 20 to 30 residents and staff. A collaborative effort, led by our APE team with the assistance of recreation staff, the successful program was nominated for the prestigious Mary A. Calorio Memorial Award for demonstrating creativity, innovation, and excellence in the provision of services and supports to WDC residents.
- 36th Annual WDC Employee Health & Wellness Week. This week-long event provides activities designed to educate WDC employees on the importance of health and wellness for both themselves and the residents. This year's schedule included: resident yoga, an employee bocce tournament, Health and Wellness Day, an employee salad bar, animal assisted therapy and the recreation department's Motor Skills Day.

**The Occupational Therapy (OT)** team provided direct and consultative services to an average of 225 residents (85% of the population) per month. Additional accomplishments by the OT team include:

- Shubbie, an expertly trained facility dog, was introduced to WDC staff and residents by one of the Occupational Therapists. Together, they provide ongoing therapeutic services to an average of 17 residents weekly, in addition to visiting with larger groups of residents at numerous events held throughout the year.
- Organized the 4th annual Resident Fashion Show, which provided 26 residents and staff a red carpet welcome to a large cheering audience complete with WDC paparazzi.
- Established a study group focused on dysphagia, trialed new equipment to decrease the risk of aspiration, re-evaluated the textures of food and drinks using the national syringe test, and conducted a campus-wide training on the topic.
- Completed four occupational therapy evaluations for consumers living in the community.

**The Physical Therapy (PT)** team provided direct and consultative services to an average of 214 residents (80% of the population) per month. Additional accomplishments by the PT team include:

- Worked collaboratively with the transportation department, Assistive Technology Resource Center, and facility administration to develop and implement transportation policies and procedures for individuals with wheelchairs.

- Organized 16 Hippotherapy sessions (the use of equine movement as a therapeutic treatment to achieve functional outcomes) for six residents during the spring and fall.
- Coordinated and attended orthotics/shoe clinics for a total of 167 resident visits.
- Completed four physical therapy evaluations for consumers living in the community.

**The Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Assistants Team** provided services, both direct and indirect, to an average of 53 residents (20% of the population) per month. Additional accomplishments by the O&M team include:

- Provided volunteer coordination, pre-conference preparation, and on-site service for the 13th Annual “Focus” on Vision Impairment and Blindness Conference: Meeting the Needs of Individuals with Intellectual Disability and Vision Loss.
- Scheduled and ran eyeglass clinics: 90 visits were made for training and repairs on behalf of 28 residents, each of whom have two pairs of eyeglasses

## Massachusetts Migrant Education Program

Emily Hoffman, Program Director

*Located throughout Massachusetts*



The Massachusetts Migrant Education Program (MMEP) is a federally funded program through Title I, part c to provide supplemental educational supports to the children of migratory agricultural workers, migratory fisherman and in some situations, the migratory workers themselves. The program serves migratory children who reside in over 25 communities located throughout the Commonwealth. The program’s major components include working with the school districts and community based organizations to identify and recruit all eligible students, connect students and their families with resources and programs in their schools and communities and to provide supplemental learning opportunities when needed. These activities include: homework assistance and tutoring; English/Life skills and HSE programs for out of school youth; parent empowerment and family literacy services; student and family advocacy; outreach and recruitment services; and summer services that provide language development instruction, ELA, Math and Science enrichment through site-based summer programming

In FY18 the MMEP began implementation of a revised service delivery plan (SDP), focusing academic support services to students with a Priority for Service, high school students and those students (preschool and out of school youth) who would not receive services from the school district where they reside. Summer services continued to be robust in offerings and attendance, serving over 75% of eligible students in the Commonwealth.

In FY18, the Massachusetts Migrant Education Program served more than 500 students. Services provided include:

- Support for preschoolers to enroll in structured Early Childhood Education programs in their community
- Site and home-based supplemental educational supports during the academic year
- Support for Out-of-School Youth: English classes, Life Skills, Adult Basic Education
- Academic interventions
- Academic summer programs (Pre K-12)
- High School Equivalency Test preparation
- Referral services to educational, health and other services in the community, including the New England HEP
- Programming aimed at family involvement
- College and Career Readiness activities for 7-12 graders and OSY

# New England High School Equivalency Program



Christine Damon, EDCO HEP Director

*Located in Bedford, MA, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont*

EDCO Collaborative is the successful grantee of The New England High School Equivalency Program (NE HEP), federally funded through the Office of Migrant Education. The program is aimed at helping migratory and seasonal farmworkers to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma by passing the HiSET or GED exam. The program then assists in the pursuit of employment or postsecondary education or training. The NE HEP works with students in Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. The program is a joint collaboration of EDCO, The University of Vermont Extension, and World Education, Inc. as well as the Migrant Education Programs in each of the four states. NE HEP students are provided with technology, resources and tutoring support that enable them to independently study for the HiSET or GED exam. Each student is assigned a coordinator who works to develop an individual learning plan and timeline for test completion. The coordinator and student meet bi-weekly either in person or virtually.

As of June 30, 2018 sixty-eight students were enrolled in the program. Eight students successfully completed the high school equivalency (HSE) exams and either began vocational training programs or community college, or improved their employment situation.

## Special Education Surrogate Parent Program



Megan Ronzio, Director

*Working in conjunction with DESE*

EDCO Collaborative's Special Education Surrogate Parent (SESP) Program is a state-wide organization that works to appoint trained special education decision-makers to eligible students who are in state custody, whose parents are unknown or unable to be located, or who are classified as Unaccompanied Homeless Youth or Unaccompanied Refugee Minors. In FY18, 535 eligible students were appointed to an SESP through the program and were provided subsequent case management services. In addition, the SESP Program conducts ongoing outreach initiatives to DCF offices, school districts, and professional educator organizations across the state by offering trainings and distribution of information.

The SESP Program works through a shared grant of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, in partnership with the Massachusetts Federation for Children with Special Needs.



# Professional Learning / Partnerships

## EDCO objectives:

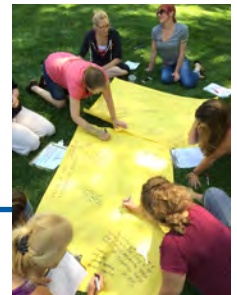
- To offer quality professional learning opportunities to general and special education teachers and administrators, related service providers, school committees, and charter school boards
- To explore and pursue grants and other funding to support identified needs of the Member Districts and community

## Progress toward objectives:

EDCO Collaborative aims to provide quality professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators, related service providers, and school committees. This is accomplished through the work of the McSwiney Center for Professional Learning, our Roundtables, programs geared toward promoting and supporting cultural diversity, and our Educator Leadership Institute.

Participation in EDCO Collaborative roundtables continued to increase over FY18. Roundtables are offered for school committee members, administrators, curriculum and instruction coordinators, special education administrators, and more. Our school committee orientation program continued with seven new school committee members receiving training certification.

The Educator Leadership Institute received reapproval from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a leadership licensure program. The program graduated and endorsed 32 candidates in June of 2018.



## McSwiney Center for Professional Learning

Dr. Andrew Kelley, Director

*Located at 36 Middlesex Turnpike in Bedford, MA*

## Mission:

The McSwiney Center for Professional Learning provides professional learning programs, networking opportunities, and special projects to assist member school districts in strengthening their curriculum and instruction. The McSwiney Center program goals are developed by district representatives on EDCO's Program Advisory Committee in concert with EDCO staff to address current issues and needs across the collaborative.

## McSwiney Center Objectives:

- Establish and support networks and forums for sharing information, resources, and state-of-the-art theory and practice about teaching and learning
- Design and manage high quality, cost effective professional learning programs that address members' interests and needs
- Provide technical assistance programs for member districts on new state regulations
- Extend member systems' access to programs, resources and materials of local institutions through collaborative projects and alliances

## Program Highlights from the 2017 - 2018 School Year:

- Provided support to districts around current ESE initiatives, including SEI Endorsement courses for teachers and administrators, and 15 hour workshops to meet the recertification requirements in working with ELL students and students with disabilities. EDCO offered 12 teacher endorsement courses and 4 administrator courses with 289 educators receiving their SEI endorsement through EDCO-sponsored courses. Additionally, EDCO offered 24 15-hour courses assisting 368 educators to satisfy the recertification requirement. Many courses were tailored specifically to meet the needs of teachers in content areas such as Art, Music, P.E. and Library.
- Developed specialized professional learning seminars, workshops and courses in the fields of art, early childhood education, foreign language, history/social studies, language arts, library research, mathematics, multicultural education, music, physical education, science, special education and technology.
- Overall, EDCO served over 3,500 teachers and administrators in 212 professional learning programs led by current and former EDCO teachers and administrators and by regional and national leaders in their field.
- Provided support to administrators through SEI endorsement courses, and a workshop for new administrators on the evaluation system.
- Secured grant funding through DESE in the areas of both science and English language learning. The Title III grant funding focused on English language learning for five EDCO districts that would not otherwise have had access to the funds. The funds (\$54,428) supported before and after school and summer tutoring for ELLs as well as professional learning at no cost to the districts. Through the funding for science, EDCO worked with curriculum leaders to create a course for teachers on the new science standards with 23 participants in attendance.
- Convened and facilitated over 20 inter-district professional learning groups comprised of specialists, lead teachers, coordinators and administrators; in addition, arranged for groups in certain content areas to meet to plan for interdisciplinary alignment.
- Partnered with Keys to Literacy and Commonwealth Learning Center to successfully host EDCO's first annual Literacy Conference serving over 125 participants. In addition, EDCO was able to offer a unique conference during district PD days by partnering with Shore Collaborative and servicing over 130 educators.
- Partnered with local and national organizations and institutions to bring programs, research and information to districts, including: Boston Children's Hospital, Commonwealth Learning Center, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Heinemann, Keys to Literacy, MA Audubon Society, MassCUE, MATSOL, MRA, MSLA, Salem State University, TERC, Thoreau Institute, Wilson-Language Institute, World War II Museum in Natick, and Worcester State University.
- Contracted with highly sought after presenters such as Robert Brooks, Nadine Gaab and Graham Fletcher.

## Benefits for Member Districts:

- EDCO member educators are able to attend workshops led by distinguished national leaders in their fields such as Graham Fletcher thanks to cost-sharing among the districts. A national leader such as Graham Fletcher charges \$9,000 in consultant fees and travel expenses. Through EDCO, 120 teachers were able to attend one of two full day sessions for \$150 per person.
- Through the job-alike groups, EDCO is able to identify member educators who have particular expertise to share across the collaborative. More than 20 teachers from EDCO districts taught/co-taught workshops in 2017-18.

- EDCO Collaborative’s professional learning workshops and courses are offered at the lowest possible fee to cover the cost of the presenter and a modest overhead rate. Tuitions range from \$15 - \$450, depending upon course length and provider fees. These rates compare favorably to other institutions where fees may range from \$100 to \$1000.
- A one-credit course is offered through the McSwiney Center for \$195. Rates at colleges and universities in our geographical area range from \$328 per credit at a public university to \$1556 at a private university. Through a partnership with Worcester State University, EDCO was able to provide graduate level credit to 383 educators.
- EDCO Collaborative Roundtables (job-alikes) are offered at no charge to member districts

## Leadership Roundtables

EDCO’s membership fee supports unique opportunities for information exchange, collaborative project development, and shared professional learning experiences at no additional cost to the member districts. The professional learning groups are a key component of EDCO’s professional learning. Frequently, we receive requests from educators in non-member districts to join our groups.

- School Committee
- Superintendents
- Assistant Superintendents for Curriculum and Instruction
- High School Principals
- Middle School Principals
- Special Education Administrators
- School Psychologists
- Team Chairpersons
- Early Childhood Directors
- K-8 ELA Coordinators
- K-8 Math Coordinators
- K-8 Science Coordinators
- K-8 Social Studies Coordinators
- Technology Leadership
- Data Specialists
- Network Managers
- Technology Integration Specialists
- Library Coordinators/Teachers
- Health and Wellness Coordinators
- Board Certified Behavior Analysts
- English Language Learners Coordinators
- Foreign Language Coordinators
- Support Staff

### **Benefits / Cost Savings for Member Districts:**

Comparable job-alikes in EDCO’s geographic area are offered for \$600-\$1500 for the year. EDCO roundtables also offer the opportunity for professionals from like districts to brainstorm issues and challenges. Attendees express their gratitude for the opportunity to reach out to peers who have experienced similar challenges, thus promoting collaboration and saving on attorney fees.

## Initiatives for Developing Equity and Achievement for Students

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IDEAS is committed to achievement and success for all students via culturally proficient classrooms and schools that honor the individuality of students and families of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds. IDEAS builds upon EDCO's mission in supporting member and non-member districts as they focus on culturally proficient schools and classrooms. IDEAS will extend the professional learning opportunities available to school districts as they work to enhance the culturally proficient practices identified in Standards II and III of the MA DESE Model Teacher Rubric.

### **Program Highlights:**

- Professional learning opportunities in cultural proficiency to support equity and success for all students.
- Student Leadership Conferences for middle and high school students to help shape diversity initiatives.
- Consultation about curriculum and developing culturally proficient classrooms and schools.
- Customized professional development workshops for educators, administrators and/or community members.
- Ongoing Book Group discussions on topics of equity, race and teaching practices.
- Tenacity Challenge: Academic Scholarship Competition for Latino and African-American students.
- First Annual IDEAS Conference at Bentley University: From EMI to IDEAS.

### **Progress Toward Objectives:**

IDEAS supports member and non-member districts in promoting and sustaining culturally proficient classrooms. During FY18, over 30 courses and workshops were offered through IDEAS with more than 350 educators participating.

## **New School Committee Orientation Program**

EDCO Collaborative provides training annually for new school committee members. The training is approved by The Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools and is free of charge. Topics covered include Board Roles and Responsibilities, Legal Aspects of School Committee Membership, Special Education Issues, and Working With the Superintendent.

## Other Services

### **EDCO Objective:**

- To offer cooperative and regional programs and/or services to help Member Districts maximize cost efficiency and program effectiveness through a collaborative effort.

### **Progress toward objective:**

- EDCO Collaborative works to address the diverse needs of our member districts. Toward that end, EDCO works collaboratively with LABBB Collaborative to provide special education transportation for several EDCO districts.
- Cooperative transportation supports the districts in providing services cost-effectively.
- In addition, EDCO Collaborative sponsors cooperative purchasing of electricity and natural gas. This collaborative venture supports member and non-member districts in procurement of heating and electricity services for school and municipal buildings.
- EDCO provides financial services for LABBB Collaborative including accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and human resources. In addition, LABBB leases office space from EDCO Collaborative. EDCO, LABBB and CASE Collaboratives have joined forces to provide professional learning opportunities aimed at special education to member districts.

## Special Education Transportation

EDCO has joined together with LABBB Collaborative to coordinate transportation for students with disabilities in seven of our member districts (Arlington, Belmont, Burlington, Lexington, Waltham, Watertown, and Weston.)

### **EDCO objective:**

- To offer cooperative and regional programs and/or services to help Member Districts maximize cost efficiency and program effectiveness through a collaborative effort.

### **Progress toward objective:**

In FY18 the transportation network safely transported approximately 496 students; 182 within districts, over 314 to out of district placements, and 10 privately paid. Top priorities of the network are safety and communication. The cultivation of excellent relationships with both families and vendors has resulted in satisfaction of all stakeholders as well as tremendous savings on transportation costs.

# Appendix A - Cost Comparison

## Cost Comparison:

### EDCO Special Education Programs / Comparable Private Separate Day Programs

Program	Daily Rate	Program	Daily Rate	Program	Daily Rate	Program	Daily Rate
EDCO Deaf & Hard of Hearing	\$299.56	Partners Program	\$346.71	North Crossing Therapeutic	\$308.22	North Crossing 45-Day Assess.	\$310.00
Private Day	\$368.75	Private Day	\$466.20	Private Day	\$386.00	Private Day	\$251.74
Private Day	\$250.68	Private Day	\$312.58	Private Day	\$284.36	Private Day	\$438.99
Private Day	\$297.25	Private Day	\$376.92	Private Day	\$400.91		
Private Day	\$313.69	Private Day	\$429.00	Private Day	\$312.85		
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$307.60</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>\$396.18</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>\$346.03</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>\$345.37</b>

Source: Operational Services Division, Authorized Prices Fiscal Year 2018, In-State Special Education Programs



# Appendix B - FY16 Audit

**By the Audit Firm**



**FRITZ DEGUGLIELMO LLC**  
**Certified Public Accountants**

To view the complete FY17 audit, please visit  
<http://www.edcollab.org>



**FRITZ DEGUGLIELMO LLC**  
**CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**  
**& BUSINESS ADVISORS**  
**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
EDCO Collaborative  
Bedford, Massachusetts

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of EDCO Collaborative (a collaborative organized under the Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise EDCO Collaborative's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Opinions***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of EDCO Collaborative, as of June 30, 2018, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.



### **Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note A to the financial statements, in fiscal 2018, the Collaborative fully implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statements No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plan Other Than Pension Plans* and No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### **Other Matters**

#### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and pension schedules on pages 3-7 and 28-30 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### ***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise EDCO Collaborative's basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

#### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 15, 2018, on our consideration of EDCO Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of EDCO Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering EDCO Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

  
Certified Public Accountants

Newburyport, Massachusetts  
November 15, 2018

**EDCO Collaborative**  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
June 30, 2018

Our discussion and analysis of EDCO Collaborative's ("EDCO") financial performance provides an overview of EDCO's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. Please read it in conjunction with the financial statements that begin on page 8.

**Overview of Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to EDCO's financial statements. EDCO's financial statements comprise three components: 1) government-wide financial statements; 2) fund financial statements; and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

***Government-wide Statements:***

The government-wide financial statements report information about EDCO as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies.

- The **Statement of Net Position** presents information on all of EDCO's assets and liabilities with the difference between the two reported as net position. It is one way of measuring EDCO's financial health or position.
- The **Statement of Activities** presents information showing how EDCO's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Over time, increases or decreases in EDCO's net position is an indicator of whether its financial position is improving or deteriorating. The reader will also need to consider other non-financial factors such as changes in economic conditions when evaluating the overall financial health of EDCO.

***Fund Financial Statements:***

Funds are accounting devices used to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending in particular categories: governmental funds, proprietary funds, and fiduciary funds. Presently, EDCO has only governmental funds.

- **Governmental funds** – EDCO's basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on: 1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out, and 2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental funds statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance EDCO's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, additional information (reconciliation schedules) is provided following the governmental funds statements that explains the relationship (or differences) between these two types of financial statement presentations.

***Notes to the Financial Statements:***

The Notes to the Financial Statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the information provided in EDCO's financial statements.

***Required Supplementary Information:***

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information which is required to be disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**EDCO Collaborative**  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
June 30, 2018

**Government-wide Financial Highlights**

***Revenue and Other Support***

Revenue and other support for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 increased \$952,973, or 8% from the prior fiscal year, excluding retirement systems on-behalf revenue. EDCO Collaborative (EDCO) recorded dividend and interest income, and realized and unrealized gains on investments of \$30,289 and \$109,689, respectively, in fiscal year 2018. The Collaborative's Federal and state grants experienced increases in revenues, such as a new contract for Title IV, while the majority of the revenue increases are related to increased demand and rates for services.

Service fee income increased \$19,787 or 5% from the prior fiscal year. The increased service fee for fiscal year 2018 was agreed to by the LABBB Educational Collaborative (LABBB). The majority of the increase relates to sharing higher costs related to human resource and accounting staff.

***Expenses***

Expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 increased \$1,854,621 or 16% from the prior fiscal year, including other postemployment benefits expense, investment fees and interest expense and excluding retirement systems on-behalf expense. While numerous programs experienced expense increases, including tuition based programs, the Title I Services saw a large increase in revenue and also saw an increase in the amount of expenses associated with the program. With the addition of the new Title IV Services, there was both an increase in revenues and expenditures over the previous year. The Special Education Tuition program saw its revenues decrease. There were several programs and grants that experienced small decreases in expenses. The program and grant that experienced the most significant decrease in expenses was the Title IIA program.

Service fee expenses increased \$20,447 or 6%. The majority of the increase relates to higher costs of human resource and accounting staff.

Management and general expenses decreased \$57,956 or 4%, excluding depreciation expense. There was an approximately \$31,000 increase in management and general payroll expenses and a decrease of approximately \$89,000 in other general expenses in fiscal year 2018.

***Change in Net Position***

EDCO Collaborative's net position decreased by approximately \$83,000 in fiscal 2018, excluding OPEB expense in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") Statement No. 75, compared to an increase of \$191,000 in fiscal 2017. The deficit in fiscal 2018 was a result of expenses exceeding revenues during the year, primarily increases to program salaries and benefits as well as capital outlays and increased supplies and equipment costs. During fiscal 2018, EDCO Collaborative recorded increases in net retirement health benefit obligations required by GASB Statement No. 75 of \$627,716. Other changes in assets and liabilities are due primarily to operations in fiscal 2018.

***Total Assets***

Total assets as of June 30, 2018 decreased \$250,118 or 5% from June 30, 2017. Accounts receivable and unbilled revenue increased by a combined \$304,617, primarily due to uncollected invoices being higher at June 30, 2018. Equipment and leasehold improvements increased by \$170,281 primarily due to leasehold improvements and equipment expenses in excess of depreciation expense, while cash and investments decreased \$735,729. The majority of the changes relate to the general operations of the Collaborative.

**EDCO Collaborative**  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
June 30, 2018

**Government-wide Financial Highlights – (continued)**

EDCO maintains cash balances with Rockland Trust and the MMDT. Cash balances at Rockland Trust are maintained at levels that at times exceed FDIC protection. Cash balances at the MMDT are not FDIC insured. The MMDT is managed by the Massachusetts State Treasurer and Federated Investments and offers investors a stable investment option, competitive yields, low cost, liquidity, and professional management. The MMDT investment objectives are the preservation of capital, maintaining a high level of portfolio liquidity, and to attain the highest level of current income consistent with the objectives of preservation of capital and liquidity. To achieve the investment objectives, the MMDT limits investments to the highest quality U.S. dollar-denominated money market instruments of domestic and foreign issuers, U.S. government securities, and repurchase agreements. EDCO had a minimal amount invested with the MMDT during fiscal year 2018.

The Collaborative maintains its restricted funds for its professional development center in an investment account that is professionally managed by Boston Private Bank & Trust Company. As of June 30, 2018, the portfolio composition included 72% equity securities, 20% fixed income securities, 2% mutual funds, and 6% cash and cash equivalents. The Collaborative manages its investments in accordance with state public finance laws that require that all moneys held in the name of the Collaborative, which are not required to be kept liquid for purposes of distribution, shall be invested in such a manner as to require the payment of interest on the money at the highest possible rate reasonably available, taking account of safety, liquidity and yield. The Collaborative has directed Boston Private Bank & Trust Company to manage the funds in accordance with these laws. However, the investments are still subject to market risk of loss.

Net equipment and improvements increased \$170,281 in fiscal year 2018. The increase consists of leasehold improvements of \$264,363 and equipment purchases of \$100,865 net of depreciation totaling \$194,946. Capitalized items cost a minimum of \$5,000 and are depreciated over their useful lives, ranging from 3 to 15 years, using the straight-line method of depreciation with a half year convention.

***Liabilities and Net Position***

Total liabilities as of June 30, 2018 increased \$460,604 or 23% from June 30, 2017. During the year ended June 30, 2016, EDCO entered into a \$1,200,000 note payable agreement with the owner of 36 Middlesex Turnpike in Bedford, Massachusetts to finance leasehold improvements. The Collaborative has paid down the balance of the note by \$97,512 during the year ended June 30, 2018. There were large increases in accrued expenses in fiscal 2018 but there was a large decrease in deferred revenues which netted a decrease in current liabilities of \$94,448. The Collaborative fully implemented GASB Statement No. 75 in fiscal 2018 and recorded an increase in the beginning OPEB liability of \$3,503,802 as a result of the change in accounting principle. The remaining increase in liabilities is primarily due to the fiscal 2018 increase in the OPEB liability.

**Governmental Funds Financial Highlights**

The Collaborative reported a total general fund balance of \$2,406,983, of which \$1,722,340 is unassigned. The fund balance decreased \$318,761 over the prior fiscal year, primarily as a result of operations. Accounts receivable and unbilled revenue increased by a combined \$304,617. Cash and investments decreased \$735,729. Accounts payable and accrued expenses increased by \$216,360. In addition, deferred revenue decreased by \$315,797.

**EDCO Collaborative**  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
June 30, 2018

**Budgetary Highlights**

EDCO's annual budget for fiscal 2018 was approved by its Board of Directors. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, EDCO received revenues, excluding retirement systems on-behalf revenue, of approximately \$13,329,000 compared to amended budgeted revenues of approximately \$13,816,000. The difference between actual revenues received and budgeted revenues is approximately 3.5% of budgeted revenues.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, EDCO incurred expenses, excluding retirement systems on-behalf revenue, of approximately \$13,514,000 compared to amended budgeted expenses of approximately \$13,767,000. The difference between actual expenses incurred and budgeted expenses is approximately 2% of budgeted expenses. The primary differences between budgeted revenues and expenses was new, mid/late-year unplanned or unbudgeted expenses, a modest loss of 5% in tuition and service revenue and an increase in capital, one-time expenses.

**Known Facts, Decisions, or Conditions**

EDCO continues to invest in the quality of its educational programs through curriculum and technology enhancements, recruiting & retaining strong teachers and student support staff and improving rigor and relevancy of our professional development for our educators and administrators.

The McSwiney Center for Professional Learning continues to offer and enhance its high quality professional development programs for educators and administrators. Center staff members work closely with member districts to identify and develop course offerings that meet the needs of the districts. Since fiscal year 2013, the Center has sponsored institutes on The Art of Science, the Science of Art and Fostering Mathematical Practices with English Learners, initiated new roundtables for Guidance Counselors and Data Specialists and assisted districts in planning for implementation of district-determined measures. The Center staff continues to offer programs to support English Language Learners (ELL), and to sponsor math and literacy programs that address the Common Core standards for teaching and learning.

The LABBB/EDCO Transportation Network continues, under the joint management of LABBB and EDCO, and offers transportation services every month of the year. The Transportation Network transports students with disabilities from seven member school districts, namely Arlington, Belmont, Burlington, Lexington, Waltham, Watertown and Weston. The Transportation Network was developed to improve quality and planning for transportation services and substantially reduce costs for school districts through group purchasing and cost sharing. EDCO provides accounting, financial and procurement services for the Transportation Network and offsets some administrative costs to its administration.

EDCO Collaborative moved to a new building in Bedford, MA in September 2014. The building renovations began in the late spring of 2014. The new facility provides more office space for administration, larger and improved conference and meeting space for the McSwiney Center for Professional Learning, and new academic, clinical, extracurricular and culinary space for three schools: EDCO Collaborative's North Crossing Academy and Partners Program and for CASE Collaborative's Rise Program. The space includes fourteen classrooms, a science lab, an art studio, a media library, five sensory rooms, a recreation gym and fitness center, a full kitchen and student cafeteria. The Academy and Partners have the capacity to serve over one hundred thirty students.

The Academy offers three unique programs:

1. A Therapeutic Day School (North Crossing) – This program serves students in grades 6 to 12 who have had mental health, social/emotional, or behavioral needs, the impact of which adversely affects daily school performance.

**EDCO Collaborative**  
Management's Discussion and Analysis  
June 30, 2018

**Known Facts, Decisions, or Conditions – (continued)**

2. **45-Day Assessment Program** – This program serves students in grades 6 to 12 who are referred by their school districts for an in-depth analysis of learning, social, emotional and /or behavioral needs.
3. **Youth Alternative Interim Program** – A program for students who have been suspended from their school program for disciplinary code violation and/or school district personnel are unclear about the most effective educational options for students. This is an interim program for students in grades 9 to 12.

EDCO implemented GASB Statement No. 68 in fiscal year 2015. The standard relates to the accounting and financial reporting for pensions. EDCO's employees participate in the Massachusetts Teachers' (MTRS) or State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS), statewide cost-sharing multi-employer defined benefit plans public employee retirement systems (PERS) covering all employees of local school districts within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("the Commonwealth").

Educational collaboratives contribute amounts equal to the normal cost of employees' benefits participating in MSERS at a rate established by the Public Employees' Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), currently 5.6% of covered payroll. The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor in MTRS and MSERS and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers participating in MTRS. Therefore, the Collaborative is considered to be in a 100% special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68. Since the employers do not contribute directly to each system beyond the MSERS annual normal cost, there is no net pension liability to recognize. However, the notes to the financial statements must disclose the portion of the nonemployer contributing entities' share of the collective net pension liability that is associated with the employer. In addition, EDCO must recognize its portion of the collective pension expense as both revenue and pension expense.

EDCO implemented GASB Statement No. 75 in fiscal 2018. The Collaborative historically recorded the cost of the postemployment health benefits on a "pay as you go" basis. Under GASB Statement No. 75, the Collaborative is required to report the effects of OPEB-related transactions and events on its financial statements and to provide information about the Collaborative's OPEB obligations and the assets available to satisfy the obligations. This change significantly increased and accelerated the recording of these costs and significantly impacted the Collaborative's government-wide financials in fiscal year 2018. The Collaborative recorded a charge for the estimated annual cost of the program for fiscal year 2018 of \$627,716. The opening balance in the government-wide net position as a result of the cumulative effect of this change in accounting principle was \$3,503,802 as was reported on the Statement of Activities.

***Requests for Information***

This financial report is designed to provide readers of the financial statements an overview of EDCO's financial activities. If you have questions in regard to this report, contact our Executive Director, Nadine Ekstrom, or our Director of Business Management and Human Resources, Thomas Markham, at (617) 738-5600.

**EDCO Collaborative**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2018**

	<b>Governmental Activities</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 213,075
Investments	1,210,748
Accounts receivable, net	1,330,103
Unbilled receivables	504,404
Prepaid expenses	27,478
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,285,808</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>	
Equipment and improvements, net	1,924,728
Deposits	13,675
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>1,938,403</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,224,211</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET POSITION</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Current portion of note payable	\$ 102,501
Accounts payable	332,009
Accrued liabilities	472,324
Deferred revenue	74,492
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>981,326</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities:</b>	
Compensated absences	122,200
Deposits	5,684
Note payable, net of current portion	735,015
Net OPEB liability	4,131,518
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,994,417</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5,975,743</b>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	1,087,212
Unrestricted	(2,523,387)
Restricted	684,643
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>(751,532)</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 5,224,211</b>

**EDCO Collaborative**  
**Statement of Activities**  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2018

Functions/ Programs	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>				
Administration	\$ 1,561,857	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,561,857)
Educational and instructional	10,069,537	4,202,441	7,245,085	1,377,989
Transportation	23,431	34,985	-	11,554
Professional development	958,660	691,816	-	(266,844)
Other Services	408,799	489,521	-	80,722
Intergovernmental revenue and expense	1,831,007	-	1,831,007	-
Other postemployment benefits	627,716	-	-	(627,716)
Interest expense	54,927	-	-	(54,927)
Depreciation and amortization	194,946	-	-	(194,946)
<b>Total Governmental Activities</b>	<b>\$ 15,730,880</b>	<b>\$ 5,418,763</b>	<b>\$ 9,076,092</b>	<b>(1,236,025)</b>
<b>General revenue:</b>				
Assessments to member districts				225,061
Interest and dividend income				30,289
Realized and unrealized gains on investments				109,689
Other				160,264
<b>Total General Revenue</b>				<b>525,303</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>				<b>(710,722)</b>
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year -</b>				
As previously reported				3,462,992
Cumulative effect of a change in accounting principle (see Note A)				(3,503,802)
As restated				<b>(40,810)</b>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>				<b>\$ (751,532)</b>



**EDCO Collaborative  
Balance Sheet  
Governmental Funds  
June 30, 2018**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Professional Development Fund</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 213,075	\$ -	\$ 213,075
Investments	526,105	684,643	1,210,748
Accounts receivable, net	1,330,103	-	1,330,103
Unbilled receivables	504,404	-	504,404
Prepaid expenses	27,478	-	27,478
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 684,643</b>	<b>\$ 3,285,808</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts payable	\$ 332,009	\$ -	\$ 332,009
Accrued liabilities	472,324	-	472,324
Deferred revenue	74,492	-	74,492
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>878,825</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>			
Nonspendable	-	-	-
Restricted	-	684,643	684,643
Committed	-	-	-
Assigned	-	-	-
Unassigned	1,722,340	-	1,722,340
	<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>684,643</b>	<b>2,406,983</b>
	<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$ 684,643</b>	<b>\$ 3,285,808</b>

**EDCO Collaborative**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Governmental Funds**  
**For the Year Ended June 30, 2018**

	<b>General Fund</b>	<b>Professional Development Fund</b>	<b>Total Governmental Funds</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Tuition and services revenue	\$ 5,418,763	\$ -	\$ 5,418,763
Member assessments	225,061	-	225,061
Grants and contributions	7,245,085	-	7,245,085
Intergovernmental revenue	1,831,007	-	1,831,007
Interest, investment and other income	305,926	-	305,926
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>15,025,842</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,025,842</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Administration	1,561,857	-	1,561,857
Program payroll	6,668,191	-	6,668,191
Program fringe benefits and payroll taxes	1,452,464	-	1,452,464
Contract services and professional fees	1,370,294	-	1,370,294
Transportation and travel	170,014	-	170,014
Rent and other occupancy	540,890	-	540,890
Building maintenance	11,575	-	11,575
Telephone and utilities	143,415	-	143,415
Supplies, equipment and technology	816,887	-	816,887
Education and training	117,058	-	117,058
Other	143,284	-	143,284
Intergovernmental expense	1,831,007	-	1,831,007
Capital outlay, net of debt incurred	365,228	-	365,228
<b>Debt Service:</b>			
Debt principal	97,512	-	97,512
Debt interest	54,927	-	54,927
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>15,344,603</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,344,603</b>
Excess (deficit) of Revenues over Expenditures	(318,761)	-	(318,761)
<b>Other Financing Sources:</b>			
Transfer from professional development fund	134,288	(134,288)	-
<b>Net Change in Fund Balances</b>	<b>(184,473)</b>	<b>(134,288)</b>	<b>(318,761)</b>
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning of Year -</b>	<b>1,906,813</b>	<b>818,931</b>	<b>2,725,744</b>
<b>Fund Balances, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ 1,722,340</b>	<b>\$ 684,643</b>	<b>\$ 2,406,983</b>



*Strength in Diversity • Quality through Collaboration*

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Beth Petr &lt;bpetr@abschools.org&gt;

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## This Month in the Division of Open Government

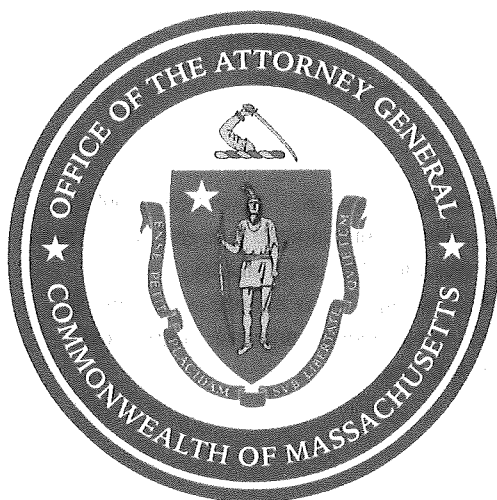
2 messages

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Attorney General's Division of Open Government <OpenMeeting@state.ma.us>  
Reply-To: Attorney General's Division of Open Government <OpenMeeting@state.ma.us>  
To: bpetr@abschools.org

Thu, Jan 31, 2019 at 3:56 PM

[View this email in your browser](#)



## This Month in the Division of Open Government January 2019

Good morning,

We are writing today to share updates from the Attorney General's Division of Open Government.

Included in this month's edition:

- Training Opportunities
- Open Meeting Law Advisory Commission
- Guidance Spotlight: Executive Session Minutes

Please pass along the information below to your constituencies and to anyone else who might be interested.

As always, you are welcome to contact us at (617) 963-2540 or [OpenMeeting@State.MA.US](mailto:OpenMeeting@State.MA.US) with any Open Meeting Law questions.

In partnership,

## The Attorney General's Division of Open Government

### Training Opportunities

We are currently in the process of scheduling our spring regional trainings to be held in April and May. Keep an eye on our [training website](#) for information about upcoming sessions. In the meantime, we will be offering the following webinars:

#### Upcoming Open Meeting Law Webinar Trainings

**Wednesday, February 6, 2019: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**Tuesday, March 12, 2019: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Training Registration:** These educational forums are offered free of charge. All members of public bodies, municipal employees, and members of the general public are encouraged to attend. Individuals interested in attending an educational forum are asked to register in advance by emailing [OMLTraining@state.ma.us](mailto:OMLTraining@state.ma.us) or by calling 617-963-2925, and providing: 1) their first and last names; 2) phone number; 3) email address; 4) town of residence; 5) the public body/organization they represent, if applicable; and 6) the location of the educational forum they will attend.

### Open Meeting Law Advisory Commission

The OMLAC plans to meet next on February 13, 2019 at 1 p.m. The meeting notice will be posted on the [OMLAC website](#) once it becomes available.

### Guidance Spotlight:

#### Executive Session Minutes

All of our FAQs about the Open Meeting Law can now be found on one page at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-open-meeting-law>. This month, we draw your attention to a few frequently asked questions about the process for reviewing and approving executive session minutes:

#### **What process must public bodies follow for reviewing executive session minutes for approval?**

Executive session minutes must be approved in a timely manner, just like open session minutes. Executive session minutes may be withheld from disclosure "as long as publication may defeat the lawful purposes of the executive session, but no longer." G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f). If a public body reviews confidential portions of executive session minutes in open session, it may risk publicly disclosing confidential information. For this reason, a public body may decide to designate the chair or another

individual to review and approve executive session minutes, or it may review the minutes together in executive session (see below).

**Can a public body convene in executive session to approve executive session minutes?**

Yes, a public body may convene in executive session to review and approve executive session minutes. A public body may convene in executive session under the original purpose for the executive session, or it may convene in executive session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) "[t]o comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements" ("Purpose 7"), citing to the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§ 22(f), (g). That section of the Open Meeting Law requires public bodies to review executive session meeting minutes and allows them to withhold executive session minutes and documents used therein from the public until the purpose for confidentiality has expired.

**What process must public bodies follow for reviewing executive session minutes for release to the public?**

The Open Meeting Law requires that a public body, or its chair or designee, review the minutes of its executive sessions at reasonable intervals to determine if the Open Meeting Law warrants continued non-disclosure. G.L. c. 30A, § 22(g)(1). Upon a request for executive session meeting minutes, it shall review those minutes and release "the non-exempt minutes, or any portion thereof, not later than the body's next meeting or 30 days, whichever first occurs." G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f).

The law requires a two-stage review of executive session minutes, with both stages occurring within 30 days of a request. G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f), (g)(2). First, the public body must determine whether the executive session purpose continues to warrant confidentiality. G.L. c. 30A, § 22(f). Second, if the purpose no longer warrants confidentiality, then the public body must determine whether the attorney-client privilege or one or more of the exemptions under the Public Records Law apply to withhold the minutes, or a portion thereof, from disclosure. Id. At the conclusion of this review, the public body must respond to the requester and either make the minutes available or provide an explanation of what is being withheld and why. A public body may not charge the requester a fee for this review.

**2018 Determinations about Executive Session Minutes**

In 2018, we issued a number of determinations relating to executive session minutes. These determinations (along with all of our other determinations) can be found on our website at: <https://massago.onbaseonline.com/Massago/1700PublicAccess2/OML.htm>.

- OML 2018-15 Norwood Zoning Board of Appeals
- OML 2018-19 Dover-Sherborn School Committee Negotiation Team
- OML 2018-70 Board of Barnstable County Commissioners
- OML 2018-73 Brookline Public Bodies
- OML 2018-161 Brookline Select Board
- OML 2018-162 Brookline Advisory Committee

As always, you are welcome to contact us at (617) 963-2540 or [OpenMeeting@State.MA.US](mailto:OpenMeeting@State.MA.US) for additional Open Meeting Law guidance.



2/1/2019

Acton-Boxborough Regional School District Mail - This Month in the Division of Open Government

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**Beth Petr** <bpetr@abschools.org>  
To: AB School Committee <abrsc@abschools.org>

Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 9:17 AM

FYI.  
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