



159 THORNDIKE STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02141

January 20, 2015

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Approval of New Summer Program Coordinator Position

RECOMMENDATION: That the School Committee approve the creation of a new position, the Summer Program Coordinator, who will lead the establishment a well-planned, coordinated academic summer program district-wide.

DESCRIPTION: The Cambridge Public Schools currently supports summer programs at both the elementary and upper school levels and across departments/program areas, including Title I programs, the Rise Up program for 8th grade students, the Summer Compass Program for elementary students, the Summer Discovery Program for English Language Learners, and the Office of Student Services' summer program. However, CPS lacks coordination at the district level to plan, implement, and ensure consistently high quality summer programs across all of these areas.

FINANCIAL: The proposed annual salary range for this 1.0 FTE position is between \$65,000 and \$75,000, plus benefits. The impact to the FY15 budget will be approximately \$35,210 (5 months of salary plus benefits). Sufficient balances in the salary accounts are projected to fund this cost.

SUPPORTING DATA: In accordance with School Committee Policy on Professional Staff Recruiting/Posting of Vacancies... "any recommendations for the creation or elimination of a position must be approved by the School Committee."

BUDGET REFERENCES:

ACCOUNT:	51117	Permanent Salaries / Other
FUND:	15000	General Fund
ORG:	869410	Instruction / Summer Programs
PROJ:		

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey M. Young
Jeffrey M. Young, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Position of Summer Program Coordinator

Statement of need

CPS is committed to reducing the achievement and opportunity gaps that exist for our children and families most in need. The research is clear that high quality summer programs have a positive impact on preventing summer learning loss especially for these identified students. Our present academic summer programs lack coordination at the district level that is required to plan and implement consistently high quality summer programs. In addition, existing programs are facing funding short falls that will need to be addressed.

Funding for elementary summer programming comes from grant funds, two university partnerships as well as some general funds. For many years, federal Title 1 funds have supported half day (3 hour) programs at five (5) elementary schools and the state-funded Summer Academic Support grant has supported the *Rise Up* program for grade 8 students transitioning into the high school. Additionally the district has engaged in a successful collaboration with Lesley University for over 35 years to provide the *Summer Compass Program* for elementary students. The *Summer Discovery Program*, targeted to support English Language Learners is funded from a combination of general and grant funding. In addition, the Office of Student Services provides a summer program for students funded from the general fund.

Reductions in Title I funding have occurred annually since 2009 . As a result, the district's Title I budget has shrunk from just over \$2 million in FY 2009 to \$988K in FY 2015. These reductions have impacted the summer program both in terms of dollars available for the program and also in the district's ability to plan in advance. In recent years, schools have not known until late spring whether the program would occur and at what level, leaving families with a sense of uncertainty about whether or not their children will be able to attend the program. In addition, the Title 1 program is a three hour program and many families need a full day experience for their children. Lesley University has also experienced a reduction in funding for the administrative support for *Compass*. While the university is committed to continuing the program, this will not be possible without the Cambridge Public Schools providing administrative support.

Recommendation

It is recommended that CPS be proactive in establishing a well-planned, coordinated academic summer program. This will require dedicating general fund resources to support a Coordinator of Summer Programming as a first and significant step in assuring that a coordinated plan for all CPS academic summer programming is in place. The proposed salary for this position is between \$65,000 and \$75,000. Because developing a summer program requires planning to occur well before July 1, we are recommending the hiring of this position now. Projected end of year balances in salaries will be sufficient to support approximately 5 months of unbudgeted salary costs of this new position. A more

complete budget initiative, including funding for the summer program will be included in the FY 16 budget proposal.

Phase 1 of the implementation includes the development of a coordinated summer program for elementary age students. The second phase of the implementation could expand to grades 6-12. Under the direction of the Assistant Superintendents of Elementary Education and Curriculum and Instruction, the Coordinator of Summer Programs will:

- work with CPS administrators and principals to develop a coordinated, high quality academic summer program , including developing goals and outcome measures
- organize and implement an academic summer program for targeted students, including teacher recruitment, space planning, transportation planning and outreach to families
- work with principals and elementary school liaisons to identify students who would benefit from an academic summer program
- partner with city agencies and community organizations to explore and develop ways in which to provide full day enrichment opportunities for students
- serve as liaison to and provide administrative support to Lesley University's long-standing Compass Program
- develop a data collection system to track student achievement results and provide a baseline of data for program evaluation
- monitor student results, ensure that results are shared with principals and teachers to create a seamless system of tracking student progress
- make recommendations for program improvements based on data