**Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (FY19) Grant Assurances**

The **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education [DESE], in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH)** and **funded priority districts [districts],** will work collaboratively to implement the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC’s)** *Improving Student Health and Academic Achievement through Nutrition, Physical Activity and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Schools* cooperative agreement, known in Massachusetts as **Healthy Schools: Wellness Initiative for Student Success (Healthy Schools Initiative).**

The purpose of this project is to build capacity and support efforts to improve school wellness environments to enhance student academic outcomes, health and well-being. The Healthy Schools Initiative will promote the [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Framework (WSCC)](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscc/index.htm) and support and strengthen district wellness policies and implementation of evidence-based health and wellness programs, including but not limited to physical education and activity, nutrition and chronic disease prevention programs.

**This document outlines the roles and responsibilities of the grantees, as well as the support that DESE, DPH and other partners (including the CDC) will provide (see next page).** By signing below, the district acknowledges awareness of and the full scope of this grant requirements.

During FY19, the district agrees to:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ designate a district team lead and business/grant office lead (with access to EdGrants) available to manage the grant, communicate with DESE staff, participate in ongoing needs assessment to inform related DESE offerings, and ensure that all of the following grant objectives are met.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ designate a grant team to help guide district implementation of the district’s work plan and grant activities.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allow the appropriate staff to attend both required and encouraged meetings, conferences and/or training, technical assistance (TA) and professional development (PD) offered by DESE, its partners and/or the CDC.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ self-assess, prioritize and develop action plans\* based upon completion of the School Health Index (SHI) at 3-5 schools in FY19. Each school team must, at minimum, complete Modules 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the SHI during the first year of their grant participation. (\*an action plan for each participating school, aligned to the district wellness policy).

\_\_\_\_\_\_ submit progress reports (upon request) and copies of school action plans (developed under this grant funding) following local approval and prior to using any funds for implementation of those action plans.

(continued on next page)

**Fiscal Year 2018-2019 (FY19) Grant Assurances (continued)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ participate in all required data collection and program evaluation activities including ongoing assessment of district and school policies including but not limited to:

* biennial completion of the Massachusetts School Health Profiles Survey,
* biennial participation in the **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) - to be first completed in FY19 in all high schools**. DESE will work with districts to support YRBS implementation in compliance with local district policy on survey administration in schools.
* ongoing self-assessment using DESE and CDC-recommended tools (including but not limited to the HECAT, PECAT, Smarter Lunchroom Scorecard, and Massachusetts Physical Activity Assessment for Schools), and utilization of WellSAT2.0 to assess and improve school wellness policies.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ monitor grant expenditures and funds requests to support the program activities above, and report any anticipated difficulties spending the grant award in full to the DESE program specialist as soon as known.

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| **Signature of District Team Lead** | **Date** |
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| **Signature of Superintendent** | **Date** |

**During the project period, DESE, DPH and its partners will:**

* Dedicate staff responsible to support districts during the project period.
* Facilitate access to state and national experts, including those with expertise in evidence-based policy and program planning, monitoring, assessment and evaluation tools.
* Provide and/or facilitate access to high quality PD, training/TA, and support.
* Support implementation of required program evaluation activities. This will include, but is not limited to analysis of wellness policies for participating districts using the WellSAT wellness policy assessment tool. Feedback will be given to districts on possible improvements to strengthen wellness policy language and improve comprehensiveness of the policies.
* Facilitate an ongoing learning collaborative among districts’ teams to share successful strategies.
* Convene at least quarterly meetings of the School Wellness Initiative for Thriving Community Health (SWITCH) coalition. The SWITCH Coalition is a group of school health and wellness stakeholders from across the state working toward coordinating resources and opportunities that districts can take advantage of to improve student wellness and academic achievement.