**Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY21) Grant Assurances**

The **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), 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 Program).**

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 Program will promote the [Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Framework (WSCC)](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/wscc/index.htm) and support and strengthen district implementation of evidence-based health and wellness policies and programs, including but not limited to physical education and activity, nutrition and chronic disease prevention programs, from the lenses of WSCC, health equity, and Systems Thinking in Years 3-5.

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

During FY21, the district agrees to:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ designate a district team lead and business/grant office lead (with access to EdGrants) available to manage the grant administrative and fiscal functions, participate in 1-2 district site visits or needs assessments to inform the initiative as necessary, and maintain communication with Department staff to provide oversight of the following grant objectives.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ maintain a (new or existing) WSCC-based district wellness committee to oversee district-wide implementation of, and increase school-level engagement in, grant activities. District team leads will be expected to participate in at least monthly grantee check-in calls/videoconferences, and/or district- and/or school-level coaching upon request to help design local trainings and technical assistance opportunities to engage wellness teams in completing the [MA Roadmap to Healthy Schools](https://drive.google.com/open?id=14ow0r0wxQQ1Y5T2GTVsLatv9d3r3PD3M) Framework.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allow relevant staff from wellness team to attend 1-2 required live Professional Development (PD) events (e.g., Systems Thinking-focused Kick-off Meeting and Safe and Supportive Schools Conference) in FY21 and participate in other required or recommended site visits/meetings, technical assistance and PD opportunities designed to coordinate school health improvements sufficient to receive [Healthy Schools Professional Development Points](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1TsK86VQ7MGqYp7XxpT8CINHKfaRptUYU).

\_\_\_\_\_\_ maintain district capacity to oversee school-level implementation of the [School Health Index (SHI)](http://www.cdc.gov/healthyschools/shi/index.htm) and other evidence-based tools to conduct assessment and action planning, as well as inform and improve alignment between district wellness policy and local wellness policies and programs. (Each school-level wellness team must document progress towards completion of the 11-module SHI by the close of the five-year grant period, in their online tracker.)

\_\_\_\_\_\_ utilize Systems-Thinking focused PD and other supports to outline potential systemic improvements to be incorporated into annual district-level action plans designed to improve the comprehensiveness and coordination of school health programs, policies and priorities (following local approval of action plan funding and implementation).

(continued on next page)

**Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY21) 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:

* Healthy Schools Program grant district- & school- wellness team tracker
* biennial completion of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey,
* biennial participation in the **School Health Profiles (SHP) to be completed in FY21 in all high schools**. The Department will work with districts to support SHP implementation in compliance with local district policy on survey administration in schools, and
* ongoing self-assessment using Department and CDC-recommended tools, and utilization of [WellSAT3.0](http://www.wellsat.org/) 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 Department 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 WellSAT3.0 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 district 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.