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|  | 2018 METCO Program Report |
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| Report on the impact of the grant program on student outcomes, the expenditure of funds by districts, and the extent to which the services rendered by the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity support the goals of the grant program.September 2019Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370[www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu) |
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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

September 2019

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit the 2018 Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, Inc. (METCO) Program Report to the Legislaturepursuant to Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2018, line item 7010-0012.

The purpose of the state-funded METCO program is to expand educational opportunities, increase diversity, and reduce racial isolation by permitting students in Boston and Springfield to attend public schools in other communities that have agreed to participate. The METCO program provides students of participating school districts the opportunity to experience the advantages of learning and working in a racially and ethnically diverse setting. The statute that authorizes the METCO program is M.G.L, Chapter 76, Section 12A – The Racial Imbalance Act. The METCO program has historically enrolled approximately 3,300 students.

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department), METCO, Inc., and METCO superintendents and directors engaged in policy discussions related to the Boston METCO application and enrollment processes. The year-long policy discussions provided stakeholders with an opportunity to review and assess current practices and develop proposals designed to provide increased transparency for prospective students and families. As a result of these discussions, METCO, Inc. will implement an online application process beginning October 2019. We look forward to providing you with additional outcomes of these discussions in the coming months.

Within this report you will find an overview of the METCO program, including a description of the services provided by METCO, Inc.; a report on METCO student outcomes and recent research findings; school and district grant expenditures; and transportation services.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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# Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature pursuant to Chapter 154 of the Acts of 2018, line item 7010-0012:

*“For grants to cities, towns and regional school districts for payments of certain costs and related expenses for the program to eliminate racial imbalance, established under section 12A of chapter 76 of the General Laws; provided, that funds shall be made available for payment for services rendered by the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Inc. and Springfield public schools; provided further, that all grant applications submitted to and approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall include a detailed line item budget specifying how such funds shall be allocated and expended; and provided further, that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education shall submit a report on the impact of the grant program on student outcomes, the expenditure of funds by districts, and the extent to which the services rendered by METCO, Inc. support the goals of the grant program to the joint committee on education and the house and senate committees on ways and means not later than December 1, 2018…..”*

# METCO Overview

The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) Program is a grant program funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It is a voluntary program intended to expand educational opportunities, increase diversity, and reduce racial isolation by permitting students in certain cities to attend public schools in other communities that have agreed to participate. Currently, there are about 3,300 students participating in thirty-eight school districts in metropolitan Boston and at four school districts outside Springfield.

METCO, Inc. has a contract with the Department and has been the service provider for the Boston program for over fifty years. The primary role of METCO, Inc., is to provide direct services to participating students, families, and school districts. Districts provide a broad-based educational program for all students, and METCO, Inc. provides additional options for tutorial programs, enrichment, and remedial and referral services for METCO students in need of additional support. In addition, METCO, Inc. provides opportunities for Boston and suburban families to engage in cross-cultural learning experiences to support increased understanding of and appreciation for different cultures.

METCO, Inc. serves as the Boston based central office for all Boston METCO parents, students and the general public requesting information about the program. When schools are in session, METCO, Inc. is open from 6:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and some Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. for specific purposes.

The Department is pleased to continue working with METCO, Inc.’s chief executive officer, Milagros (Milly) Arbaje-Thomas, METCO superintendents, directors, and the METCO, Inc. board of directors, as the program develops and implements new policies and practices intended to provide increased transparency to the METCO community.

The Springfield Public Schools serves as the program’s service provider for Western Massachusetts with slightly over 100 students participating in the program.

# METCO Student Outcomes

## 2018 METCO Research

Harvard Graduate School of Education researcher, Ann Mantil, Ed.D. conducted the first independent impact evaluation of the METCO program. The research studies the impact of the METCO program on the academic outcomes of applicants and participants. The research utilized application records from 1998-2013, state data on K-12 enrollment and student performance, and National Student Clearinghouse data on college enrollment. The research compared the outcomes of METCO program students and their peers in Boston Public Schools and Boston charter schools, with controls for demographic differences between the three groups. The complete research study can be found at <https://dash.harvard.edu/handle/1/37679891>.

**Primary Finding: METCO program students achieve higher on-time graduation and college enrollment**

The research found METCO program students have on-time high school graduation rates that are approximately 30 percentage points higher than similar students in Boston’s public schools, including charter schools. Additionally, the study found that METCO program students immediately enroll in college in markedly higher numbers than students from Boston’s public schools.

**Secondary Finding: Mixed MCAS results**

Overall, the research found mixed results on the METCO program’s impact on MCAS scores in grades 3-8. The average MCAS scores of METCO program students are higher than demographically similar Boston Public Schools students in ELA and Writing but similar in math. The study also found METCO program students perform less well on the MCAS math test, on average, than Boston charter school students of similar demographics.

##

## 2018 MCAS Results

The following charts reflect METCO student performance as compared to the state, Boston Public Schools, and Springfield Public Schools in Grade 10 ELA and Mathematics.

 *Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2018 MCAS Assessment file*

*Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2018 MCAS Assessment file*

##

## Attendance, Post-Graduation Plans, and Graduation Rates

The following charts reflect 2018 METCO student attendance rates, 2018 METCO student post-graduation plans, and 2017 METCO student graduation rates as compared to the state, Boston Public Schools, and Springfield Public Schools.

*Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Information Management System (SIMS)*

*Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Information Management System (SIMS)*

*Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Student Information Management System (SIMS)*

# School Districts Expenditure of Funds on METCO-Related Programming

The following data derives from EdGrants[[1]](#footnote-1), the Department’s online grant information system. The chart below is a snapshot of actual school district expenditure of funds during the 2017-2018 school year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FY18 Fund Use** | **Admin** | **Professional****Staff** | **Support****Staff** | **Stipends** | **Fringe****Benefits** | **Contract****Services** | **Supplies****Materials** | **Travel** | **Other****Cost** | **Indirect****Costs** | **Total****Grant** |
| Arlington P. S. | 93,240 | 91,895 |  29,777  | 4,605 |   | 18,384  | 1,265  |  1,826  |  199,524  |   | 440,519 440,519 |
| Bedford P.S. |  96,282 |  22,000  | 79,735  |  |   | 76,922  |  30,498  | 3,285  |  313,776  |   | 622,500 622,500 |
| Belmont P.S. | 108,548 | 167,042 | 75,241 | 12,874 |  |  | 10 | 3,350 | 186,849 |  | 553,916jj16916 553,916  |
| Braintree P.S. | 52,275 |  | 30,953 | 3,100 | 3,065 |  |  |  | 98,504 |  | 187,897 |
| Brookline P.S. | 106,491 | 622,464 | 248,114 | 1,475 |  | 64,100 | 10,475 | 8,380 | 404,245 | 17,435 | 1,483,179 |
| Cohasset P.S. | 85,911 |  | 32,681 |  |  | 5,373 |  |  | 149,086 |  | 273,051 |
| Concord P.S. | 52,332 | 97,691 | 201,630 |  |  |  |  |  | 138,599 |  | 490,253 |
| East Longmeadow P.S. | 76,160 | 73,044 |  |  |  |  | 548 |  |  86,972 |  | 236,724 |
| Foxboro P.S. | 46,500 | 77,091 | 19,563 |  |  |  |  |  | 84,534 |  | 227,690 |
| Hingham P.S. | 61,716 | 19,172 | 26,631 |  |  | 5,705 | 525 | 2,000 | 128,531 |  | 244,283 |
| Lexington P.S. | 115,755 | 355,432 | 286,022 | 39,898 |  | 10,924 | 2,418 | 1,685 | 706,587 |  | 1,518,721 |
| Lincoln P.S. | 52,903 | 201,839 | 39,944 | 16,087 |  | 3,500 | 3,256 |  | 211,595 |  | 529,124 |
| Longmeadow P.S. |  | 81,230 | 39,301 | 3,000 |  |  | 918 |  | 95,647 |  | 220,104 |
| Lynnfield P.S. | 77,000 |  |  |  |  | 5,350 |  |  | 153,555 |  | 235,906 |
| Marblehead P.S. | 93,000 | 88,850 | 8,838 |  | 11,034 | 19,275 | 6,807 | 808 | 240,800 |  | 469,414 |
| Melrose P.S. | 127,549 | 240,467 | 61,790 |  |  | 26,209 | 901 | 16,927 | 230,775 |  | 704,620 |
| Natick P.S. | 73,403 | 101,623 |  |  | 19,408 |  | 693 | 132 | 152,905 |  | 348,164 |
| Needham P.S. | 244,646 | 80,199 | 235,564 |  |  | 42,841 | 11,930 | 16,642 | 401,016 | 13,428 | 1,046,266 |
| Newton P.S. | 124,370 | 1,187,985 | 159,472 |  | 83,134 | 6,672 | 542 | 2,445 | 942,844 |  | 2,507,466 |
| Reading P.S. | 76,457 | 80,000 | 10,394 | 1,500 |  | 1,359 | 3,731 | 1,570 | 219,590 |  | 394,601 |
| Scituate P.S.\*  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 447,500 |
| Sharon P.S. | 81,433 | 67,578 | 20,994 |  |  | 27,685 | 5,769 | 8,675 | 219,035 |  | 431,171 |
| Springfield P.S. | 24,038 |  | 7,776 |  | 4,037 | 1,700 | 3,745 |  | 1,657 | 1,499 | 44,453 |
| Sudbury P.S. | 42,500 |  | 187,204 | 6,160 |  | 14,874 | 515 | 565 | 204,970 |  | 456,789 |
| Swampscott P.S. | 70,000 | 98,602 | 52,759 |  |  |  | 3,534 |  | 144,803 |  | 369,698 |
| Wakefield P.S. | 79,334 |  | 38,841 |  |  | 43,341 | 11,285 | 3,910 | 161,305 |  | 338,016 |
| Walpole P.S. | 95,100 | 70,900 |  |  |  |  | 259 | 1,182 | 108,801 |  | 276,242 |
| Wayland P.S. | 103,195 | 274,126 | 66,987 | 24,228 |  | 29,947 | 5,483 | 5,935 | 244,592 |  | 754,493 |
| Wellesley P.S. | 124,315 | 248,113 | 87,920 | 12,890 | 91,392 |  | 270 | 300 | 350,636 |  | 915,836 |
| Weston P.S. | 48,729 | 588,257 | 295,953 | 25,792 |  |  |  |  | 267,754 |  | 958,795 |
| Westwood P.S. | 91,854 |  | 41,581 |  |  | 7,655 | 17,213 | 7,546 | 91,791 |  | 257,643 |
| Concord-Carlisle RSD | 78,228 | 94,206 | 43,266 |  |  |  |  |  | 141,739 |  | 357,440 |
| Dover-Sherborn RSD | 79,276 |  | 22,403 |  |  | 5,914 | 2,357 | 4,271 | 103,728 |  | 217,949 |
| Hampden-Wilbraham RSD\*  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 125,467  |
| Lincoln-Sudbury RSD | 42,500 |  | 109,570 | 5,500 |  | 74,269 | 45,630 | 8,182 | 228,179 |  | 513,832 |
| Southwick/Tolland RSD |  | 73,015 |  | 16,543 |  |  |  | 400 | 46,702 |  | 136,660 |
| **Total** | **$ 2,725,040** | **$ 5,102,821** | **$ 2,560,904** | **$173,652** | **$212,070**  | **$ 491,999** | **$170,577**  | **$100,013**  | **$7,366,721**  | **$32,362**  | **$19,336,382**  |

*\*The district’s final financial report was not available at the time this report was drafted*

# Transportation Services

METCO, Inc. contracts with three vendors (AA Transportation, First Student, and Eastern Bus) to provide bus transportation for METCO students traveling to and from 14 school districts.[[2]](#footnote-2)

METCO, Inc. monitors the terms of the bid specifications and contracts to assess quality performance of the vendor to each school district. Bus vendors are expected to supply quality service and are monitored for fiscal and operational compliance. The management services provided by METCO, Inc includes daily monitoring of service for both morning and afternoon commutes, working with school district business managers and METCO directors to review invoices for accuracy, and address inquiries as they arise. METCO Inc. is also expected to meet and communicate with bus company management personnel as necessary. In addition, METCO Inc. enforces disciplinary codes in partnership with school district personnel.

Transportation for Springfield METCO students is provided by the four receiving school districts.[[3]](#footnote-3) The four receiving school districts are responsible for monitoring student transportation services.

# Chart showing demographic reports for districts 2018-2019Appendix: Demographic Report 2018-2019

1. <http://www.doe.mass.edu/Grants/edgrants.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Arlington, Belmont, Braintree, Cohasset, Dover-Sherborn, Foxborough, Hingham, Lexington, Lincoln, Lincoln/Sudbury, Natick, Scituate, Sudbury, and Walpole. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. East Longmeadow, Hampden Wilbraham, Longmeadow, and Southwick-Tolland. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)