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| ESE logo | |
|  | 2021 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.  April 2022 |
| Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906  Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370  www.doe.mass.edu |
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***Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

April 2022

Dear Members of the General Court:

I am pleased to submit the *2021 Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, (METCO) Program Report* to the Legislaturepursuant to Chapter 24 of the Acts of 2021 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 from 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.

As noted in the 2019 and 2020 report,, METCO, Inc. and participating METCO districts have continued to engage and enhance their racial equity programming and provide supports for students, staff, and families. METCO, Inc. continues to support districts as they navigate the impacts of the ongoing twin pandemics of Covid-19 and systemic racism on areas of programming including student enrollment, school culture, and transportation costs.

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; school and district grant expenditures; transportation services; and student demographics.

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 227 of the Acts of 2020, 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 not later than February 1, 2021...”*

# 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 approximately 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

## 2021 Next Generation MCAS Tests 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, 2021 MCAS Assessment file*

*Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2021 MCAS Assessment file*

## Graduation Rates and Post-Graduation Plans

The following charts reflect 2021 METCO student post-graduation plans 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)*

# 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 2020-2021 school year.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FY21 Fund Use** | **Admin** | **Professional Staff** | **Support**  **Staff** | **Stipends** | **Fringe**  **Benefits** | **Contract**  **Services** | **Supplies &**  **Materials** | **Travel** | **Other**  **Costs** | **Indirect**  **Costs** | **Equip.** | **Total Funds Expended** |
| Arlington P.S. | $117,353 | $138,818 | $45,655 | $5,943 |  | $26,990 | $15,717 | $540 | $184,443 |  |  | $535,459 |
| Bedford P.S. | $150,000 | $64,352 | $85,094 |  |  | $45,300 | $1,840 | $1,173 | $339,212 |  |  | $686,971 |
| Belmont P.S. | $106,140 | $186,657 | $96,550 |  |  | $22,539 | $4,870 |  | $190,690 |  |  | $607,446 |
| Braintree P.S. \* | $62,650 |  |  | $1,499 | $5,639 |  | $41,118 |  | $56,413 |  |  | $167,319 |
| Brookline P.S. | $122,169 | $824,304 | $378,174 | $15,864 |  | $93,727 | $77,584 | $6,748 | $252,983 | $59,904 |  | $1,831,457 |
| Cohasset P.S. | $100,998 | $23,067 | $48,349 |  |  | $30,079 | $17,087 | $1,399 | $109,066 |  |  | $330,045 |
| Concord P.S. \* | $48,000 | $95,957 | $179,750 | $7,375 |  |  | $500 | $200 | $274,101 |  |  | $605,883 |
| East Longmeadow P.S. \* |  | $189,180 |  |  |  | $5,000 |  |  | $119,117 |  |  | $313,297 |
| Foxborough P.S. | $50,489 | $84,888 | $35,662 |  |  | $2,539 | $16,512 | $495 | $59,860 |  |  | $250,445 |
| Hingham P.S. | $66,006 | $102,279 | $47,670 |  |  | $9,350 | $938 | $2,540 | $112,299 |  |  | $341,082 |
| Lexington P.S. | $135,043 | $466,569 | $307,727 | $18,706 |  | $10,771 | $617 | $396 | $513,231 |  |  | $1,453,060 |
| Lincoln P.S. \* | $118,606 | $151,437 | $21,275 |  |  | $27,240 | $4,500 |  | $285,668 |  |  | $608,726 |
| Longmeadow P.S. | $3,000 | $101,422 | $39,167 |  |  | $10,750 | $14,239 |  | $72,423 |  |  | $241,001 |
| Lynnfield P.S. | $82,728 |  | $5,407 |  |  |  |  |  | $165,969 |  |  | $254,104 |
| Marblehead P.S. | $57,405 | $40,286 | $69,223 |  | $5,585 | $44,375 | $37,025 |  | $199,675 |  |  | $453,574 |
| Melrose P.S. | $88,109 | $282,308 | $37,232 |  |  | $43,707 | $3,288 | $1,814 | $418,088 |  |  | $874,546 |
| Natick P.S. | $87,679 | $105,719 |  |  | $2,843 | $3,295 |  |  | $169,901 |  |  | $369,437 |
| Needham P.S. | $287,151 | $116,262 | $452,403 | $6,000 |  | $300 | $2,043 | $31 | $368,777 | $15,126 |  | $1,248,093 |
| Newton P.S. | $120,773 | $1,365,582 | $160,262 |  | $87,409 | $130,171 | $17,519 | $2,744 | $991,980 |  |  | $2,876,440 |
| Reading P.S. | $83,750 | $70,000 | $7,180 |  |  | $7,303 | $6,806 | $160 | $246,080 |  | $21,823 | $443,102 |
| Scituate P.S. | $99,623 | $210,931 | $13,621 |  |  | $6,250 | $17,758 | $350 | $137,450 |  |  | $485,983 |
| Sharon P.S. | $103,155 |  | $51,652 |  |  | $134,448 | $1,474 | $2,584 | $160,995 |  |  | $454,308 |
| Springfield P.S. |  |  | $39,767 |  | $11,556 |  | $1,531 |  |  | $1,522 |  | $54,376 |
| Sudbury P.S. | $90,425 |  | $177,956 | $2,250 |  | $43,447 | $351 |  | $180,988 |  |  | $495,417 |
| Swampscott P.S. \* | $79,336 | $121,637 | $42,686 |  |  | $163,220 |  | $790 | $260 |  |  | $407,929 |
| Wakefield P.S. | $82,457 | $43,296 | $30,000 |  |  | $88,473 | $14,134 |  | $59,220 |  |  | $317,580 |
| Walpole P.S. | $100,977 |  | $78,642 |  |  |  |  |  | $117,307 |  |  | $296,926 |
| Wayland P.S. | $161,853 | $357,305 | $34,507 | $26,245 |  | $118,062 | $34,048 | $2,999 | $309,548 |  |  | $1,044,567 |
| Wellesley P.S. | $111,179 | $203,973 | $159,042 | $2,000 |  | $57,266 | $1,814 |  | $569,796 |  |  | $1,105,070 |
| Weston P.S. | $68,967 | $713,090 | $263,309 | $11,376 |  |  |  |  | $90,230 |  |  | $1,146,972 |
| Westwood P.S. | $112,451 | $15,388 | $39,197 |  |  | $46,071 | $21,140 | $750 | $88,719 |  |  | $323,716 |
| Concord-Carlisle RSD \* | $75,830 | $99,600 | $69,726 | $2,500 |  | $2,000 | $10,341 | $4,115 | $132,742 |  |  | $396,854 |
| Dover-Sherborn RSD | $84,541 |  | $34,627 |  |  | $28,490 | $25,467 | $710 | $119,329 |  |  | $293,164 |
| Hampden-Wilbraham RSD |  | $59,932 |  |  |  |  | $12,330 |  | $59,559 |  |  | $131,821 |
| Lincoln-Sudbury RSD \* | $115,000 | $73,759 | $71,288 | $57,524 |  | $187,490 | $38,548 | $5,000 | $60,106 |  | $37,571 | $646,286 |
| Southwick/ Tolland RSD |  | $47,607 |  | $22,704 |  | $8,046 | $9,345 |  | $59,559 |  |  | $147,261 |
| **Total** | **$3,173,843** | **$6,355,605** | **$3,122,800** | **$179,986** | **$113,032** | **$1,396,699** | **$450,484** | **$605,334** | **$6,705,988** | **$76,552** | **$59,394** | **$22,239,717** |

*\*The district’s final financial report was not available at the time this report was drafted. As such, this information was compiled from the district’s most current FY21 line item totals in EdGrants.*

# 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 10 school districts.[[2]](#footnote-2)

METCO, Inc. provides contract and bid services in accordance with Chapter 30B, MGL and monitors the terms of the bid specifications and contracts to assess quality performance of the vendor to each contracted school district. Bus vendors are expected to supply quality service and are monitored for fiscal and operational compliance. METCO, Inc. meets and communicates with respective bus company management personnel when necessary. 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 (when requested) and address inquiries when they arise. It is important to note that contracted districts receive monthly invoices for services performed and issue payment directly to the vendors including deductions for penalties. The transportation manager at METCO, Inc. may be consulted when requested/warranted to assist assessment of penalties to be deducted from invoices. METCO, Inc. provides planning and routing for contracted districts as well as consultation with other METCO Directors. The Transportation Manager of METCO, Inc. stays abreast of local, state, and national trends and concerns in the school bus industry in order to provide optimum service to districts.

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.

# Appendix: Demographic Report 2021-2022Chart showing demographic report for districts 2021-2022.

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