



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Special Education / Pupil Personnel Services

15 Parker Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
Phone: 508-841-8660 Fax: 508-841-8661



Margaret Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Meghan Bartlett, Assistant Director for Special Education and PPS

Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing

Date: 11/26/18

To: School Committee

Re: Comprehensive School Health Services Grant

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) Bureau of Community Health and Prevention's School Health Services Unit recently released an RFR for the Comprehensive School Health Services (CSHS) Model Programs Grant. The grant is intended to provide additional support to existing school health services through a multi-disciplinary approach that supports the delivery of quality, comprehensive health services in all school districts. According to DPH, "the goal of the CSHS Program is to build on existing infrastructure to provide all school-age children access to a school health service program that is managed by a qualified school nurse manager. This program will strengthen the capacity of schools to provide case management and support to students with more significant health needs, continuous quality improvement through data collection and analysis, and programs that provide access to care to address health disparities and racial inequities in the community in order to support student academic achievement and reduce chronic absenteeism."

School districts applying for the grant are required to identify a priority population. We have determined through district data and experience that our priority population is students with mental and behavioral health challenges. Therefore, the main focus of our grant proposal is to create a Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT) program for middle school students, similar to the *Transitions* program currently in place at SHS. We propose that this program would be located at Sherwood Middle School to serve students who have significant difficulty with the transition from elementary to middle school, and/or are experiencing mental or behavioral health challenges. The program would be staffed by a clinician (school adjustment counselor or social worker) and academic support professional, and would provide clinical, academic, and family support, as well as care coordination with other school staff and community providers. As Sherwood and Oak Middle Schools share a campus, there is potential that this program could serve students from both schools depending on caseload. This proposal aligns well with two of our strategic priorities: "learning



SHREWSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of Special Education / Pupil Personnel Services

15 Parker Road, Shrewsbury, MA 01545
Phone: 508-841-8660 Fax: 508-841-8661



Margaret Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services

Meghan Bartlett, Assistant Director for Special Education and PPS

Noelle Freeman, Director of Nursing

environments where everyone's success matters" and "enhanced well-being of all."

CSHS grant requirements state that a full-time Director of School Nursing must, "direct all aspects of a comprehensive school health program, including staffing (including clinical evaluation of nursing staff), programming and budget." They further stipulate that the Director, "...does not provide direct services." The current SPS Director of School Nursing position is 49% administrative and 51% direct student services, and therefore would require a shift to 100% administrative time. This shift would need to be achieved within 3 years of receiving grant funding. Due to the flexible nature of the current portion of direct student service, this shift could occur without the need to hire additional nursing staff.

Grant funding in the amount of \$100,000 per year for up to 10 years is potentially available for our district. In addition to the program described above, grant funds could be utilized to bring professional development programming in the areas of equity, social emotional learning, etc. to all staff, which are also key aspects of our strategic priorities. While this is a competitive grant with no guarantee of funding, we are excited about the possible student and staff supports that a successful application could bring to our district.

Respectfully,

Meg Belsito, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; and
Noelle Freeman, Director of School Nursing