

## AUBURN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - Best Practices Preschool Collaboration Grant - \$14,500

### UPDATE: August 2018

Below please find an update regarding the Best Practice Preschool Collaboration Grant and progress made to date.

We would be happy to provide additional detail, as requested, and thank you again for your financial support and guidance. As intended, collaborations are being nurtured and we look forward to maintaining these relationships as we move forward together.

#### Six-Part Training Series on Early Education

Cost: \$9,000

Secure expert practitioners in the field of early education to provide training on early literacy and other pertinent topics, at six sessions held in the evening and/or on Saturdays, to teachers and providers of public and private pre-school programs.

#### September 2017 Update:

At our initial meeting of the Best Practices Grant Team on May 3, 2017, attendees discussed ideas for high quality training opportunities, agreeing that an early literacy training would be beneficial for all. A future topic that all agreed should be pursued will focus on social-emotional learning and supports, so that will be addressed moving forward. The next meeting of the Best Practices Grant Team will be held on September 27, 2017.

Dr. Kathleen Lauzé, Assistant Superintendent for the Auburn Public Schools, has arranged a high-quality professional training opportunity as described below. This Early Literacy PD, provided by Keys to Literacy, will be held on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and will include staff from Auburn's Integrated Preschool program and the following private preschools: Here We Grow; Children's Corner; Pakachoag Acres; Bethel Preschool Program; Jack and Jill Preschool; Montessori Children's House; The Discovery House Mighty Oaks Montessori; and The Goddard School. This 15-hour early childhood workshop will explore best practices in literacy instruction in preschool classrooms. Current research and Massachusetts Literacy Standards will guide discussions around curriculum, assessment and instruction. Topics will include the relationship of language and literacy development, 5 components of reading, supporting emergent writers, gradual release of responsibility model, planning intentional literacy activities within centers and the importance of read aloud to enhance comprehension and promote vocabulary development. We anticipate that there will be approximately 30-40 staff members in attendance. The cost of this training program is \$9,900 and will be paid, in part, by the Auburn Public Schools to supplement the \$9,000 in grant funds. The training dates are October 11, November 8, December 13, 2017; January 10; March 14; and April 11, 2018.

#### August 2018 Update

**The Keys to Literacy Workshop series was a huge success, with attendees reporting that the material was extremely helpful as they work to support the literacy development of their young students.**

#### Semi-Annual Cultural Programs

Cost: \$ 3,250

Provide two cultural programs (such as a puppet show, author/storyteller or fine arts program) during the year in the evening or on weekends for the parents and children of all 3 and 4 year olds in Auburn, including those in private programs, day cares and Auburn preschoolers, to bring them together with school administration, kindergarten teachers and/or elementary school principals to get to know one another.

#### September 2017 Update:

Through a collaboration with Auburn's CFCE coordinator for the YMCA of Central Massachusetts, Beth Gailor, the program titled, "DW Counts Down to Kindergarten" was offered – free of charge – to Auburn's preschool children and families on Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Auburn Middle School. At the meeting of September 27<sup>th</sup>, attendees intend to report out on ideas for cultural programs, the goal being to host two this school year, either in the early evening or likely on weekends.

### August 2018 Update

The following cultural programs were held, with large crowds of preschool children and their families in attendance at each:

- Kosmic Kelly, November 12, 2017
- Pumpnickel Puppets, January 21, 2018
- Mr. Kim, March 25, 2018
- DW Goes to Kindergarten, May 30, 2018

### Kindergarten Transition Program

Cost: \$ 2,250

In the summer prior to kindergarten, invite select students to attend a special 2-week transition program to help prepare them for "life as a kindergartener." Students would be selected based on screening results which indicate potential challenge areas. This would be an expansion of a pilot program offered in the summer of 2016 that was held for 2 weeks at 2.5 hours per day and included rich early learning experiences which assisted them in being better prepared for their kindergarten experience.

### September 2017 Update:

Title I funds supported this program in the Summer of 2017, therefore the Best Practices grant funds will be utilized to support this expanded opportunity in the Summer of 2018. We anticipate that the full amount of \$2,250 will be expended by August 2018, with the school department budget assuming this cost moving forward, if Title I funds are not available to do so.

### August 2018 Update

Due to the availability of Title I funds in the Summer of 2018, we have a balance of \$1,735 in the Contractual Services line.

I respectfully request that we be allowed to spend the remaining balance of \$1,735 by June 30, 2019, the goal being to use these funds for additional cultural programs between October 2018 and June 2019.

Perhaps most impactful is the relationship that has developed between numerous Preschool providers in Auburn. Since receipt of this grant funding, multiple meetings have been held, with the venue of each changing so that we could visit the various Preschool programs in Auburn; please see the meeting dates and locations noted below, along with copies of agendas from each. Additionally, at our meeting in May, we all agreed that these meetings have been extremely beneficial and will continue into the future, with us meeting on a quarterly basis to share ideas and work to strengthen the support for our young children.

Wednesday, September 27, 2017; 3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; AHS Preschool Classroom  
Wednesday, October 25, 2017; 3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Here We Grow Preschool  
Monday, January 22, 2018; 3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Pakachoag Acres Day Care Center  
Monday, March 19, 2018; 4:00 – 5:00 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Jack & Jill Preschool  
Wednesday, May 16, 2018; 3:45 – 4:45 p.m., Best Practices Team Meeting; Pakachoag Preschool Classroom