



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DONNA D. HOLADAY
60 PLEASANT STREET • P.O. BOX 550
NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950
(978) 465-4413 • (978) 465-4402 (FAX)
WWW.CITYOFNEWBURYPORT.COM

November 5, 2018

Mr. Sean R. Cronin
Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services
Division of Local Services
PO Box 9569
Boston, MA 02114

Re: Community Compact – Education Best Practice Project

Dear Mr. Cronin:

On behalf of the City of Newburyport, I would like to thank the Baker-Polito Administration for partnering with the City to complete our education best practice project as part of the Community Compact Program.

The primary goal of this project was to create greater consistency in financial reporting between the municipal government and school district by developing a combined Chart of Accounts (COA), which is required to move onto a centralized general ledger. For years, the City and school district have operated on separate financial software systems, requiring the duplication of postings and routine reconciliation between the two systems. In addition to the operational inefficiency, having different account structures for the municipality and school district creates a great deal of inconsistency when reviewing financial and budget reports between the two entities.

Using the Compact grant funding, the City worked with a consultant to review and modify the City and School COAs with respect to state guidelines (e.g. DOR, DESE), Uniform Massachusetts Accounting System (UMAS) and financial reporting and budgeting best practices. Fifty percent of the grant was used to pay to the consultant for developing the framework for what the merged COA will look like once the municipality and school district merge onto the same general ledger. Once the consulting on the COA was complete, the City was able to utilize the remaining fifty percent of the grant for modifications to the City and School networks, which are required in order for Newburyport to roll out a centralized general ledger.

I am confident that the combined financial system will be a great benefit to our City for years to come and I am truly grateful to the Administration in partnering with the City on this important project.

Very truly yours,

Donna D. Holaday, Mayor