



# FY 2027 Somerville Public Schools' Budget

City Council Presentation - June 4, 2026



- ❖ **FY26 Successes**
- ❖ **FY27 Budget Priorities**
- ❖ **FY27 Cost-Drivers**
- ❖ **Key Department Budget Overviews**
- ❖ **Budget Summary: FY27 Personnel & Non-Personnel Budget**



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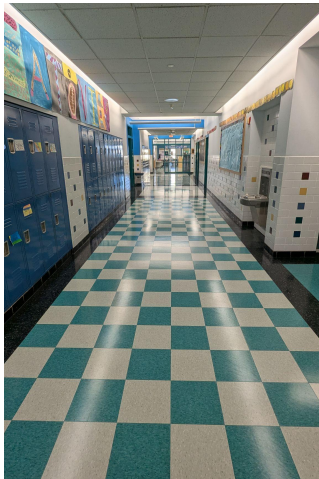
**Dr. Rubén Carmona**, Superintendent, Secretary to the School Committee

FY 2027 Superintendent's Budget

**Our 'Why':  
Celebrating our  
Successes in FY26**



**We envision a student-centered learning community where every student – honoring their unique strengths and background – is empowered to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally through tailored supports and equitable access to opportunity.**



# Successes By the Numbers

- ↑ **Preliminary ACCESS 2026**  
SPS exceeded Target Annual Growth Progress ELL
- ↑ Average baseline for our readers has **increased** by 5 percentage points over the span of 3 years
- ↑ Training and structures to scaffold learning in CTE:  
2022: 83    2025: **154**
- ↑ Dibels: **+3%** points more students on /above grade level  
iReady: **+5%** points at/above grade level in Math  
**+3%** points students at or above grade level in Literacy



# Successes Across the District

★ Transparent and equitable budget process

★ 16% reduction in suspensions  
 13% decrease in disruptive behavior referrals  
 Attendance at 93.7% (above state average)

★ HVAC, Facilities Maintenance, Electrical and Automotive (Early Ed + CNA)

★ Robotics team “6201” among the world Top 20%; competed at the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championships

★ 341 Industry Recognized Credentials (+23%) (2025=277) (OSHA, OSHA -30, CPR)

★ From *Student Insights* to *Open Architects*: Relevant information at SPS fingertips



**SCALE Test Center** earned **first place** across the state in test administration in 2025.

# Class of 2026

59% of seniors  
have completed FAFSA or MASFA

## Scholarship Recipients

- Doris York Full Scholarship (B.U.) (1 student)
- Posse Scholarship (Union) (1)
- Fidelity Scholarships (2)
- Somerville Scholarships (110)
- Somerville Municipal Scholarship (12)



FY 2027 Superintendent's Budget

# Strategic Budget Priorities



## ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Somerville Public Schools commits to the following goals, knowing that these can only be achieved through ensuring meaningful partnerships with Somerville students, families, staff, city government, and community partners.

- 1) Academic Excellence
- 2) Equity & Access
- 3) Wellness & Joy
- 4) Family & Community Engagement



- ❖ **Underfunding in PK-12 education**
- ❖ **Layoffs and staff reductions due to budget shortfalls in neighboring communities**
- ❖ **Uncertainty around federal funding**
- ❖ **Rising costs and inflation**
- ❖ **Level-Service Budget**
- ❖ **City is projecting a \$4.5M gap**



**We remain committed to:**

**Valuing our educators, students, and families**

**Maintaining current staff levels**

**Advocating for additional funding on the state level**

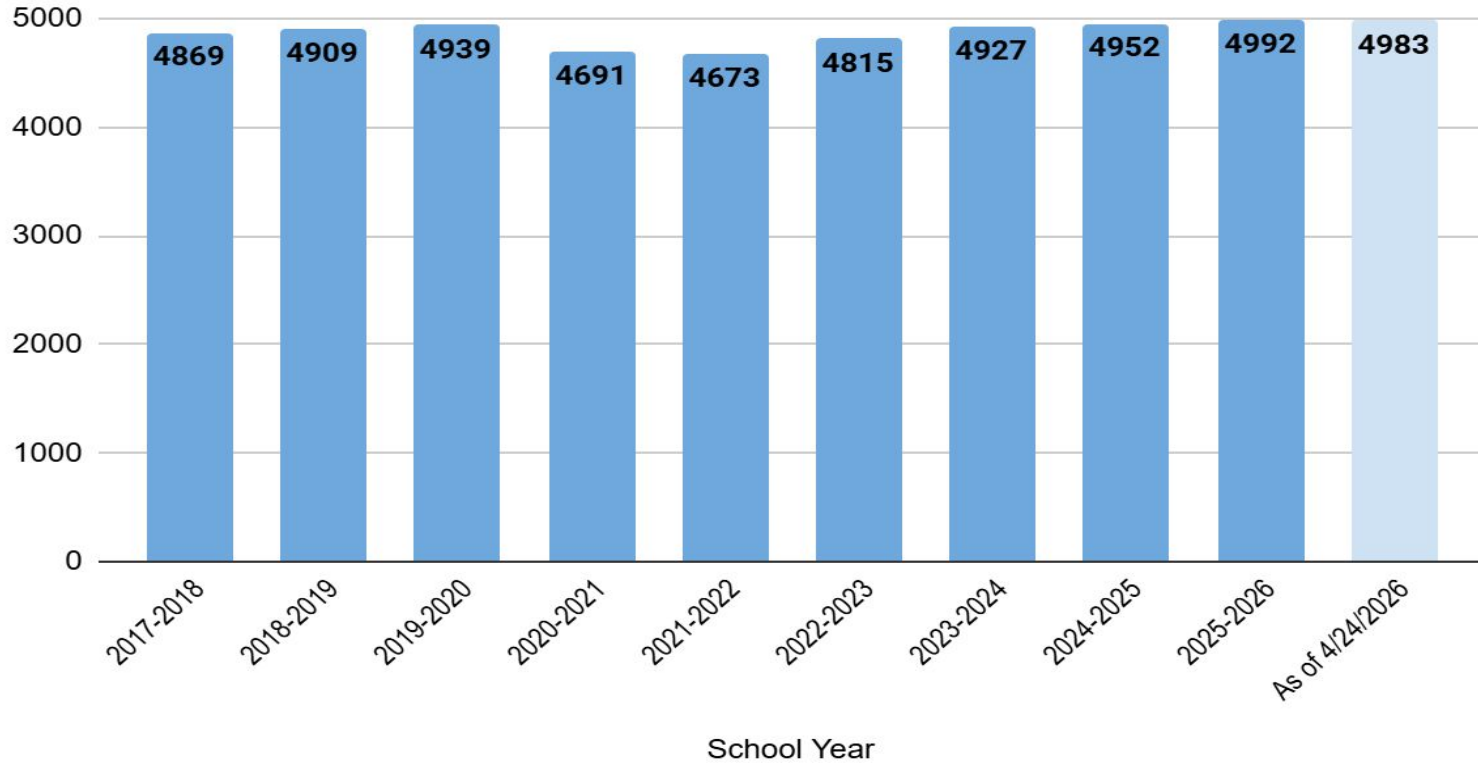
**Focusing on coherence. Going deeper**

FY 2027 Superintendent's Budget

# **FY27 Budget Cost-Drivers**

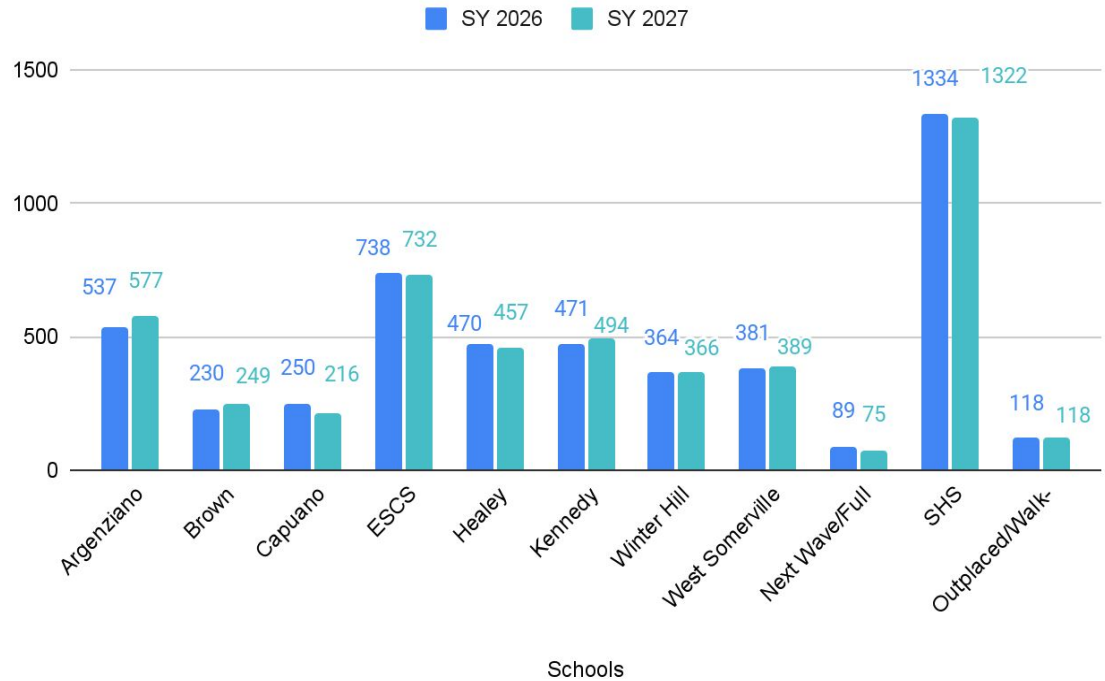


# SPS Enrollment Has Remained Steady



# We expect steady enrollment in FY 2027

Schools	SY 2026	SY 2027
Argenziano	537	577
Brown	230	249
Capuano	250	216
ESCS	738	732
Healey	470	457
Kennedy	471	494
Winter Hill	364	366
West Somerville	381	389
Next Wave/Full Circle	89	75
SHS	1334	1322
Outplaced/Walk-In Services	118	118
<b>Total Students</b>	<b>4982</b>	<b>4995</b>



This forecast is derived from current enrollment figures as of April 24, 2026.

# Cost-Driver #1: Negotiated Salary Increases

- Our staff are our most critical investment.
- Even before adjusting for new staffing levels, new contracts with SEU Units A, C, and E – about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our district staff – were increasing salaries by an average of 8.19%.

Unit	FY26_Salary	FY27_Salary	Total FTE	% Increase	Total Increase
AFSCME Clerical	\$2,672,730	\$2,672,730	40.0	0.00%	\$0
Nonunion	\$13,128,238	\$13,531,172	163.8	3.07%	\$402,934
SAA	\$6,562,876	\$6,812,338	46.0	3.80%	\$249,462
SEU Unit A	\$64,133,693	\$68,536,963	602.5	6.87%	\$4,403,269
SEU Unit C	\$6,803,390	\$7,552,154	137.0	11.01%	\$748,764
SEU Unit E	\$978,935	\$1,044,466	14.4	6.69%	\$65,531
SMEA UNIT C	\$1,747,046	\$1,747,046	17.0	0.00%	\$0
Sundry Item	\$3,404,170	\$4,990,309	0.0	46.59%	\$1,586,139
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$99,431,078</b>	<b>\$106,887,177</b>	<b>1020.7</b>	<b>7.50%</b>	<b>\$7,456,099</b>

- NOTE: “Sundry item” increase reflects added substitute costs & summer programming.
- NOTE: AFSCME Clerical & SMEU Unit C contracts have not settled.

## Cost-Driver #2: Increased investments in special education

- Teachers
  - In FY26, we budgeted for 71 special education teachers.
  - In FY27, we budgeted for 76 special education teachers.
  - Mostly driven by:
    - Weighted caseload model in new CBA
    - Commitment to inclusion & strengthening special education
- Out of District (OOD) Tuition
  - In FY26, we budgeted \$6,907,758 for tuition (63 students)
  - In FY27, we budgeted \$7,906,944 for tuition\* (64 students)
- Transportation (Internal, extracurriculars, & OOD)
  - In FY26, we budgeted \$2,753,080 for transportation
  - In FY27, we budgeted \$3,350,000 for transportation
- Net increase of +\$1,596,106

\*Approximately \$3,500,000 will be charged to our Circuit Breaker fund.



## Cost-Driver #3: Increased substitute investments

- In FY26, we budgeted \$715,000 for substitutes.
- We're on track to invest \$1,350,000 in substitutes.
  - Approximately \$270 per pupil
  - Comparable districts range: \$173 - \$256
- Mostly driven by parental leave:
  - FY26: 8 weeks of paid leave plus additional paid leave via sick time
  - FY27: 10 weeks of paid leave plus additional paid leave via sick time
  - FY28: 12 weeks of paid leave



## Cost-Driver #4: Increased transportation investments

- Our transportation investments ensure nearly 2000 students get to school & back home on-time every day.
  - Multilingual learners, students experiencing homelessness, and students in foster care
  - Provides MBTA passes for all students Grades 7 - 12 (\$760,000)
- In FY26, we budgeted \$1,449,194 for in-district transportation
- In FY27, we budgeted \$1,933,286 for in-district transportation
- Net increase of +\$484,092
  - Driven by negotiated contracts & increased foster & homeless transportation costs



FY 2027 Superintendent's Budget

# Budget Summary

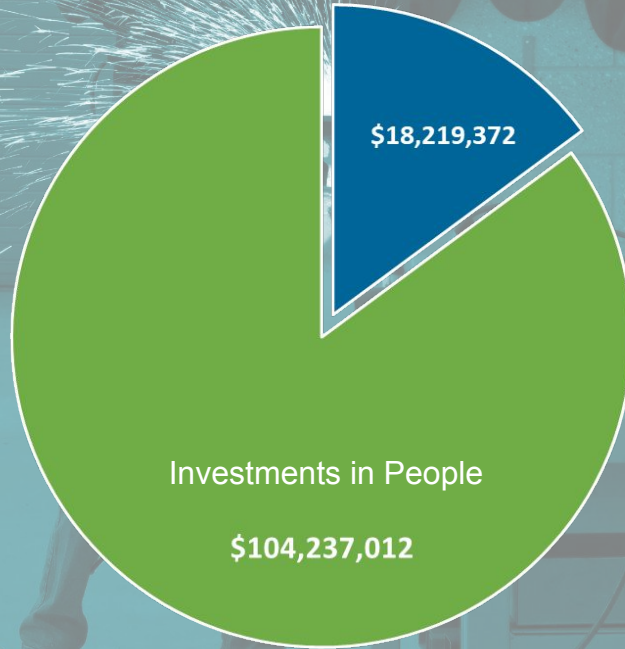


# Complete line-item budget included in packet

- Trust & stewardship are critical: This year's budget materials provide a **higher-level of transparency and detail** than prior years
- Non-personnel budgets show a detailed accounting of the \$18 million non-personnel budget across all 35 departments
  - Presented in more accessible language and formatting than prior years
- Personnel budget breakdowns:
  - DESE Function Code
  - School & department
  - Position
  - Job title



Our budget is mostly driven by investments in the people who support our students, families, and staff.



# Personnel Budget Overview

	<b>FY26 Actual</b>	<b>FY27 Proposed</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Salary</b>	\$94,861,126	\$104,237,012	+\$9,375,886*
<b>FTEs</b>	1019.5	1021.5	+2.0

- \*YOY variance results from:
  - Increased costs of negotiated salaries
  - One-time shift of \$2.5 million in salaries from Circuit Breaker to Personnel
    - (net neutral overall impact to budget)

## Personnel Budget Overview, as voted by School Committee Finance and Facilities Subcommittee

	<b>FY26 Actual</b>	<b>FY27 Proposed</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Salary</b>	\$94,861,126	\$104,882,012	+\$10,020,886
<b>FTEs</b>	1019.5	1027.5	+8.0

- The School Committee voted to add \$645,000 to our “personnel” budget line.
- The intention was to provide two more special ed inclusion classes and four additional interventionists (3 reading, 1 math).

# Personnel Changes Summary

## Staff Additions

- Special Education Teachers (5)
- ESL Specialists (2.5)
- Adjustment Counselor (1)
- Instructional Coaches (3.5)
- Digital Literacy & Computer Science Teacher (1)
- Chief of Staff (.2)
- Health Teacher (1)
- Speech & Language Pathologist (1)
- HR Specialist (1)
- Math Intervention Teachers (2)
- Physical Therapist (1) & PT Assistant (1)
- School Psychologist (.5)
- Academic Evaluator (.5)
- Spanish Teacher (1)
- Spanish Reading Specialist (.5)
- Teacher (.6)
- Family Liaison (.4)
- In-School Suspension Teacher (1)

## Staff Reductions

- Goal Program Specialist (1)
- MLE Paraprofessionals (2)
- MLE Curriculum & Instruction Specialist (1)
- Occupational Therapist (1)
- SEI-1 Teacher (5)
- Principal Clerk (1)
- Recording Secretary (.4)
- Registered Behavior Tech (1)
- RISP Coordinator (1)
- Academic Evaluator (.5)
- Building Substitutes (2)
- MTSS Coordinator (1)
- Equity Coach (1)
- Math (SHS) Teacher (1)
- Teacher (1)
- Library Aides (4)
- Utility Aide (1)
- Bilingual Adjustment Counselor (1)

# Non-Personnel Budget Overview

	<b>FY26 Actual</b>	<b>FY27 Proposed</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$18,878,461	\$18,219,372	(\$659,088)

- **This is not a cut to our NP budget.**
  - We shifted costs to other funds
    - \$3.5 million out of district tuition moved from the Spec Ed NP to Circuit Breaker
    - \$192,000 from Spec Ed NP to Personnel to fund Physical Therapist & PT Assistant

## Non-Personnel Budget Overview

	<b>FY26 Actual</b>	<b>FY27 Proposed</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Budget</b>	\$18,878,461	\$18,219,372	(\$659,088)

- Avg 7% increase for all budget orgs
  - Special Education: 13% (net) increase
    - \$3,500,000 of out of district tuition shifted to Circuit Breaker
  - Level-funded budgets adjusted for inflation
    - Ex: Music budget has been \$50,625 since 2023; will be \$65,000 in FY27
  - 7/35 budgets reduced per historical investment analysis
  - 3 new budget orgs added → increased transparency (CTE, Finance, HR)

## Improved equity in schools' non-personnel budgets

OS11	Brown	\$ 24,930.00	\$ 29,119.77	17%	\$ 4,189.77	\$ 126.61
OS13	East Somerville	\$ 67,764.00	\$ 102,869.60	52%	\$ 35,105.60	\$ 138.45
OS14	Capuano	\$ 35,990.00	\$ 37,163.49	3%	\$ 1,173.49	\$ 190.58
OS15	Healey	\$ 58,220.00	\$ 71,891.42	23%	\$ 13,671.42	\$ 153.29
OS16	Kennedy	\$ 52,940.00	\$ 64,323.06	22%	\$ 11,383.06	\$ 129.95
OS17	Argenziano	\$ 73,100.00	\$ 78,829.53	8%	\$ 5,729.53	\$ 143.33
OS19	West Somerville	\$ 37,030.00	\$ 51,424.27	39%	\$ 14,394.27	\$ 135.68
OS21	Winter Hill	\$ 55,540.00	\$ 68,787.00	24%	\$ 13,247.00	\$ 189.50
OS31	Somerville High	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 426,746.11	2%	\$ 6,746.11	\$ 313.78
OS62	Next Wave/Full Circle	\$ 38,450.00	\$ 39,650.00	3%	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 558.45

- Equity-driven funding formula incorporates student demographics to distribute resources according to need
- All school budgets increased to provide principals and staff more resources to improve school climate and academic outcomes

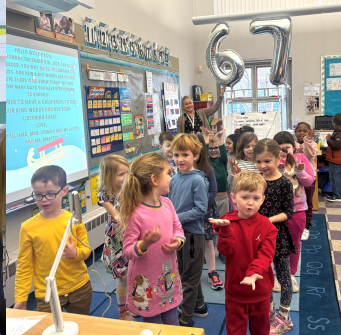
# Federal & State Grant Funding: \$5,315,101

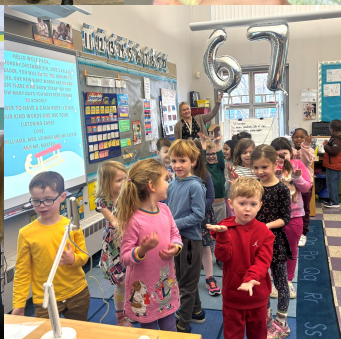
Grant	FY26 Allocation	Anticipated FY27	Anticipated FY 27 FTE Supported
Title I	\$1,102,138	\$1,083,783	8.8 FTE
Title II	\$151,093	\$140,516	1 FTE
Title III	\$170,622	Expected Level	SPELL Summer
Title IV	\$81,456	Expected Level	0 FTE
IDEA 240/262	\$1,814,777	Expected Level	15 FTE
Perkins	\$79,366	Expected Level	0 FTE
ACLS SCALE	\$915,649	Expected Level	9.2 FTE
CPPI Early Childhood	\$1,000,000	Unknown	5.5 FTE
Circuit Breaker	\$3,537,170	N/A	N/A: OOD Tuition

# FY27 Budget Summary

- Our FY27 budget represents a 7.58% increase over FY26, which is slightly above our typical annual growth.
- On May 20, 2026 the Finance and Facilities Subcommittee of the Whole voted to recommend an additional \$645,000 representing six additional positions to the District’s proposed budget.
  - The language “FY27 SC approved” represents this vote below.

	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Actual	FY27 SC Approved	FY27 Mayor Proposed
Non-Personnel	\$17,918,747	\$18,618,646	\$18,962,711	\$18,219,372	\$18,219,372
Personnel	\$82,090,462	\$88,128,369	\$94,861,126	\$104,882,012	\$104,237,012
Total	\$100,009,209	\$106,747,806	\$113,823,837	\$123,101,384	\$122,456,384
YOY \$ Increase	\$7,315,507	\$6,737,806	\$7,076,823	\$9,277,547	\$8,632,547
YOY % Increase	7.89%	6.74%	6.63%	8.15%	7.58%





# Partners in Education

Mayor's Office  
Somerville Communications &  
Community Engagement Dept.  
Somerville Grants Dept.  
Somerville Dept. of Racial & Social Justice  
Somerville LGBTQO Commission  
Somerville Dept. of Public Works  
Somerville Health & Human Services,  
including Office of Food Access & Healthy  
Communities, Prevention Services, and  
SomerPromise  
Somerville Parks & Recreation  
Somerville Public Libraries  
Somerville Office of Housing Stability  
Somerville Police Department  
Somerville Fire Department  
Somerville Office of Immigrant Affairs  
Somerville Office of Sustainability  
Somerville Arts Council  
Somerville Office of Strategic Planning &  
Community Development  
Somerville Capital Projects  
Somerville Technology Dept.  
Somerville Traffic and Parking  
Somerville Council on Aging  
Somerville Commission on Human Rights  
MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary  
Education (DESE)  
MA Dept. of Early Education & Care (EEC)

Somerville PTAs  
Padres Latinos  
SEPAC  
MLPAC  
Connexion  
Groundwork Somerville  
Middlesex Partnerships for Youth  
Mystic Learning Center  
Rotary Club  
Somerville Community Corp.  
Somerville Media Center  
Somerville YMCA  
Somernova  
Teen Empowerment  
The Growing Center  
The Welcome Project  
The Children's Room  
Home for Little Wanderers  
Neighborhood Counseling & Community  
Services  
Riverside Mental Health  
Youth Harbors  
Bigelow Cooperative Daycare  
CAAS Head Start  
Dandelion Montessori  
Elizabeth Peabody House  
Open Center for Children  
Treehouse Academy Child Care  
Pooh and Friends Learning Center  
Somerville Childcare Center

ABT Global  
Bay State Community College  
Benjamin Franklin Institute of Tech.  
Berklee College of Music  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Bunker Hill CC  
Cambridge College  
Cradles to Crayons  
The Bullpen Project  
Fisher College  
Harvard University  
Lesley University  
Longy School of Music  
Mass. Institute of Technology (MIT)  
Mass Bay Community College  
Middlesex Community College  
North Shore Community College  
Roxbury Community College  
Tufts University  
UMass Boston  
Universal Technical Institute  
University of Michigan  
Wyoming Technical Institute  
Boston Carpenters Apprenticeship  
Training Center  
Construction Craft Laborers  
Apprenticeship Program  
Eastern MA Carpenters Apprenticeship  
I.B. Electrical Workers  
Local 63 - Laborers Union  
Sheet Metal Workers Local 17

Boston Children's Hospital  
Cambridge Health Alliance  
Barr Foundation  
Biogen  
Biogen Foundation  
Boston Chamber Music Society  
Boston Area Kodaly Educators  
Boston Debate League  
The Boston Foundation  
Brian Higgins Foundation  
C.A.S.IT  
The Cummings Foundation  
Grooversity  
HONK Festival Foundation  
Lab Central Ignite  
Mass Advocates for Children  
Mass Cultural Council  
Nellie Mae Education Foundation  
The Rennie Center  
Root Cause  
Ryan Harrington Foundation  
Somerville Education Foundation  
Somerville Mathematics Fund  
Becoming a Man (BAM)  
Knovva Academy  
The Calculus Project  
Enroot  
Working on Womanhood (WOW)

**Thank you!**

