

SECTION III

PUPIL PERSONNEL SERVICES UPDATE

The Supervisor of Pupil Personnel Services has worked directly with schools on various student programs and has also worked closely with the Central Office staff to coordinate programs District-wide. The Supervisor oversees the MA Municipal Medicaid Program which coordinates claims by local education authorities for partial federal reimbursement of qualifying direct health services provided to MassHealth members in schools, and of administrative support expenditures incurred in providing those services. One component of administrative claiming is the completion of a time study. The time study is a recording of each participant's activities for each day, for five consecutive days. A valid study consists of a random sample of school direct service and direct support personnel. Time studies are held for three quarters of each school year, October through June. Administrative claiming for the fourth quarter (July, August and September) is an average of the previous three quarters. Other factors considered in calculating reimbursement include quarterly salary payments; student roster; materials & supplies expense report; District-wide FTE; specialized transportation expense reports; out-of-District tuition expense; annual District-wide salaries and fringe benefits report; and the annual capital cost report.

Through the Pupil Personnel Department, several programs are made available to the District schools. The Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities is a federally-funded initiative to support local programs that prevent violence around schools; prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs; involve parents; and coordinate with related federal, state, and community efforts and resources. Programs must be based on the principles of effectiveness, which include: objective analysis of need; goals and measurable objectives (with assistance of local advisory council); proven and effective strategies; and on-going program evaluation. The District schools use the SecondStep® and Steps to Respect®. There is a new Second Step curriculum designed especially for 6th, 7th and 8th graders that focuses specifically on the prevention of violence, bullying and substance abuse.

The District was awarded \$17, 614.00 in grant funding to support efforts to maintain safe and drug-free schools for students. The majority of funding will purchase materials, specifically classroom kits for PK-5th grade. The approved programs used in the District currently are SecondStep® and Steps to Respect®. Each program focuses on social-emotional learning; SecondStep® focuses on violence prevention, emphasizing empathy, anger management and problem solving through role playing, group discussions and other classroom based activities, while the Steps to

Respect® program centers on bullying prevention. This program provides activities included with skill lessons and allows for integration into academic. Literature units with books specific to the topic are available through this program.

In concert with the School Resource Officer (SRO), the Supervisor wrote a second SDFSC grant in the amount of \$2,955.00. This funding, approved by the Commonwealth of MA Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, will be used to support the presence of the SRO at WRHS, and afford him the opportunity to attend training in the Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders curriculum.

The goal of the Essential School Health Service Program (ESHS) is to develop the capacity within a district to establish a comprehensive school health program utilizing identified best practices to enhance the quality of the public school health service program by addressing administrative and programmatic areas (infrastructure, comprehensive health education and tobacco control), linkages with local providers/health insurance programs and data systems. School health service program infrastructure must include a school nursing leader; a staffing plan which requires all school nurses employed to be either certified or eligible for Department of Elementary and Secondary Education certification as "school nurses" or exempt according to the Department of Education regulations 603 CMR 7.00; sufficient numbers of school nurses for the district size, and with the capacity to provide the level of services required by the ESHS program and a School Health Advisory Council to advise the school district on its comprehensive, coordinated school health program. The ESHS grant supports student health needs assessments, particularly vision and hearing screening.

In addition, the District receives funding through the Essential School Health Services Grant. This grant supports a part-time nursing position, funding for substitute nurses and for a contracted vision/hearing team coordinator, who coordinates all aspects of the District's vision and hearing screening program. In addition, the grant provides funding for professional development opportunities for District staff, including such programs as the Red Cross Restaurant Emergency Training/'til Help Arrives training, a presentation by the American Diabetes Association for school nurses, University of Massachusetts Medical School Spring 2008 Pediatric Nursing Clinical Workshops for school nurses, Medication Delegation conference, and CPR and First Aid Training.