

WALTHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Brian K. Reagan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

PRESS RELEASE

Waltham, MA, February 10, 2022: Waltham Public Schools has <u>received a FY22 Alternative English</u> <u>Learner Education Programs Grant</u> from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to expand the Dual Language School into grade 6 at Kennedy Middle School. The grant was submitted and will be managed by the Multilingual Department.

Rochelle Nwosu, Principal of Dual Language School, reaffirms the school mission, "The mission of Dual Language Education K-8 in Waltham is to support students on their journey to becoming bilingual and biliterate in both Spanish and English. We strive to develop socially and culturally competent citizens who will contribute to our community and to the world." Principal Nwosu is encouraging students and families to participate in the process of expanding the Dual Language into the middle grades.

Funding from this grant will support curriculum development for a Spanish language arts class and a social studies class. Professional development workshops will be provided to Kennedy staff on dual language development. The grant will also cover curriculum materials in Spanish for the 2022-2023 school year, a short-term consultant, and a part-time bilingual assessment coordinator.

Kevin Gildea, Principal of Kennedy Middle School is appreciative of this support. "This funding from MADESE will support a smooth transition of the Dual Language program. We look forward to welcoming our sixth graders as integral members of the Kennedy community."