



For Immediate Release

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Waltham Public Schools Receives STEM Career Pathway Capacity Grant

Waltham, Mass. (February 14, 2018) – Waltham Public Schools announced today that it has received a \$70,000 grant to offer high-quality science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs from [Project Lead The Way](#) (PLTW). PLTW is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers through pathways in computer science, engineering and biomedical science. More than 10,500 schools across the country offer PLTW programs to millions of students.

Superintendent of Schools Drew Echelson commented on this opportunity with PLTW it in the context of the education plan for a new Waltham High School: “In the fall of 2016 we delivered to the community an education plan for a new Waltham High School. This plan was developed through a collaborative and democratic process with 30-40 stakeholders. To me, our education plan is a contract with the community and outlines what WPS must deliver educationally so that all of our students have opportunities to study new fields that are of interest to them while also better preparing them for the demands of college, career, and community. Next year, we will offer courses in biomedical sciences and engineering and we will extend these course into new and rigorous pathways over the next several years. I also hope we will offer more courses in computer science and cybersecurity in the near future as a result of this partnership with PLTW. I want to thank Mayor McCarthy who has always advocated for more STEM pathways as part of the education plan. I am particularly proud that we can deliver on more elements of the education plan now and I am thankful for the leadership of the Mayor and the Waltham School Committee who continue to advocate for new opportunities that will ensure our students are more competitive.” The Superintendent added thanks to the Waltham team who worked on this proposal, “I want to thank members of the Waltham Public School team who worked exceptionally hard on the Waltham proposal: Paul Maiorano, Shelly Chin, Heather Metallides, Dr. Elizabeth Homan, Valerie Alfeo and, of course, Principal Gregory DeMeo These leaders saw a new opportunity for our students, understood the alignment of the opportunity with the education plan and actively competed for resources that would deliver these new and innovative opportunities for our students.”

Waltham High School is just one of 73 schools across the commonwealth to receive the grant, which is supported by the Administration of Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, the One8 Foundation, and Mass STEM Hub.

“It is essential that we engage our students throughout their K-12 school years with hands-on lessons in science, engineering, computer science, technology and math,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

Waltham Public Schools will use grant funds to start new PLTW programs in biomedical sciences and engineering. Funds from the grant will also support teacher professional development and the purchase of materials and equipment that will be used in the hands-on, activity-, project-, and problem-based courses.

“We are proud to partner with Waltham High School to empower students to develop the in-demand knowledge and transportable skills to thrive in our evolving world,” said Vince Bertram, PLTW president and CEO. “Thank you to the Governor’s Office, the One8 Foundation, and Mass STEM Hub for making these grants possible and further investing in Massachusetts’s students.”

About PLTW

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers across the U.S. PLTW empowers students to develop in-demand, transportable knowledge and skills through pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. PLTW’s teacher training and resources support teachers as they engage their students in real-world learning. More than 10,500 elementary, middle, and high schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs. For more information on Project Lead The Way, visit pltw.org.

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