

Framingham Public Schools
FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Christopher Martes
Laurie Lee, Pilot Committee

FROM: Anna Cross, Director of Family Support Programs

RE: Pilot Study

DATE: April 11, 2006

Listed below is the information requested by the Pilot committee regarding students living in addresses provided by the committee as well as a listing of the collaborations between Family Support Programs and community agencies.

- In general, of the 172 addresses provided by the Pilot committee on the revised list of 3/28/2006, 87 students were listed as attending the Framingham Public Schools. This represents approximately 1% of the total Framingham Public School population. It should be noted however that the number of students fluctuates depending on the type of program the student requires and the individual criteria around length of stay in the program.

A significant number of collaborations have been developed between Family Support Programs and a number of agencies in Framingham. Family Support Programs is a department of the Framingham Public Schools which serves as the umbrella for a number of school district and grant funded programs that focus on providing services, resources, support and information to families and children. Programs, which operate under the Framingham Public Schools Family Support Programs umbrella, are:

Parent Information Center
Community Partnership for children
Parent Child Home Program
McKinney-Vento grant for Homeless Children and Families

Below is a listing of collaborations or services by program:

Parent Information Center:

- Registration of all students grades K-8
- Kindergarten Expo for all new incoming families
- Collaboration with community and public preschool programs to identify incoming Kindergarten children
- Collaboration with: Framingham Community Partners, Townwide PTO, Parent Resource Room at PIC for distribution of community resources

Community Partnership For Children Grant

Framingham Family Central

- Provides tuition assistance for over 100 children who are eligible for childcare tuition assistance in early education and care programs in Framingham
- Provides community wide professional development for preschool programs who are working to achieve national accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Parenting programs for families of young children provided in collaboration with community consultants
- Behavior and Mental Health consultant support through SMOC Behavioral Services and other community based mental health professionals
- CPC Council includes community members representing social service, higher education, business, faith based organizations, senior citizens, parents, community preschools, and Massachusetts state agencies.

Collaboration on community grants including:

- Early Childhood Mental Health Grant – DECA Devereaux Early Childhood Assessment
- Full Day Quality Kindergarten Grant – Let's Go to K program
- Department of Early Education and Care Educators Grant
- Building Careers Grant – Framingham State College and Mass Bay Community College
- Early Childhood Fair in collaboration with the Parent Information Center—over thirty community and business organizations participate annually
- CHILD Access Project – SMOC, Wayside, Advocates
- *Family Challenge Project* – MetroWest YMCA

Parent Child Home Program Grant

- Provides early literacy support and training for parents with children ages 18 mo to 2.9 years
- 29 families receiving on-going services
- Collaborations with Early Intervention, SMOC Headstart, Pediatric Clinic, Sage House, Pathways, MSPCC/GoodStart, Healthy Families, WIC, CPC
- Provides ESOL classes for PCHP parents
- Funded in part by the “Breaking the Cycle of Poverty” Foundation

- PCHP Homeless Enhancement Project grant to serve 3-4 families living in shelters or scattered sites providing on-going weekly parenting group, first aid and nutrition workshops for families and literacy backpacks for children

McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Families Grant

- Provides tutoring for students living in shelters and transitional housing
- Coordinates collaboration between schools and community agencies serving homeless youth
- Provides staff training and support for shelter and school staff
- Collaborated on the Massachusetts Taskforce on Children Affected by Domestic Violence which resulted in the creation of a “Flexible Framework” outlining strategies for schools when working with children impacted by trauma
- Awarded Trauma Sensitive Schools Grant which utilized the “Flexible Framework” to develop a specific strategy guide for teachers working with children who have experienced trauma.
- Created the Community Trauma Roundtable which includes Wayside, DSS, Police Department, Advocates, Framingham Public Schools and SMOC Domestic Violence and Shelter Programs leading to improved communication between agencies which benefits all Framingham students