



Line Item 7010-0012

\$30 million for METCO

In its 55 years of existence, METCO is proud to remain a national and historic model for voluntary school integration. Not only are METCO communities opening doors of opportunities for urban students of color, but also challenging and mitigating the racial divide that continues to impact our country. Living through a dual pandemic, COVID and racism, has crystallized to our member school districts that much work lies ahead in addressing the educational and racial barriers that continue to plague our schools and communities. As a result, METCO communities are pushing forward with bold commitments to racial equity, seeing their decades-long participation in the program as an affirmative statement of the value they place on diversity and inclusion.

This new trajectory for METCO—nicknamed “METCO 2.0” and laid out in an [Antiracism Road Map](#)—proposes intentional and strategic initiatives including inclusive curriculum, teacher diversity, restorative discipline practices, professional development, and equity audits. The road map includes developing an assessment tool for METCO districts to identify areas of growth and pursue yearly goals. This work will be facilitated alongside a continued robust menu of supports and services to students, families, and districts.

SUSTAIN	INFLATION - Prices are rising steeply, especially for gas, and the bulk of METCO’s program cost goes to transportation.		STAFF RETENTION - The “great resignation” phenomenon calls for investment in great people with institutional knowledge and community relationships, above and beyond cost of living.
RENEW	ASSESSMENT - As the dust settles from global disruptions, METCO districts must understand the new realities of their school culture, policies, and programming, as well as the disparate impact felt by BIPOC students and staff.	INTERVENTIONS - The social emotional and academic effects can be remediated through targeted summer programs, after-school tutorials, social work supports, and college pathways and preparation.	IMPROVEMENTS - A wide range of stakeholders will need to learn new skills and develop new practices to improve the educational experiences of all students. The antiracism proclamations of 2020 must move into implementation now, requiring ongoing learning and development for teachers, leaders, administrators, and parents and implementation of assessments and audits for program improvements.
EXTEND	We request that the Prior Authorization Continued (“PAC”) language in METCO’s line item included in FY22, allowing unspent funds to be carried over to December, be made permanent. The uncertainty of the ongoing challenges facing students and staff means that solutions cannot be forecast, planned, and implemented within the bounds of a school year. Furthermore, METCO has flexibility to provide programming in Boston and the suburbs during summer to address needs identified during the year. This adjustment enables METCO HQ and districts to assess COVID-related student mental health, attendance, and academics at the end of the school year (as well as capacity issues caused by the job market), and deploy funds from that year to close any gaps.		

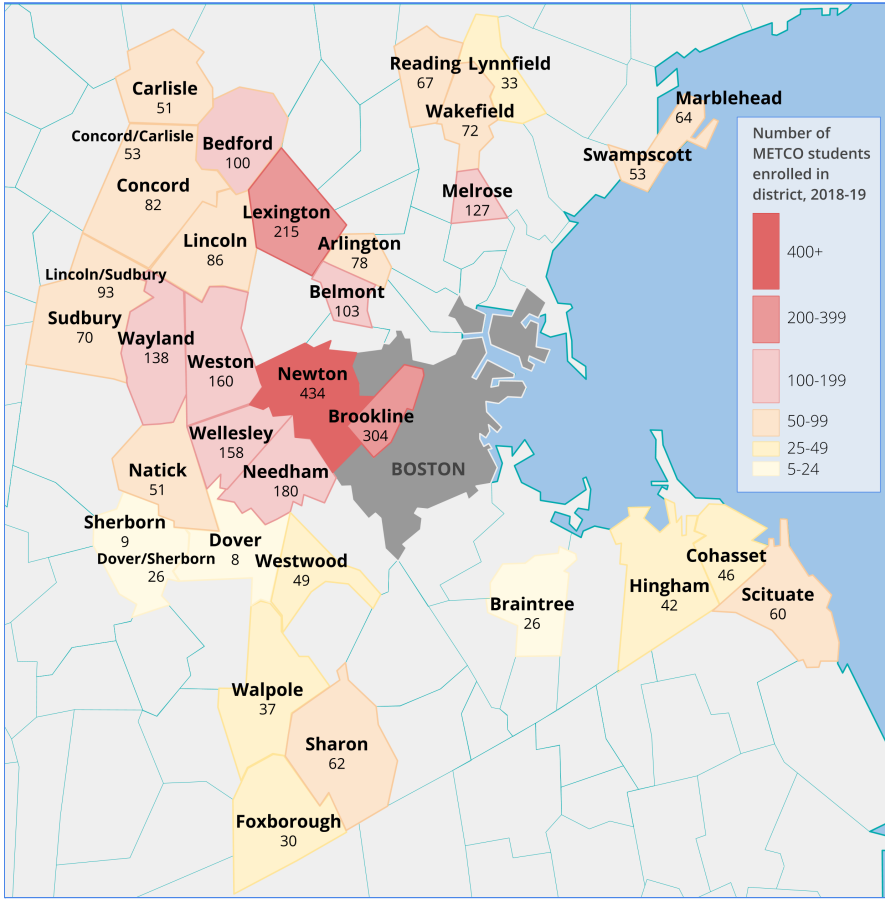
SEPARATE LINE ITEM: \$500,000 FOR ANTIRACISM & EQUITY SUPPORT

Because antiracism practices improve experiences for all students, making advancements in racial equity should be an expectation of any METCO partner district. METCO HQ proposes a pilot program for interested districts that would address long-standing needs in this area: to develop a continuum of practice to benchmark the current and desired state of integration in the districts, conduct curriculum audits to ensure cultural representation, and implement restorative discipline practices.



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NUMBER OF STUDENTS

3,200

NUMBER OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS

34

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

204

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Black 66%
- Hispanic/Latinx 23%
- Asian 3%
- White 2%
- Other 6%

FUNDING HISTORY

Fiscal year	Allocation	Increase (Decrease)	Fiscal Year	Allocation	Increase (Decrease)
1992-1998	\$ 12,031,328	0.00%	2012	\$ 17,642,582	0.00%
1999	\$ 12,371,328	2.83%	2013	\$ 18,142,582	2.83%
2000	\$ 12,031,328	(2.75%)	2014	\$ 18,642,582	2.76%
2001	\$ 15,319,156	27.33%	2015	\$ 17,912,443	(3.92%)
2002	\$ 15,319,156	0.00%	2016	\$ 20,142,582	12.45%
2003	\$ 15,128,126	(1.25%)	2017	\$ 20,642,582	2.48%
2004	\$ 13,615,313	(10.00%)	2018	\$ 20,642,582	0.00%
2005	\$ 15,615,313	14.69%	2019	\$ 22,182,582	7.46%
2006	\$ 17,615,313	12.81%	2020	\$ 24,225,000	9.21%
2007	\$ 18,615,313	5.68%	2021	\$ 25,600,000	5.68%
2008	\$ 20,615,313	10.74%	2022	\$ 27,900,000	8.98%
2009	\$ 21,615,313	4.85%	2023	\$ 30,000,000	7.53%
2011	\$ 17,642,582	(4.59%)			