

Applicant Name: Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership

Project Title: Boost! Community Schools

Absolute Priority the Project Addresses: (select all that apply) (Please note: You must select 1 or 2 and 3 or 4 or 5)

- Absolute Priority 1 – Title IA Schoolwide Program Eligibility
- Absolute Priority 2 – Title IA Schoolwide Eligibility and Rural Districts – Small and Rural or Rural and Low-Income
- Absolute Priority 3 – Capacity Building and Development Grants
- Absolute Priority 4 – Multi-Local Educational Agency Grants
- Absolute Priority 5 – FSCS State Scaling Grants

Competitive Preference and Invitational Priorities the Project Addresses: (select all that apply)

- Competitive Preference Priority 1—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs
- Competitive Preference Priority 2—Strengthening Cross-Agency Coordination and Community Engagement to Advance Systemic Change
- Invitational Priority—Supporting Effective Transition Practices, Continuity of Services and Supports, and Aligned Instruction for Students from Preschool and Other Early Childhood Settings into Kindergarten and from Kindergarten into the Early Grades (K–3).

Total number local educational agencies (LEAs) to be served by the project: One (1)

Total number of schools to be served by the project: 5 Prek 3 thru 8th grade Neighborhood Schools with 4 additional schools added over the period of the grant.

Total estimated number of students to be served by the project: 20% of the student population or approximately 3,600 students Prek 3 to 12th grade including all 5 schools.

Brief description of proposed project, including project activities: BOOST! is a community schools model approach to building partnerships between schools and community resources. The objective is to integrate focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement to improve student learning, build stronger families and healthier communities. This framework requires public schools and the public sector to shift from traditional models of segregated services to a collaborative effort, providing an accessible array of services directly at the participating schools. BOOST! s collaborative approach to public education is centered on equity. Waterbury Public Schools, like many urban school districts, demonstrate wide disparities and achievement gaps between white students and brown and Black students. An equity lens does not pathologize these racial disparities in achievement as the fault of brown and Black students. Rather, it identifies the systemic barriers preventing brown and Black students from achieving academic, social, and emotional success, holds systems agents accountable for providing the resources necessary for student success and leverages the existing talents in students and communities as strategies to dismantle the inequities.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: The core outcomes BOOST is most focused on improving and the activities we are actively undertaking to improve these core outcomes are critical and integral to the overall success of our community schools efforts. We use dosage data (number of hours spent at an afterschool program as our independent variable and student outcome data (Absenteeism, Smarter Balanced scores, Disciplinary referrals, GPA, Graduation rates) as our dependent variables. In addition, utilization of race/ethnicity, LGBTQ identity, gender identity, special education

status, and free/reduced lunch eligibility are used as both as outcome variables as well as control variables. Using RBA, the following is considered: How much: Attendance sheets at workshops, meetings, trainings, etc., How well: Satisfaction Surveys for all services, trainings, workshops, etc. we provide; and Better off: Developmental Asset Profiles, Student and parent surveys, Secondary student data derived from the state. WPS brown and Black students are not struggling to meet academic benchmarks simply because a lack of resources, but particularly because resources available typically focus on the mechanical side of academic intervention and not the social-emotional side. BOOST! is looking for a holistic approach to supporting student needs.

Proposed location(s) of implementation (e.g., city, town, county, State(s)): Boost! Waterbury will take place in the City of Waterbury, New Haven County in the state of Connecticut.

List all LEAs that will be partnering with this project, including rural designation under the Small Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program or the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) program if applicable: Waterbury (CT) Public Schools will be the LEA BTS will be partnering with this on this project.

List all non-LEA organizations partnering with this project: Current list of 13 school and community based partners in 2023. Additional partners pending grant approval. MOUs and Letters of Support included.

Partner	Program/Service	Impact Area	Grade/Age Served
Brass City Gamers	Coding 101	STEAM	Grades 5-8
Community Health Network of CT Foundation	Cooking Matters Family Edition	Physical Health & Wellness	All Grades
June Archer	Science of Sound	STEAM	Grades 6 - 8
Wellness 4 Every1	Dancing	Physical Health & Wellness	Grades 6 - 8
Porter's House	Mediation	SEL & Behavioral Health	All Grades
CT Kids Play Chess	Chess 101	STEAM	Grades 3-7
Wellness 4 Every1	Dancing	Physical Health & Wellness	Grades 4 & 5
Lotus Counseling	Kids RISE Up	SEL & Behavioral Health	Grades K-5
Wellness 4 Every1	Dancing Hip Hop & Drill	Physical Health & Wellness	Grades 6 - 8
Porter's House	After School Program focused on personal social skills	SEL & Behavioral Health	Grades K- 2
Local Civics	Active Citizenship, Social Impact, And Visionary Leadership	STEAM	Grades 6 & 7
Neighborhood Housing Services of Waterbury	Resident Leadership Program	Parent Engagement	Parents/Caregivers/ All Grades
Vision to Learn	Optic Health	Physical Health & Wellness	All Grades