

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CASE COLLABORATIVE

FROM: Sanchita Banerjee, Executive Director

DATE: May 3, 2024

RE: IV. A. General Update

PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

As of May 1, 2024, CASE's current enrollment stands at 104 students.

TOWN REPRESENTATION

- Acton-Boxborough = 14
 - Bedford = 1
 - Carlisle = 0
 - Concord = 2
 - Concord/Carlisle = 3
 - Harvard = 8
 - Lincoln = 13
 - Lincoln/Sudbury = 4
 - Littleton = 4
 - Maynard = 5
 - Sudbury = 1
 - MEMBER TOWNS = 55
 - NON-MEMBER TOWNS = 49
- TOTAL = 104**

Currently, 53% of the students represented at CASE Collaborative belong to member towns. Students from non-member districts equate to 47%.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

As of April 26, 2024, the CASE is providing transportation to 363 students.

CASE TRANSPORTATION RIDERSHIP

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| AB | 128 |
| Bedford | 16 |
| Carlisle | 5 |
| CC | 23 |
| Concord | 59 |
| Harvard | 11 |
| L/H | 26 |
| Lincoln | 8 |
| Littleton | 22 |
| Sudbury | 65 |
| Grand Total | 363 |

CASE is transporting students to 83 different programs in 44 towns.
 We currently have 67 full time drivers and 3 substitute drivers.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Based on year-to-date actuals, we anticipate ending fiscal year 2024 in a strong financial position with a modest overall surplus of roughly \$445K. This is mainly owing to the following themes we are seeing across CASE's different budget segments:

- Slight deficit within FY24 ESY financials, owing mainly to lower than anticipated student enrollments
- FY24 Student programs are fairly in-line with approved budget figures
 - Student enrollments roughly in-line with FY24 approved budget enrollments of 105
 - Continued challenges within staffing resulting in higher than expected Contracted Service costs, mostly offset by lower staff compensation and health insurance

- CETT service fees trending in-line with the FY24 budget but partly offset by a modestly higher in IT equipment expenses
- MNHG runout costs have impacted projected FY24 results by roughly \$134K
- Modest surplus within FY24 transportation reflecting lower hourly driver wages (due to continued hiring challenges), partly offset by higher repair costs (from an aging fleet of vans) and van purchases, as well as MNHG runout costs of \$89K

While this report is a projection of the end of FY24 fiscal year, please note that with unexpected and unanticipated operational changes, the end of the year figures will also change.

DESE'S COORDINATED PROGRAM REVIEW (CPR) 2024

The MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is conducting a Coordinated Program Review (CPR) of CASE this year. This audit is focused on three areas - Special Education, Civil Rights, and Approved Public Day (*Colebrook School*).

CASE has completed the first phase of this process - a self-assessment. The second phase is about to start. An orientation is scheduled for May 6. On-site visits from DESE liaisons will occur the week of June 3 to June 7, 2024. CASE administration is working closely with the Department of Education to complete this process.

SAFE SCHOOLS

On March 20, 2024, approximately 33 employees at our Colebrook School site underwent a course on responding to an active shooter event.

The Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) course, designed and built on the Avoid, Deny Defend (ADD) strategy developed by ALERRT in 2004, provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event. Topics include the history and prevalence of active shooter events, civilian response options, medical issues, and considerations for conducting drills. (https://alerrt.org/course_types/CRASE)



CELEBRATIONS

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We would like to recognise student accomplishments for the current school year -

- Four high school students passed the Biology and Science MCAS - two students from TIP and two from EMPOWER Program.
- Six seniors are graduating from the TIP program. One student is going on to college. Three students are working. Two students will be attending work/study programs.
- Two students are getting their Certificates of Completion from the Empower/RISE programs.

We congratulate these students for their accomplishments and look forward to celebrating their big milestone in June. Collaboration between families, staff and students enables such progress to take place. The hard work and dedication of all teams are commendable.

CASE TURNS 50

CASE turns 50 this month. Formed in 1974, the Concord Area Special Education (CASE) Collaborative has served students and teachers in our eleven member districts as well as many from outside the CASE region. CASE Collaborative brings together our school district partners, schools, faculty specialists, staff and families to create exceptional and individualized learning for all. Our focus has been on creating and providing educational programs and services that help students to grow, develop, and achieve their potential as individuals.

Extended Year Services and Programming have been available for those students who require them. Our summer programs are housed at one of our member district schools and Colebrook School in Acton.

CASE Transportation has been providing van services for sometimes over 500 students from our member districts covering nearly two and a half million miles a year. We have a fleet of over 75 vans, each equipped with GPS tracking and many with cameras, thus allowing us to closely monitor our vehicles to ensure student safety. Our team of drivers who have been carefully screened and well trained boast an exemplary safe driving record.

The CASE CETT Team has provided state-of-the-art assistive technology services to our classrooms. We also provide consultation services, workshops, and evaluations for both member and non-member districts.

CASE remains committed to continuing to evolve our programs and services in ways that support the work of our member districts.
