



# Somerville Public Schools

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Somerville Public Schools Awarded Cummings Foundation “\$100K for 100” Grant** *Grant award to support youth social-emotional, leadership development*

Somerville, MA – The Somerville Public Schools (SPS) is one of 100 local organizations selected to receive grants of \$100,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s “100K for 100” program. SPS was chosen from a total of 597 nonprofit applicants, during a competitive review process. SPS’ award will support social-emotional and leadership development for at-risk youth throughout the district, through team-building adventure-based programming.

Representing the Somerville Public Schools, District Wellness Coordinator Caitlin Kelly and SPS Director of Communications and Grants Susana H. Morgan, will join approximately 300 other guests at a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn next week to celebrate the \$10 million infusion into Greater Boston’s nonprofit sector. With the conclusion of this grant cycle, Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$220 million to Greater Boston nonprofits alone.

“We are incredibly grateful to the Cummings Foundation for their support of Somerville youth, and for their commitment to making a positive impact in the Greater Boston communities,” commented SPS Superintendent of Schools, Mary Skipper. “Our vision of developing the whole child is clear – we are fully committed to meeting the needs of all students in our district, and to helping every student that comes through our doors develop the foundational social, emotional, and leadership skills that will help them succeed in all areas of their lives. The Cummings Foundation’s support allows us to ensure that some of our most vulnerable populations have the opportunity to develop those critical life skills in a safe, engaging, and supportive environment.”

“The adventure-based programming that will be funded by the Cummings Foundation’s generous \$100K for 100 grant in Somerville gives our students the opportunity to build confidence and transform their view of their abilities by exposing them to activities that challenge them and give them the chance to take risks, feel supported, and succeed,” added Caitlin Kelly, the district’s Wellness Coordinator. “The engaging experiential programming focuses on teamwork, perseverance, resiliency and self-determination. In addition to these valuable life lessons and skills that students develop, our students will also make memories that will last a lifetime.”

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings of Winchester, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We are indebted to the nonprofit organizations like the Somerville Public Schools that have a meaningful positive impact on the local communities where our colleagues and clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “We are delighted to invest in their important programs and services.”



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This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention and affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. Most of the grants will be paid over two to five years.

The complete list of 100 grant winners will be available beginning June 7 at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

Cummings Foundation announced an additional \$10 million in early May through its new Sustaining Grants, which extend "100K for 100" funding for previous winners for 10 more years. Beginning in 2019, the Foundation will increase its total giving through these two programs from \$20 million to \$25 million.

## **About Somerville Public Schools**

Somerville Public Schools is a richly diverse and dynamic urban school district serving about 5,000 PK-12 students in 10 schools. SPS students come from around the world, with varied backgrounds and a multitude of life and educational experiences. More than 50 different languages from around the world are represented among our student population. SPS' commitment to youth is driven by its vision of "...developing the whole child -- the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential of all students -- by providing students with the skills, opportunities, and resources that will nurture innovative ideas, foster pride in diversity, inspire students to become lifelong learners and empower them to enrich their communities."

## **About Cummings Foundation**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn. Bill Cummings released his self-written memoir, "Starting Small and Making It Big: An Entrepreneur's Journey to Billion-Dollar Philanthropist," in March 2018. Additional information is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org) and [cummings.com/book](http://cummings.com/book).

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