



# Somerville Public Schools

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Center for  
Collaborative  
Education

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contacts:

Emily Sienkiewicz, Center for Collaborative Education: [esienkiewicz@ccebos.org](mailto:esienkiewicz@ccebos.org); (617) 421-0134, x229

Susana H. Morgan, Somerville Public Schools: [smorgan@k12.somerville.ma.us](mailto:smorgan@k12.somerville.ma.us); (617) 629-5221

Stefan Lanfer, Barr Foundation: [slanfer@barrfoundation.org](mailto:slanfer@barrfoundation.org); (617) 854-3404

## Center for Collaborative Education, Somerville Public Schools Awarded \$150,000 by Barr Foundation for School Model Redesign at Next Wave/Full Circle

*Next Wave/Full Circle among second cohort of Massachusetts schools selected for Barr Foundation's  
"Engage New England: Doing High School Differently" Initiative*

Somerville, MA – This week, the [Center for Collaborative Education](#) (CCE), working in partnership with the [Somerville Public Schools](#) (SPS), was named one of five grantees in the Barr Foundation Education Program's [Engage New England: Doing high school differently](#) initiative. Together, they form the second cohort of educators participating in a multi-year initiative to open doors to rigorous, personalized education so that more young people have real opportunities to thrive. A planning grant of \$150,000 over one year will be used to spearhead the redesign of the school model for [Next Wave/Full Circle](#), a 45-year-old school serving a high-risk student population in a small, therapeutic educational environment that focuses on individualized instruction and support.

The Barr Foundation's *Engage New England: Doing high school differently* initiative is a \$30 million investment over five years to help New England innovators redesign existing high schools and bring new school models to life in their communities. Participants receive one-year planning grants and technical assistance with design and planning, with the potential to be invited to apply for implementation grants of up to \$750,000 over two years. Participants also become partners in a learning community, to share and learn from like-minded peers across the region. Together, they are doing high school differently by building a diverse set of school models that expand student success.

"We are incredibly excited to once again be partnering with CCE and the Barr Foundation on this important work of ensuring that our schools are student-centered and innovative places of teaching and learning," commented Somerville Superintendent of Schools, Mary Skipper. "This type of deep planning work is about equity of opportunity and access for all students. We look forward to connecting with and learning from our peers involved in this work, and to exploring and identifying ways in which we can redesign the school model to better meet the needs and ensure the future success of Next Wave/Full Circle students."

"We are excited to continue our partnership with Somerville Public Schools and the Barr Foundation, working together to provide Next Wave/Full Circle students with learning experiences that nurture their intellectual and social emotional growth," said Dan French, Executive Director for the Center for Collaborative Education. "Our vision of Next Wave/Full Circle has students as agents of their own learning, empowered daily to apply their innate curiosity and creativity in addressing real world issues on their own, while also collaborating with their classmates, teachers, and community partners."

Intentionally designed around the principles of positive youth development theory, schools supported under this initiative will be as rigorous as they are flexible in developing content knowledge, successful habits, creative know-how and navigation abilities—the integrated elements that are essential for today's students to connect to success in high school, college, career and community.

"This partnership brings together a diverse group of educators who share the belief that all students can meet high expectations when their schools engage their interests, empower their potential and fully prepare them for success in life," stated Leah Hamilton, the Barr Foundation's Director of Education. "We are thrilled to include the Center for Collaborative Education and Next Wave/Full Circle in our second cohort of *Engage*



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*New England: Doing high school differently* grantees, and to support them in a planning process to refine their vision for a cohesive school model that addresses the unique needs of their students and community.”

## **About the Center for Collaborative Education**

The Center for Collaborative Education (CCE) has, for the past twenty-four years, been a part of the wide conversation around education, equity, and next generation best practices that maximize success for all students. CCE’s current work focuses on four strategic program areas: District and School Design; Instruction and Assessment; Leadership Development; and Research, Evaluation and Policy. In these areas, CCE works directly with educators and other professionals in schools, districts, and states to increase educational access and opportunity for all students, with particular attention to groups that have historically been underserved, including students of color, low-income populations, and English language learners.

## **About the Barr Foundation**

The Barr Foundation’s mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. Founded in 1997, Barr now has assets of \$1.7 billion, and has contributed more than \$837 million to charitable causes. For more information, visit [www.barrfoundation.org](http://www.barrfoundation.org).

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