



March 5, 2019

Dear members of the Cambridge School Committee-

Cambridge Nonprofit Coalition (CNC) steering committee is writing to voice support for our nonprofit out-of-school time (OST) colleagues who bring individualized support to Cambridge Public School (CPS) highest need students. As a coalition focused on addressing inequity in Cambridge and representing many nonprofits in our community, we feel it is our responsibility to raise up these leaders' voices in this critically important discussion of extending the school day for CPS elementary and upper schools.

CNC shares the school department's desire to address educational inequity and achievement gaps. Like the Superintendent, we also believe that the most effective strategy to approach this challenge is to address the needs, and build on the unique assets of each CPS student.

Cambridge's exemplary OST system provides a variety of program types so that needs are met and children thrive. In order to fully leverage all the environments, resources and programs that students engage with before, during and after school, we must consider the time and logistical needs of all learning environments, allow for different models and structures of OST programming, and remove the barriers that currently prevent information and resources from being shared across in school and out of school programs.

CNC is looking forward to partnering with CPS to deepen the relationship between OST and in school programs. CNC encourages CPS to fully consider the value and needs of the OST system in Cambridge and make decisions on lengthening the school day in a way that preserves the OST provider community and recognizes the needs of families who benefit from, and depend on their services.

In order for the OST provider community to fully participate in this partnership, we urge the Cambridge Public Schools to:

1. *Standardize CPS schools start and end times, with the exception of the extended day schools, Fletcher Maynard and King, to enhance the experience of students who depend on, and benefit from quality OST programs, where no school has a release time after 3PM every day. This will ensure enough time for **all students** to take advantage of the diverse OST opportunities in Cambridge, taking place both in schools and in the community.*
2. *Create the proposed Elementary School Network in the model of the Middle School Network to ensure that **all students and families are aware of, and are able to access** OST programs and services available to them.*

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to design a system that provides a wide variety of supports for all the students who need them.

Sincerely,

CNC Steering Committee

Tina Alu, Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee
Eva Martin Blythe, YWCA Cambridge
Ben Clark, Enroot (formerly Cambridge Community Services)
Selvin Chambers, Margaret Fuller Neighborhood House
Michael Delia, East End House
Jennifer Fries, Cambridge School Volunteers
Bob Gittens, Cambridge Family and Children's Service
Jane Hirschi, CitySprouts
Eryn Johnson, Community Art Center, Inc.
Darrin Korte, Cambridge Community Center
Maria LaPage, Agassiz Baldwin Community
Sasha Purpura, Food For Free Committee, Inc.
Joan Squeri, The Union Partnership For A Whole Community
Sharon Zimmerman, Cambridge Camping