

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Salem School Committee

From: Jill Conrad, Chief of Systems Strategy, Superintendent's Office

Date: April 25, 2019

Re: Recommendation RE Salem's Participation in MA's Inter-District School Choice Program for 2019-20

Each year, the School Committee is required to vote – no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> – on whether or not to participate in the Massachusetts Inter-District School Choice program as specified in M.G.L. 76, Section 12B.

The Salem School Committee voted to opt-into the school choice program over the past two years. Specifically, the Committee voted to allow up to 20 non-resident students to enroll in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade via school choice at Salem High School (SHS) for the 2017-18 school year. For the 2018-19 school year, the committee opted to continue enrolling up to twenty (20) 9<sup>th</sup> graders at SHS and in addition, enroll up to ten (10) students of any high school grade level at the New Liberty Innovation School (NLIS). A table providing the numbers of students who took advantage of this opportunity for each of the past two years is provided below.

|                         | SHS         |              | NLIS        |              |              |              |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Sending District</b> | <b>Gr 9</b> | <b>Gr 10</b> | <b>Gr 9</b> | <b>Gr 10</b> | <b>Gr 12</b> | <b>Total</b> |
| <b>Beverly</b>          | 1           |              |             | 1            |              | 2            |
| <b>Lynn</b>             | 3           | 1            |             | 1            |              | 5            |
| <b>Manchester</b>       | 1           |              |             |              |              | 1            |
| <b>Marblehead</b>       |             |              | 1           |              |              | 1            |
| <b>Middleton</b>        |             |              |             | 1            |              | 1            |
| <b>Peabody</b>          | 2           | 1            |             |              |              | 3            |
| <b>Stoneham</b>         |             | 1            |             |              |              | 1            |
| <b>Swampscott</b>       |             | 1            |             |              | 1            | 2            |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>7</b>    | <b>4</b>     | <b>1</b>    | <b>3</b>     | <b>1</b>     | <b>16</b>    |

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| <b>Total SHS</b> | 11 |
|------------------|----|

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Total NLIS</b> | 5 |
|-------------------|---|

Since the number of applicants did not exceed the number of spaces available in both of the past two years, there was no need to hold a lottery and all applicants could attend. As provided for under the law, students who choice into Salem via the state's Inter-district School Choice program are eligible to complete their education, through graduation, with the receiving district.

For next year, the recommendation is to continue Salem's participation in the Inter-District School Choice program at the same level as this year. Doing so, would mean the following:

- Continue allowing up to 20 entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend Salem High School

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- Continue allowing up to 10 high school-aged students (any grade level) to attend New Liberty Innovation School

Thank you for considering this recommendation. A public hearing on this matter is scheduled for May 6, 2019. The School Committee vote on this matter is also scheduled for that evening. All districts are required to report their decision to the state by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

I look forward to discussing this important matter to you over the coming days and weeks.