

Dear OSS Community,

As we look ahead and prepare for the 2022-2023 school year, we want to express our deep gratitude for your flexibility and adaptability as we transitioned back to in-person learning this past school year.

Please find the latest updates we have below:

1. Introducing New OSS Leaders:

We are delighted to introduce three new OSS leaders following a comprehensive search and interview processes:

- **Kimberly Huffer**, Social Emotional Learning Director
- **Khita Pottinger-Johnson**, Director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support
- **Beth Kerhsner**, Director of Bilingual and ELL Programs
- **Vacant**, Executive Director

Below are short introductions to these new leaders. I have no doubt that these individuals will be a great asset to the CPS community. Please join me in welcoming them to the district!

- As Director of Social Emotional Learning, **Kim Huffer**, will coordinate the development, implementation, and evaluation of a comprehensive and integrated approach to social emotional learning (SEL) across the district. Kim will provide leadership, support, and direction to SEL social workers and guidance counselors. Prior to her work in Cambridge, Kim Huffer worked as the Administrator of Social Work and Social Emotional Learning for the Chelsea Public Schools. Kim is a licensed independent social worker who has worked as a clinician in a multitude of settings including schools, community based mental health centers, and adolescent residential treatment. Kim holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Towson University and a Masters degree in Social Work from the University of Maryland. Kim holds post-graduate certificates in the Treatment of Trauma from Boston University as well as Advanced Clinical Practices with Youth and Families from Boston College.
- **Khita Pottinger-Johnson** is the Director of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). In this capacity Khita leads a team that supports CPS departments and schools in building a robust system of tiered supports, in collaboration with caregivers and community partners. The MTSS team works collaboratively on building a district-wide MTSS model that meets the needs of our scholars and those supporting their learning and development. The MTSS team's efforts help build the district's capacity to provide an integrated continuum of support. Khita brings to Cambridge Public Schools over twenty years of experience in education. Khita has served in school and district educational leadership roles such as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education, Executive Director for Social Emotional Learning Instruction and Support Services, Principal and Assistant Principal. Khita has a Bachelor's degree from Lesley College and an MSW from the University of Michigan.

- **Beth Kershner** brings over 20 years of experience as a K-12 teacher, instructional coach, and district leader of Multilingual Learner Education. She has served multilingual students and families in Massachusetts urban communities, Washington, D.C public schools, and in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In her current role as Director of Multilingual Learner Education, Beth oversees the JK-12 English Learner and Dual language programs and ensures that all multilingual learners have access to a high-quality education across CPS schools. Previous to working for Cambridge Public Schools, Beth taught students in Grades 1-12 in dual language, general education, and Sheltered English immersion settings. Beth holds a CAGS in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from Boston University; a Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from American University in Washington, DC, and a Bachelor of Arts in Latin American Studies from Bates College. In addition to being licensed in Massachusetts as a Principal, elementary educator, and ESL teacher, she is also fluent in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

3. Free School Meals:

We are excited to share that **school meals will be at no cost for all students through the 2022-2023 school year!** A complete breakfast and a complete lunch will continue to be served at no cost to all students.

A meal is considered a *no cost complete meal* when at least three (3) meal components identified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) (Grains, Fruits, Vegetables, Meat/Meat Alternative, and Milk) have been selected, and at least one of them is a fruit or vegetable. Kitchen staff will help students select complete meals as they go through the serving line. ***Students will be charged for anything that does not meet the requirements of a complete meal.***

- Please note that even though complete meals will be at no cost for all students, it is beneficial for families to **complete the household Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals** for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The application will be sent to families in the mail and be made available on the website and in the Family Portal towards the end of August.
- We recommend families who feel they would qualify based on income to submit an application, as it allows us to establish eligibility for P-EBT benefits and serve families most effectively. Regardless of application status, if your student selects a complete meal, it will be at no cost.

We appreciate your patience awaiting this news! We are grateful to be able to provide nourishing and healthy meals to our students. For more information on **no cost complete meals**, check out the [Food & Nutrition Services webpage](#). Please reach out to us with any questions or concerns at

617.349.6858.

I hope you have a wonderful school year. Make it Great!

In Partnership,

Dr. Barbara Mullen
Assistant Superintendent
Office of Student Services