



The Center for Optimized Student Support at Boston College

# InterconnectED Update

Fall 2017

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## Welcome



InterconnectED is developing a statewide infrastructure to facilitate and advance the local integration of education with social services, youth development, health and mental health for children and families. We do this because we cannot afford to lose the talents and potential of students at risk. A growing number of children enter our schools with experiences known to derail healthy child development and readiness to learn, posing long-term consequences for society. Mounting evidence demonstrates that comprehensive student supports can significantly improve outcomes and children's life chances. We are excited to update you on the work we are accomplishing.

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**Massachusetts' FY18 budget prioritizes integrated student support**



The FY18 Budget for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts includes funding and language advancing integrated supports via the Safe and Supportive Schools (SaSS) line item. The language in the FY18 budget:

- Directs the Safe and Supportive Schools Commission to include principles of effective practice for integrating student supports into the Safe and Supportive Schools Framework and self-assessment tool for districts.
- Requires districts receiving related grants to submit plans that may include integrated student supports.
- Additional language that passed the House and Senate, may be restored through an override. It would increase the SaSS line item managed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by 25%, and establish as a priority of the Commonwealth "an infrastructure to facilitate coordination of school and community based resources, including but not limited to social services, youth development, health and mental health resources."
- The Fiscal Year 2017-2018 (FY18) Safe and Supportive Schools Grant Program ( Fund Code 335), funded through state line item 7061-9612, is now accepting proposals. The primary goal of the grant is to support districts and their selected schools to organize, integrate, and sustain school and district-wide efforts to create safe and supportive school environments and coordinate and align student support initiatives.

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## **InterconnectED and the Safe and Supportive Schools Commission**



Following the legislature's directives, the Safe and Supportive Schools Commission is gearing up to incorporate principals of effective practice for integrating student supports into its framework and self-assessment tool for districts. Joan Wasser Gish, a guest member of the commission, is working with colleagues at Boston College to support the commission's work.

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## **A year in the field**



To ensure that InterconnectED's work is useful and responsive to needs in schools, we are spending "a year in the field." Thanks to help from the Burlington, Fitchburg, Newton, Somerville, and Springfield Public Schools, as well as many advisory board members, we are starting to shape the resources, professional development, and technology needed to build an effective infrastructure.

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## **Presentations and conferences**



**Whole child, whole person summit: Redefining achievement, education, and well-being**

This October, ASCD and the Boston College Lynch School of Education will be hosting a conference to highlight the need to focus on the whole child in education. You can register [here](#).

**Comprehensive services for children in poverty: Setting the research agenda for integrated student support**

This October, InterconnectED's center at BC will co-sponsor an AERA-sponsored conference on what we know about integrating student supports for children in poverty, and what we need to know, with the goal of creating a national research agenda. This research-intensive conference is invite only.

**Conference on school climate**

The Center for Optimized Student Support will be co-hosting a conference on school climate with the Rennie Center, MassINC, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Boston University on December 11th. Keep on the lookout for more details.

**National Conference of State Legislatures legislative summit**

Joan Wasser Gish recently presented to the National Conference of State Legislatures in Boston. She outlined the science behind integrated student support and the ways InterconnectED is beginning to translate this research into public policy. [Click here](#) to read the policy brief released at the conference.

**A holistic approach to student needs: Community schools and integrated student supports**

In September, the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy hosted Dr. Mary Walsh, Daniel E. Kearns Professor of Urban Education and Innovation, and others in the field to discuss the research and implementation of whole child approaches in high-poverty communities.

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**Connect!**



- [Sign up](#) for The Weekly Connect- a news round-up on education and the whole child.
- The Center for Optimized Student Support's [new website](#) is here!
- Stay tuned for a meeting of the InterconnectED Advisory Board in April 2018.