

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

26-225



135 Berkshire Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141

October 20, 2026

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

CONTRACT: Educational Services

RECOMMENDATION: That the School Committee approve a contract with the following vendor, funds to be provided in accordance with the budget reference listed below. Procurement procedures for this purchase have complied with Chapter 30B of the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Period of Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Breakthrough Greater Boston c/o CRLS 459 Broadway Cambridge MA 02138	9/1/26 – 6/30/27	\$96,910.00

DESCRIPTION: This contract is for providing intensive year-round academic and college preparation services for approximately 250 students. Breakthrough Greater Boston also runs a teacher training program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

See attached supplemental for additional details.

SUPPORTING DATA, RULES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Chapter II, Section 12..." motions calling for the appropriation or expenditure of money require the affirmative vote of four members."

BUDGET REFERENCE:

Account		Fund		Dept.	
55107	Instructional Services	15000	General Fund	896248	Superintendent/Cambridge Partners

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. Murphy".

David Murphy
Superintendent of Schools

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Breakthrough Greater Boston

Purpose: To provide intensive year-round academic and college preparation services for approximately 250 students.

Amount of Contract: \$96,910.00

Description/Scope of Services:

Breakthrough Greater Boston engages before seventh grade and provides support across critical academic transitions, including entry into middle school, high school readiness, college exploration and application, and postsecondary persistence. All student programming is provided tuition-free, ensuring that participation is not contingent upon a family's ability to pay.

• **Middle School Academic Enrichment and Summer Learning**

Breakthrough provides academically intensive summer and school-year enrichment designed to strengthen foundational skills, build confidence, and prepare students for success in increasingly rigorous coursework. The summer program serves rising 7th, 8th and 9th graders and the school year program serves 7th and 8th graders.

Services include:

- Summer academic programming: Intensive instruction in mathematics, literature, writing, science, and social studies, delivered through small-group, engaging, project-based learning.
- School-year enrichment: Monthly Super Saturday school programming during seventh and eighth grades, including homework assistance, academic tutoring, soft skills development and hands-on STEAM activities.
- Individualized academic support: Targeted mentoring and tutoring based on students' needs, including additional support in core academic subjects.
- Social-emotional development: Opportunities to strengthen persistence, collaboration, communication, creative problem-solving, and a sense of belonging.
- High school readiness: Guidance and preparation to help students successfully navigate the transition into ninth grade and establish strong academic habits.

Breakthrough's middle school model features a student-to-staff ratio of approximately 3:1 during summer programming, allowing for individualized attention and meaningful relationships between students and educators.

• **High School Success and College Access.**

Breakthrough provides individualized academic advising, college preparation, and mentoring to help students successfully navigate high school and pursue postsecondary education.

Services include:

- Academic monitoring and advising: Individualized guidance on course selection, academic progress, graduation requirements, and preparation for college-level work.
- College exploration: Exposure to colleges and universities, guidance on college fit, and opportunities to build students' understanding of postsecondary pathways.
- College application support: Assistance with developing college lists, completing applications, preparing essays, and navigating admissions requirements and deadlines.
- Financial aid and affordability: Guidance for students and families on financial aid applications, scholarship opportunities, and understanding the costs associated with higher education.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Breakthrough Greater Boston

- Student and family engagement: Individualized communication, advising, and support to help families navigate the college-going process.
- Transition planning: Preparation for the academic, social, and financial demands of postsecondary education.

- **College Transition and Persistence Support**

Breakthrough's commitment to students extends beyond high school graduation, recognizing that college acceptance alone is not sufficient to ensure long-term educational success. Breakthrough works to get kids to and through college.

Services include:

- Support during the transition from high school to college.
- Assistance navigating college enrollment requirements, financial aid, and other administrative processes.
- Ongoing advising and connection to resources that support academic persistence.
- Guidance on overcoming academic, financial, and personal barriers that may interfere with continued enrollment.
- Opportunities to maintain relationships with Breakthrough staff and the broader alumni community.

- **Teacher Training and Educator Pipeline Development**

Breakthrough's Students Teaching Students model creates a dual benefit: Cambridge students receive academically rigorous instruction and mentorship from near-peer educators, while aspiring teachers gain meaningful classroom experience.

Services include:

- Recruitment and selection of talented, diverse Teaching Fellows.
- Pre-service training in instructional planning, classroom management, student engagement, and effective teaching practices.
- Supervised classroom teaching experience during summer programming.
- Ongoing instructional coaching, observation, and feedback from experienced educators.
- Exposure to careers in education and opportunities for continued professional growth.