**Intro Letter to Nominated Sites & Partners**

Dear (Name of Principal or Partner ED)

It is my pleasure to invite your school/organization to discuss the potential of participating in an exciting new initiative. Boston Public Schools and out-of-school time (OST) intermediary Boston After School & Beyond have received a planning grant from The Wallace Foundation that focuses on understanding how schools and OST partners can work together to foster elementary-school children’s social and emotional learning (SEL).

Through The Partnerships for Social and Emotional Learning Initiative, we are one of nine district-OSTI pairs from around the country selected to share a $400,000 planning grant that will run through \_\_\_\_ 2017.

The plan we will develop through the grant will help us elevate, measure, and align social and emotional learning efforts that happen both in and out of school. In addition, it makes us eligible for a possible multi-year, multi-million dollar “Phase II” Implementation Grant from Wallace, which would be awarded this summer.

The plan is focused on partnerships between schools and afterschool providers at two levels: the system level (between the school district and OSTI) and the site / service-delivery level (between schools and OST program providers). This is where you come in.

We are in the process of identifying a pool of eight elementary school-OST program pairs (“candidate pilot sites”) that, if selected for a Phase II grant, would be prepared to adopt, over a three-year period, a school-wide SEL approach and aligned OST SEL-focused programming. If our community is chosen for the Phase II Implementation Grant, the current thinking is that from the eight nominated sites, five pilot sites will ultimately be selected to participate in this multi-year initiative. If you are interested in how we have identified sites for nomination, we would be happy to share more information with you.

The eight nominated sites will play an active role in shaping this citywide approach to social and emotional learning. We want and need your feedback on key components of the plan, such as delivering SEL curricula, integrating SEL into academics and culture and climate, and strengthening professional development and measurement systems to support continuous improvement.

In June 2017, the Wallace Foundation will announce the recipients of the Phase II Implementation Grant. If awarded the grant, the pilot sites will begin to implement the plan in fall 2017.

This pilot work is a vital piece of our efforts to drive a citywide approach to SEL – one that we hope will produce important new insights for not only your school/OST program and our community, but also for the broader field, through the initiative’s learning agenda.

I hope you are interested in learning more about this opportunity. I will be contacting you in the next few days to discuss further how we might partner together on this initiative.

Thank you for your consideration.

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OR

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**Follow-up Phone Call/Meeting Talking Points**

8 School Requirements

* 1 Principal, 1 or 2 educators, 1 parent, 1 or 2 students to participate in up to 3 – 1 hour meetings to provide thoughts and feedback on the explicit SEL curriculum options, SEL integration plan, professional development and measurement tools.
* Participating in a brief (approximately twenty minute) follow-up phone call with RAND, to be scheduled between March 1 and March 24
* Providing information on the nature of any existing school-OST partnerships, the extent of SEL explicit instruction currently provided and any other SEL activity (if any) to date in the school.

8 schools to receive:

* Opportunity to bring intentional SEL to their school
* Stipends for participants in the planning phase (1 Principal and 1 or 2 educators per site). $$??
* Explicit SEL Curriculum fall 2017
* Opportunity to participate in the Professional Development

If awarded the grant, the 5 schools will be required to:

* Implement the selected SEL curriculum (1 curriculum – selected by the Core Team with input from principals)
* Participate in the professional development
* Participate in the measurement systems
	+ - RAND: pre and post student and educator surveys annually (fall & spring, SY2018 and SY2019) and observations.
		- BPS/BASB: pre and post student and educator surveys annually, observations
* Participate in continuous improvement action planning and implementation based on assessment data

If awarded the grant, the 5 schools/partners will receive support for 3 years:

* Explicit SEL curriculum (schools only)
* Professional development
* Measurement tools
* Stipends for educators and principals ?? (Stipends for partners?)
* Funding for partner programs?