



Office of Business, Finance and Planning  
100 Walnut Street  
Newton, MA 02460  
617-559-9025

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TO: Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent

FROM: Amy Mistrot, Director of Business Operations

DATE: January 23, 2023

RE: FY24 METCO Expansion Request Approval

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The Newton Public Schools has shared their intent to expand enrollment from 414 to 424 students for the METCO program for the 2023-2024 school year. The rationale for this request is articulated in the included January 12<sup>th</sup> memo to DESE.

DESE requires School Committee approval by February 17<sup>th</sup> to finalize the FY24 program enrollment plans. As such, I request your approval of this expansion opportunity in advance of DESE's deadline.



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TO: DESE Center for Strategic Initiatives

FROM: Lisa Gilbert-Smith, Newton METCO Director

DATE: January 12, 2023

RE: Newton METCO Program Expansion Request

CC: Kathleen Smith, Interim Superintendent  
Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent Business, Finance, and Planning,  
and Chief Administrative Officer  
Toby Romer, Assistant Superintendent Secondary Education and  
Special Programs  
Amy Mistrot, Director of Business Operations

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The Newton METCO program is submitting an expansion request for 10 additional students to return to our historical enrollment of 424 students, which we anticipate filling in Kindergarten through grade two. We are currently being funded for 414 students due to lagging enrollment for the past 3 years.

Newton, similar to Massachusetts state-wide demographics, reflects an enrollment decrease following the COVID 19 pandemic. Now that school operations are back to normal and with the addition of parent choice being added to the new enrollment process, we fully expect to be able to welcome 424 students for the 2023-24 school year and for future years.

If approved, the additional funding from the expanded enrollment will accommodate additional transportation, staffing, supplies, and other student-support services.

Newton will be presenting the aforementioned expansion request to the Newton School Committee on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. A vote to approve the request will either be taken during the same meeting or may be held for a vote during the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The anticipated approval will be communicated to DESE in advance of the February 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Thank you for considering our proposal to expand enrollment to allow 424 students to continue to be a part of the Newton Public Schools community.