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**Watertown**

**Annual Report 2022-2023**



**LABBB**

**Collaborative Programs**



Dear LABBB Collaborative Community Members,

In 1972, beginning with a commitment from a small group of parents and Special Education Directors from Lexington and Arlington, LA was started to develop a program for young adults with special needs to prepare them for the adult work world. LAB Collaborative was formally recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in 1974 in response to a need for more specialized programming for students; Lexington, Arlington and Burlington were the initial member districts; Bedford joined in 1979 and Belmont joined the collaborative in 1996. As of July 1, 2023, Watertown joined LABBB as a member district. I am pleased to share that the collaborative vision that began in 1972, continues today. The LABBB Collaborative community works diligently every day with passion to support the success of all and promotes true commitment to educating every LABBB student who walks through our door. I would be remiss if I did not share my deepest gratitude for the extraordinary work and support done daily at LABBB by a committed staff and Board of Directors who strive to provide exceptional opportunities for our students and GO Program post 22 adults.

Our member districts realize the importance of continued collaboration to educate all of our learners. It is with their support, and the commitment and dedication of our parents and staff, LABBB has become a thriving organization that continues to evolve to meet the unique needs of children and the districts who serve them. LABBB's member districts expanded this past year to include Watertown Public Schools. Lexington, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont and Burlington are delighted and proud to include Watertown as a member district effective July 1, 2023.

LABBB Collaborative has transitioned back to full in-person learning while understanding the pandemic has many iterations; health, physical safety, mental health, well-being and stabilization are priorities in our day to day operation and instructional practices. We have moved into new classroom spaces and continue to remain committed to providing progressive programming in inclusive school settings. We continue to prioritize expanding our abilities to infuse technology into the curriculum and long term goals will look to improve our infrastructure. Through ongoing, meaningful professional development for staff and member districts, we continue to cultivate our own learning and our commitment to teach all students.

LABBB had expected to take delivery of 28 new vans last year. However, due to supply issues impacting a myriad of industries across the country, we were only able to purchase 16 custom outfitted blue vans. However, our new fleet is on the road! The building project in Arlington is closer to completion and we are, with great excitement and gratitude, in our new classroom spaces at Belmont Middle School and High School. It is beautiful!

The following report illustrates the many ways in which LABBB Collaborative works to provide supportive services that help districts maximize cost efficiency, support the growth and development of educational professionals, and provide all students with unique learning needs a meaningful education.

Thank you for your continued support of our work at LABBB Collaborative. I look forward to a long-lasting partnership as we continue our mission of improving educational outcomes for all students.

Respectfully,

Pam Girouard  
Executive Director

This annual report summarizes the activities of the LABBB Educational Collaborative during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. The 2023-2023 school year continued to recognize a lot of change at LABBB. Every day, the team rose to every challenge and put forth tremendous effort to ensure that we could continue to safely resume in-person teaching and learning beginning in July of 2023 and continuing successfully throughout the year.

We are very proud to serve our member and non member communities in Massachusetts and to be able to partner with a wonderful group of school districts and state agencies to ensure that a wide variety of high quality services are available to meet the needs of all individuals. We welcome and encourage the readers of this report to contact us or set up a virtual visit in order to truly see and hear about the great work that is done here. LABBB is a special place!