



## Ensuring Equity and Excellence in Newton

### A Partnership with the Harvard Education Redesign Lab

To address the challenges of income inequality and lack of economic mobility, Mayor Setti Warren developed a citywide blueprint to promote economic mobility in Newton. In 2015, the mayor launched the Economic Growth for All initiative. Economic Growth for All is designed to develop strategic interventions, supports, and infrastructure that promote on-ramps to the economy for everyone, with a particular focus on low-income and vulnerable populations. Newton's *By All Means* Cabinet is a key piece of this initiative.

**2. Educational Equity:** Narrow achievement and opportunity gaps with respect to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and students with special needs.

**3. Social and Emotional Learning, including Health and Wellness:** Ensure all children are positively connected to and engaged in their communities and become knowledgeable, responsible, caring, and contributing members of society.

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#### NEWTON'S LONG-TERM VISION FOR CHILDREN

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In support of its mission to ensure that all children "achieve their full potential as lifelong learners, thinkers, and productive contributors to our global society," Newton has identified three goals:

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#### INITIAL FOCUS AREAS FOR BY ALL MEANS

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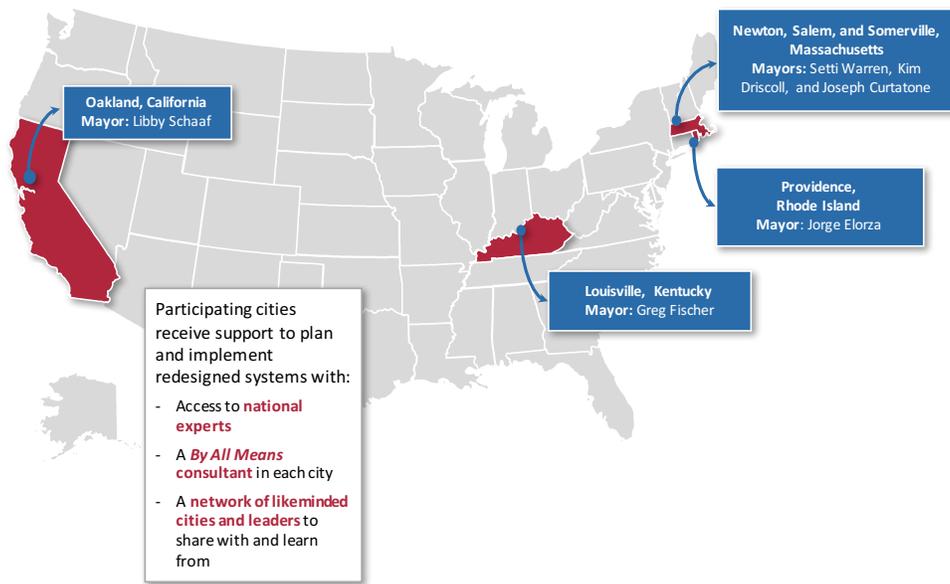
Newton's *By All Means* Cabinet is developing new initiatives that support the success of underserved children and youth, with the first focus being out-of-school time for middle school students. The working group is considering ways of effectively identifying the students' needs and interests in order to connect more children to enhanced programmatic offerings during out-of-school time. The group is also considering the development of additional out-of-school time programming, as necessary.

Additionally, the cabinet has gathered data on preschool experience and access for lower and middle-income families in Newton. From those findings, the group is considering potential initiatives aimed at increasing access for students to high quality pre-K.



Mayor Setti Warren

**1. Academic Excellence:** Cultivate a culture of equity and excellence in Newton Public Schools by creating and sustaining curriculum and instructional practices that lead to high quality learning for each and every student.



By All Means  
is redesigning  
education to  
restore social  
mobility

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**ABOUT BY ALL MEANS**

The *By All Means* initiative is addressing the iron law correlation between socioeconomic status and education outcomes by partnering with visionary mayors and superintendents from Louisville, KY; Oakland, CA; Providence, RI; and Salem, Somerville, and Newton, MA. Each city has created a Children’s Cabinet—a cross-sector team made up of mayors, superintendents, health and human services directors, and community and civic leaders—to embark on a redesign process that is focused on creating integrated systems of opportunity and support from early childhood through higher education. These cities are laboratories for the construction of advanced, integrated systems which will make it possible for all children to succeed.

With support from the Education Redesign Lab, each cabinet has designed its own ambitious agenda with system-transforming initiatives that are inclusive, build on prior successes, and chart new territory in providing comprehensive wrap-around supports and a full range of learning opportunities to all students. These plans include components of the Lab’s three initial design elements: creating personalized systems of education and child development that offer student-centered, customized learning experiences; integrating social, emotional, and health services with education; and providing greater access to high quality expanded learning and enrichment experiences. To accelerate this work, the Harvard Graduate School of Education hosts the cabinets for five 2-3 day retreats over 2.5 years, bringing leaders to Cambridge to learn from national experts, Harvard faculty, and from each other.

**ABOUT THE EDUCATION REDESIGN LAB**

In order to overcome widespread inequity in education and child development opportunities and outcomes, the Education Redesign Lab was created to advance a new educational design—one that creates the systems of opportunity and support necessary for all students to be prepared for success in college and careers. This 21st century design will align and integrate systems of education and child/youth development to personalize supports, services, and opportunities for disadvantaged children beginning in early childhood and proceeding through higher education.

The Lab’s plan for action has four primary components: advocacy, field building, field work, and research. Advocacy involves partnering with national civic and policy leaders and grassroots organizations in communities to build a field committed to this new vision of education, while also identifying policy barriers and opportunities to implementing a more comprehensive system of supports for children in communities across the country. Our field work focuses on working with communities where top leaders have embraced a broader definition of education and are committed to realizing a system where all children thrive. Research on promising practices and barriers to success plays a critical role in this work: it guides our thinking, shapes our ongoing theory of action, and provides the basis for our programs, policy, and advocacy work.

The Lab was founded by Paul Reville, Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and former Massachusetts Secretary of Education.