

## NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The Framingham Public Schools does not discriminate based on race, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic or national origin, disability, veteran's status, or any other status protected by law.

Any concern related to the implementation of this policy may be addressed directly to the building Principal, the Superintendent of Schools (508 626-9117) or the 504 Coordinator (508 626-9128). The Boston Office of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination is located at One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108.

## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

Framingham's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programs are managed by the Office of Community Resource Development and funded by the Massachusetts Department of Education 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers grant, the United Way of Tri-County and the Framingham Public Schools with support from public and private community organizations.

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FRAMINGHAM

## 21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS



# SHAPING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH

## RAP, LEAP and C-CAMP AFTERSCHOOL & SUMMER PROGRAMS

[www.framingham21stcentury.org](http://www.framingham21stcentury.org)

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## WHY WE NEED 21ST CENTURY PROGRAMS

Today's adolescents must learn to be critical thinkers, creative problem solvers and clear communicators to compete in the global marketplace.

Our youth must demonstrate not only honesty, integrity and a strong work ethic to future employers, but also teamwork, interpersonal skills and the ability to adapt to emerging technologies.

Framingham's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers help disadvantaged middle school students acquire skills today to build their capacity for success tomorrow.

Research indicates that low income and minority youth struggle to keep pace with peers who have more resources to expand their intellectual horizons. Our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programs help level the playing field.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH SERVED

Of 300 participants in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programs at Framingham middle schools:

- 68% qualified for Free and Reduced Lunch – a federal poverty standard
- 63% represent racial, ethnic and language minorities
- Nearly all need to improve their state MCAS scores.

# 21ST CENTURY PROGRAMS EMPOWER YOUTH TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR FUTURE

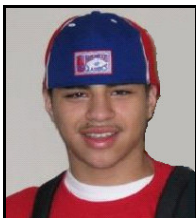


## History

In 2003, Framingham developed its first afterschool initiative at Fuller Middle School utilizing a federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. By 2006, out of school time programs were in operation at Walsh and Cameron Middle Schools also.

## Who We Serve

Today more than 300 6th, 7th and 8th graders participate in homework and enrichment programs from 2:25 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. during the school year, and 100 take part in summer activities.



## What We do

Our programs reinforce academic skills, increase aspirations and engage youth in activities that develop excitement and purpose for their education and a sense of belonging in the community. Highlights include:

- Supervised homework support and access to resources after the school day to reinforce lessons.
- Hands-on activities in a relaxed environment, familiar and convenient for students.
- Clubs designed to boost confidence and curiosity, build intangible “soft” skills and help students explore their potential. Examples include *Fun With Foods*, *Lego Robotics*, *CSI Framingham*, *Astronomy*, *Knitting*, *Science Club* and

*Rocketry*. All clubs incorporate a mathematics component to support school district goals.

- Low staff/student ratios (1:10) and small groups enable educators and community professionals to establish trust and strong working relationships with students.
- Transportation is provided free of charge to targeted students.

## COLLABORATIONS

Programs have been developed in partnership with:

- Danforth Museum of Art
- Framingham Public Access TV
- MetroWest YMCA
- Framingham State College
- Pine Manor College

## Youth Outcomes

For the past four years our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Programs have used two evaluation tools developed by the National Institute on Out of School Time – the SAYO (Survey of Afterschool Youth Outcomes) and APT (Assessing Afterschool Program Practices Tool). These tools are designed to help afterschool programs improve program quality and focus on appropriate and realistic outcomes for youth.

The latest survey showed that our program participants improved more than non-participants in the following areas:

- 16% math problem solving
- 15% initiative
- 15% analysis
- 12% math communication
- 11% homework completion