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January 3, 2023

RE: Westborough Public Schools request for ACCEPT Membership

Dear Board of Directors and School Committees,

Since its formation in 1974, ACCEPT Education Collaborative has established trusted partnerships to promote excellence and innovation in educational practice. The mission and purpose of ACCEPT is to leverage the collective power and resources of member school districts to provide excellent, cost-effective regional programs and services to unlock the potential of students, their families, educators and communities. ACCEPT offers a wide range of programs and services whose focus is to minimize the impact of student disabilities or relative weaknesses and maximize student outcomes including achievement, independence and participation in the community. We are committed to providing member districts with current services and do this through the guidance and authorization of the Board of Directors. ACCEPT's Board of Directors is composed of all member district Superintendents.

The Westborough Public Schools has sent a letter requesting admittance to the Collaborative. Superintendent Amber Bock was invited to speak at ACCEPT's Board of Directors meeting on December 7, 2022. The Board had an opportunity to understand the request for membership and to ask questions of the Superintendent. Superintendent Bock stated her respect for the work of ACCEPT and discussed meaningful ways that Westborough can contribute to the mission and vision of the ACCEPT Education Collaborative. The Board of Directors and ACCEPT are recommending admitting the Westborough Public School District to the Collaborative. The next step is for each member district School Committee to discuss this option and take a public vote to either admit or not admit the Westborough school district. The following is the formal process for admitting new member districts per the ACCEPT Education Collaborative Articles of Agreement:

Per the *ACCEPT Education Collaborative Agreement*:

**Section IX: Procedure for Admitting New Member Districts**

A new School Committee or Charter School Board may be added to ACCEPT consistent with approval of the Board and subsequent to amendment of the ACCEPT Collaborative agreement, consistent with the provisions of Section VIII, MGL c40, §4E and 603 CMR 50.03 to reflect such membership. The applicant School Committee or Charter School Board shall apply in writing for admission to ACCEPT no later than December 31st of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the applicant School Committee or Charter School Board seeks membership. A School Committee or Charter School Board may be admitted to the Collaborative as of July 1st of any fiscal year provided that *all required approvals, including each member School Committee votes to approve* the School District

or Charter School and that the approval of Board of Elementary and Secondary Education are obtained by the preceding April 30th of the fiscal year prior to the fiscal year in which the new member School Committee or Charter School Board is to be admitted to the Collaborative. If the process for amendment of the ACCEPT Articles of Agreement has not been finalized by July 1st, the new member district may appoint a non-voting representative to the ACCEPT Board. During the first year of membership, a newly admitted district will pay a 10% surcharge for all programs and services. During the second year of membership the surcharge will be reduced to 5%; the following years member district rates will apply.

I welcome any questions or concerns you may have. Please feel free to reach out to me. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Flaherty, Ed.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'F'.

Donna Flaherty, Ed.D.

Executive Director