



# Groton Dunstable Education Foundation, Inc.

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

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Press Release

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## Lowell General partners with GDEF to bring new Health Management Software to Schools

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF) is pleased to announce it has received a \$13,357.00 grant from Lowell General Hospital to provide SNAP Health Center software to nurses in the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District. SNAP Health Center is a comprehensive medical documentation and tracking software suite that manages every aspect of student health related data. Approximately 1065 schools in Massachusetts currently use the SNAP system.

In making the announcement, GDEF president Kerri Figueroa, thanked the hospital for its generous donation. "We're very proud to welcome Lowell General Hospital as a GDEF Community Partner and are grateful they're funding this program to give our school nurses tools to better manage the growing task of record keeping and documentation. The SNAP program will help them complete this aspect of their jobs more quickly and efficiently, allowing them to be more available to students."

GDEF first received a grant application for the SNAP software last spring from the district's nursing coordinator, Phyllis Lang, who retired in June after 30 years with the district. Finding the cost of the program outside its resources, the GDEF board decided to approach Lowell General Hospital, who had sponsored one of its fundraisers the previous year, about funding the program.

In the application Ms. Lang submitted to GDEF for consideration, she noted, "All day, every day, nurses are documenting student health information which also includes data entry for all daily encounters. A proven efficient system such as SNAP would allow for faster data entry and retrieval, and would free up nursing time which could then be spent on increased education of our students regarding health and wellness." She also stated the software could help nurses in each of the district's five schools generate statistics and identify health trends and areas of concern for both health and safety.

Over the summer, GDEF received word that Lowell General wished to fund the SNAP program.

"Lowell General Hospital was thrilled to be able to support the Groton-Dunstable schools with the technology needed to quickly and safely care for the children of the community while at school," says Amy Hoey, RN, BSN, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer at Lowell General Hospital. "As a hospital recognized nationally among Healthcare's Most Wired, we incorporate information technology systems for the delivery of care of our patients. It's exciting to see a similar



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component of healthcare excellence moving into the schools' management of the student's medical record."

GDEF's Kerri Figueroa will be making a short presentation to the School Committee on September 13 to announce Lowell General's gift and formally transfer it to the school district. Ms. Hoey of Lowell General will be attending, along with the district's newly appointed Nursing Coordinator, Lorinda Dishington-Ortiz. Ms. Ortiz is working with the district's Network Administrator, Gary Babin, to have the software installed and current health data transferred. Nurses in all the school buildings will receive a full day of training in the use of the program, which the district hopes will be in full operation within the coming months.

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation raises private funds for bi-annual grants to public schools in the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, which serves approximately 2700 students in grades preschool through 12. Besides donations from businesses and individuals, GDEF conducts fundraising events like its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Octoberfest 5K: Road Race, Walk & Kids Run, scheduled for Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Larter Field, Dunstable. For more information on the foundation, please visit [www.gdefinc.org](http://www.gdefinc.org).

Lowell General is a community hospital that has been serving the Greater Lowell area for over 100 years with a full range of health and wellness services and specialties for all ages. You can learn more at [www.lowellgeneral.org](http://www.lowellgeneral.org).