



August 20, 2021

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

I am writing to introduce myself as the City Connects Coordinator at the Springfield Conservatory of the Arts. I will be working with administrators, teachers, and other support staff to connect students and families to resources in the community that promote healthy development and student achievement.

My primary role at the Springfield Conservatory of the Arts is to coordinate a student support system that ensures that each and every student receives the supports, services, and resources they need to be academically successful and healthy. To do this, I assess the strengths and needs of each child in the school and connect them to a tailored set of support services.

Please note that the resources of the student support process are available to you as the parent/caregiver. If you would like to get more information about services for your child or have any questions about how I might be able to provide you with assistance, please contact me directly. I have included more information about City Connects and details about some of the student support processes that City Connects facilitates.

I look forward to getting to know you and your family. Please feel free to contact me at any point in the year.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Barr, M.Ed.  
City Connects Coordinator  
Licensed School & Adjustment Counselor  
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## **Brief Description of City Connects**

### *MISSION AND ORIGINS*

City Connects (CCNX) is a school-based intervention that connects each student to the tailored set of prevention, intervention, and enrichment services they need to thrive. CCNX leverages the rich services and resources of the city's community agencies and was developed through a partnership of community agencies, Boston College, and schools.

### *HOW THE MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED*

Every student is assessed for strengths and needs across multiple domains in order to develop the tailored set of services and supports that promote academic and personal growth. Our staff directs their work by facilitating an individualized student support process.

### *VALUES*

We value the importance of collaboration among families, school staff, and community partners to provide a range of services.

### *RIGOR AND ACCOUNTABILITY*

A critical component of our model includes documentation and follow-up on service referrals, which ensures service quality and enables our research and evaluation team to track the impact on student achievement.



## **City Connects Student Support Program**

To support learning at the Springfield Conservatory of the Arts, we have developed a comprehensive student support system to ensure that each and every student receives the supports, services, and resources they need to be academically successful and healthy.

Our school's student support program is facilitated by City Connects, a partnership among schools, Boston College, and community agencies.

Our student support process is coordinated by a full-time City Connects Coordinator. Rachel Barr is a licensed school and adjustment counselor and is housed in our school. Please see below for her contact information.

The purpose of our student support process is to ensure that each student has the supports they need to successfully engage in classroom instruction. To do this, we assess the strengths and needs of each child in the school and connect them to a tailored set of support services. Please note that the student support process and the special education referral process are distinct and different.

Each year, the City Connects Coordinator partners with classroom teachers to review every student in the classroom to discuss student strengths and needs. As a result of this process, tailored supports may be recommended for each child. The City Connects Coordinator and/or a school staff member will collaborate with the family to explain the recommended supports and secure services from within the school and/or from community partners.

Another aspect of the student support process for some students involves convening a larger Student Support Team that may include the school administrator, school nurse, teacher, school psychologist, after-school provider, and/or other support personnel. This meeting is facilitated by the City Connects Coordinator. The purpose of this team is to discuss students in greater depth and develop a detailed student support plan that will be monitored over the course of the year. You will be contacted by the City Connects Coordinator to discuss the plan and action steps to move forward.

The supports and resources of the student support process are available to you as the parent/caregiver. If you would like to initiate services for your child or have any questions, please contact Rachel Barr.

**Rachel Barr**

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