

# ABSTRACT

## SPECIAL FUND PROPOSAL

### Section I. BASIC INFORMATION

**Proposed Project Title:** Columbus/Celentano Arabic Program QFI Grant

**Grant Source and Agency:** Qatar Foundation International, LLC

**Total Amount Requested:** \$65,919      **Due Date of Application:**  
renewal 3/18/2021

**System Contact:** Jessica Haxhi, Supervisor of World Languages

**Telephone #:** 475-220-1405

**Description of Project:** Provide a brief description below. Use Section VI to outline specific objectives and strategies relating to goals described in the application.

These funds will be used to fund a full-time itinerant Arabic teacher at Columbus Family Academy and Celentano Biotech, Health & Medical Magnet School, as well as an Arabic Festival held at Wilbur Cross and attended by students learning Arabic from all over the district.

**TARGET: Schools/Unit:** Columbus (grades 7-8) and Celentano (grades 5-8) **Number of Students:** approx. 35 students at Columbus, approx. 35 students at Celentano, and all Arabic learners districtwide who attend the Arabic Festival.

#### GRANT PERIOD:

**From:** 8/10/2021

**To:** 6/30/2022

New

Continuation

#### Previous Bd. of Ed. Approval:

Planning

Operational

#### Bd. of Ed. Information

Action

Information

Support

Competitive

Entitlement

Grant

#### PROPOSAL DEVELOPERS:

Jessica Haxhi (renewal)

#### CENTRAL OFFICE USE ONLY – MUST REMAIN ON PAGE 1

##### ABSTRACT TIMETABLE

**Return to:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Education FINANCE & OPERATIONS Meeting Date** 6/17/21

**Board of Education Meeting Date:** 6/14/21

**Due Date to Grantor:** \_\_\_\_\_

##### REVIEW

**Grants Manager**  \_\_\_\_\_

**Finance Manager**  5/21/21

**Human Resource Manager** \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Project Title: Columbus/Celentano Arabic Program QFI Grant

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Proposed Grant Receiving Agency: NHPS

**SECTION II: FISCAL INFORMATION**

**PERSONNEL**

# FT	#PT		COST
		Administrators	\$
1		Teachers	\$45,357
		Management	\$
		Paraprofessionals	\$
		Clerks	\$
		Others	\$
		Stipend	\$
		Longevity	
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,357</b>

**NON PERSONNEL**

	COST
Supplies & Materials	\$600
Student Transportation	\$
Staff Travel	\$
Internal Evaluation	\$
External Evaluation	\$
Independent Contractors	\$400
Equipment	\$
Other	\$
Indirect Costs, if allowed	\$
<b>TOTAL NON- PERSONEL</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>

**FIXED COSTS:**

Health Benefits	\$18,596
Pension (Paras & Mgmt.)	\$
FICA/Medicare	\$658
Workmen's Compensation	\$308
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$19,562</b>
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL &amp; FIXED COSTS</b>	<b>\$64,919</b>

**Notes:**

- 1) Total Personnel and Non Personnel columns must equal grant total.
- 2) The Abstract budget must be aligned with the Grant Application budget/ED114.
- 3) All applications should budget for staff development (stipends) and evaluation wherever appropriate.

**SECTION IIA: BUDGET EXPLANATION**

The following categories must be explained:

**All Personnel:** explain positions; **Salary:** if the grant pays a percent of salary and fixed costs, please describe below, breaking down **percentages and amounts to be paid by grant and by NHPS**. **Other;** and **All Non-Personnel items**. If additional space is needed, continue to next page.

**Personnel:**

**Salary:** The grant covers 100% of a full-time itinerant Arabic teacher to travel between Columbus and Celentano. The grantors allowed us to use our existing Wilbur Cross High School Arabic teacher General Funds salary (Hanan Elkamah) and benefits as in-kind contribution because that position was originally funded by these grantors.

**Benefits:**

This grant covers 100% of benefits for the Full-Time itinerant Arabic teacher between Columbus and Celentano (\$18,596 of Health Benefits, \$658 of FICA/Medicare and \$308 of Workman's Compensation costs.)

**Non-Personnel:**

**Arabic Festival:** The grant includes \$1,000 for a Districtwide Arabic Festival. This includes \$600 for supplies (craft supplies, paper plates, food, etc.) and \$400 in funds to pay for a professional performer to perform at the Festival. All students learning Arabic districtwide will be invited.

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**SECTION III: SYSTEM OBLIGATIONS**

Project support from other programs:  None  Yes **Explain:**

Linkage with other programs:  None  Yes **Explain:**

Local Fiscal costs, (include renovation):  None  Yes **Explain:**

Future local personnel obligations:  None  Yes **Explain:**

Qatar Foundation International would like us to show a transition to supporting this position over the next 3 years. They are very willing to work with us on this timeline and have allowed us to use an existing General Funds position (Arabic at Wilbur Cross) as our in-kind contribution.

**PROJECT OR GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

- Local Maintenance  Replication  Parent Involvement
- In-Service Training  Advisory Committee  Linkage w/other Programs
- Non-Public School Involved  Dissemination

**ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS OR CONCERNS**

None.

SUBMITTING ADMINISTRATOR: Jessica Haxhi May 16, 2021  
Signature Date

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**Proposed Grant Receiving Agency:** NHPS

**SECTION IV: PROPOSED PERSONNEL**

List, **individually**, each position proposed by this grant application. **If no personnel**, please indicate **N/A** in the chart below

F/T	P/T	Classification	Position Description	Duration of Proposed Service	Proposed Employee	Current NHPS Employee Yes/No	If Yes Current Employee Number
1		Full-Time Arabic teacher	Full-Time Itinerant between Columbus and Celentano	8/28/2021-6/30/2022	Soha Osman	Yes (teaching PT at Columbus, entering ARC Fall 2021)	

**V. PROPOSED CONTRACTS**

List **individually**, each contract that will be prepared by this proposed project. If contractors will not be utilized, please indicate **N/A** in the chart below.

Proposed Independent Contractor	Brief Description of Service	Proposed Pay Rate	Proposed Total
Kelvia Flores	Professional Performer of Arabic Dance (4 performances at Arabic Festival)	\$400/day	\$400

## VI. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

### Please Answer All Questions -- Use Additional Pages if Necessary

1. **Please state specific goals for this grant or the grant period.**

**During this school year, the Arabic program will:**

1. Offer Arabic instruction to students at Columbus in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade and Celentano in grades 5-8. Celentano currently does not have any world language offering.
2. Hold an "Arabic Festival" to celebrate the language and culture citywide, as well as other special events to build and showcase the program.
3. Act as a support and resource for Arabic-speaking students and families at Columbus and Celentano as necessary.

**a. If this is a continuation grant, please detail past year goal performance and accomplishments. Use additional space if needed:**

Last year, this grant allowed us to successfully complete the following:

- engage 29 students in Arabic instruction in grades 6-8 at Columbus Family Academy.
- In lieu of an in-person Arabic Festival, we offered a districtwide "Stories of Refugees" Event in which two refugees living abroad, from Darfur and Syria, spoke to students from all subjects and grade levels about their experiences.
- Students in Arabic classes districtwide had a total of 11 one-hour sessions with Arabic-speaking refugees living worldwide to discuss their experiences, culture, foods, celebrations, etc.

2. **How does this grant address School Reform goals?**

Celentano currently does not have a language offering. With this grant, students at Columbus and Celentano will have the chance to study this unique language and go on to take it at Wilbur Cross, ESUMS, or Hill Career beginning at Level II, thereby enabling them to achieve Level III in just two high school years. As a less-commonly taught language, Arabic is a unique language to have on high school transcripts, possibly increasing students' college acceptance potential. It opens doors to careers and opportunities in our New Haven community and worldwide. Students who learn Arabic at Columbus, Jepson, ESUMS, and Hill Regional Career High School will have the opportunity to attend the Arabic Festival and think about continuing their Arabic studies there.

3. **Please explain why this proposal is significant and important in relation to improving student and/or staff performance, as well as any additional pertinent information that is specific and relevant: (Include resume of person(s) providing service for contracts \$10,000 and over)**

High-quality world language instruction motivates students, develops intercultural competence, and improves their problem-solving skills, creative thinking capacity, memory functions, and verbal and spatial abilities (<https://www.actfl.org/resources/guiding-principles-language-learning/benefits-language-learning>)

The study of Arabic, in particular, has the potential to make students stand out on their college transcripts. It strengthens their interactions with the Arab community in our schools and city. At the districtwide Arabic Festival, students and staff throughout the school as well as students learning Arabic across the district will have the chance to experience Arabic language and culture firsthand. Finally, having an Arabic speaker available at both of these schools improves parent relations with Arabic-speaking families.



## NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### New Haven Public Schools - Qatar Foundation International Grant Renewal Application

#### ***A. Plans for Next year***

**Christopher Columbus Family Academy:** School year 2020-21 was the third year of Arabic instruction at “Columbus” Family Academy. We are currently offering instruction in grades 6-8 for a total of 29 students with a part-time teacher, generously funded by QFI. Next year, we plan to continue to serve students in grades 6-8 at Columbus. It remains difficult to predict exact numbers of students as that is a factor of which students are not enrolled in reading intervention classes, but the numbers we have seen this year (29 total) are typical. Students in grade 8 completing the second half of the high school Level I Curriculum and can be recommended for Arabic Level II in high school if they attend Wilbur Cross, ESUMS, or Hill Regional Career High School.

**Celentano Biotech, Health and Medical Magnet School:** We would like to establish an Arabic program for students in grades 5-8 this coming year. Students in grades 5 and 6 would attend during one period; students in grades 7-8 would attend during another class period. Currently, Celentano does not have any world language offerings. They are very excited to have a world language program. The principal specifically requested Arabic.

#### ***B. Changes from Previous Years***

This past year, a part-time teacher taught students in the Columbus Arabic Program. With this renewal, we will change that to a full-time itinerant position. This will require that we



## NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

employ a teacher who is already certified and/or in the certification process and eligible for a Shortage Area Permit. It is our hope that the current, very successful, part-time teacher at Columbus, Ms. Soha Osman will be accepted into a state certification program and fulfill this role. She would teach 6th, 7th, and 8th grades at Columbus from 8:30-11:03, then travel to Celentano and have lunch. Then, she would teach the 5th/6th and 7th/8th sections at Celentano and then have her preparation period at the end of the day. This has the potential to affect 20-30 more students than the program currently touches.

This would also mean that Arabic offerings in New Haven Public Schools would expand from 3 high schools and 3 middle schools to 3 high schools and 4 middle schools. As our middle school students have the opportunity to attend the high school of their choice (with some limitations), this is an exciting development for the articulation of Arabic study and the expansion of interest in high school Arabic as well.

### ***C. Planned Outreach and Cultural Activities***

We will request funding for the continuation of either our citywide Arabic Festival (to be held at Wilbur Cross High School if in-person) or a similar online event. This past year, we were able to host a wonderful “Stories of Refugees” event with NaTakallam presenters. This coming year, we hope to return to an in-person event that would serve as a culminating activity for the year for all students studying Arabic in New Haven, including the new school, Celentano.

We also plan to continue class-based cultural activities such as field trips to Arabic markets and restaurants, and hosting of Arabic-speaking community members as guest speakers to





## NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

the class. NHPS will provide funding for eligible students from both schools to attend the CT COLT Poetry Contest (entry fees and transportation) and for 6th graders from both schools to attend the CT COLT Rhyme Celebration.

### ***D. Sustainability plan***

The support of this grant would allow us to establish a new program at Celentano school while maintaining our successful middle school program at Columbus Family Academy.

Over the next three years, we will work to build sustainability of the program by increasing the buy-in for the study of Arabic among students at families at both schools through advocacy efforts, events, and high-quality instruction. At the same time, we will plan to make budgetary shifts to transfer the position to New Haven Public Schools (NHPS).

In year 1, we ask that 100% of the full-time itinerant position and Citywide Arabic Festival be supported by QFI, with attendance at events and classroom materials funded by NHPS.

In year 2, we plan to transition a portion of the salary or benefits to NHPS. By year 3, we plan to transition a larger portion of the salary or benefits to NHPS. By year 4, we plan to fully fund the position, as we were able to do with the previously funded Wilbur Cross Arabic position.



**NEW HAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**New Haven Public Schools - Qatar Foundation International Grant**

**Renewal Application 2021-22**

Proposed Budget

**2021-22**

Budget Item	Cost	Explanation of Cost	NHPS Contribution	Requested from QFI
Full-Time Arabic Teacher Salary Wilbur Cross*	\$49,845*	Full-time 4th year teacher salary according to AFT Contract	\$49,845*	
Full-Time Arabic Teacher Benefits, Wilbur Cross*	\$21,254*	Medical benefits are 41%, plus 1.45% for Medicare, Workman's Comp is .0068	\$21,254*	
Full-Time Arabic Teacher Salary, Columbus/Celentano	\$45,357	Full-time 1 <sup>st</sup> year teacher salary according to AFT contract		\$45,357
Full-time Arabic Teacher Benefits, Columbus/Celentano	\$19,562	Medical benefits are 41%, plus 1.45% for Medicare, Workman's Comp is .0068		\$19,562
Arabic Festival	\$1,000	Food, paper supplies, dancer, OR similar online event costs		\$1,000
Entry Fees/Transportation*	\$1000**	Entry fees and transportation for eligible students at Celentano, Columbus, and Wilbur Cross to attend the CT COLT Poetry Contest and Rhyme Celebrations	\$1000**	
Celentano School Classroom Materials (to be paid by school)	\$250		\$250	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$138,268</b>		<b>\$72,349 (52%)</b>	<b>\$65,919 (48%)</b>

\*NOTES for NHPS – QFI is letting us use an existing general funds position as “in-kind” contribution because that position was originally funded by this grant in 2018-19. Since then, we moved the Arabic teacher into an existing world languages position at Wilbur Cross.

\*\*Money for these expenses is covered by the Title IVA grant.