

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133  
(617) 725-4000

**DEVAL L. PATRICK**  
GOVERNOR

**TIMOTHY P. MURRAY**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 2013

Dear Friends:

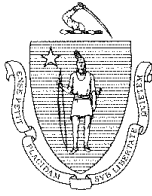
In the pursuit of advancing initiatives that facilitate 21<sup>st</sup> century success for the people of the Commonwealth, I extend my support for *Change is Simple, Inc.* in their continued efforts to educate students, businesses and communities about environmental sustainability.

The mission of *Change is Simple* is aligned with our Administration's objective to foster an innovative Commonwealth, capable of succeeding in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. *Change is Simple* conducts their environmental education programs within schools utilizing successful and innovative strategies that include teaching with a "hands on" approach, using an activity-based curriculum and providing supportive mentorships. In addition, *Change is Simple* goes beyond the confines of a classroom in their efforts to build and maintain a "greener" world. They seek out effective partnerships and offer environmental education seminars and programs to local businesses and communities. Environmental awareness has emerged as a very relevant field in the local, state, national and global arenas. *Change is Simple's* environmental education services reach a broad scope of people and provide an immediate environmental impact.

I am pleased to highlight and applaud the progress and impact of *Change is Simple*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deval Patrick", written in a cursive style.



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

**JERALD A. PARISELLA**  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
6TH ESSEX DISTRICT  
BEVERLY

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 174  
TEL. (617) 722-2877  
Jerald.Parisella@MAhouse.gov

Committee:  
Chair  
Veterans and Federal Affairs

May 28, 2015

To whom it may concern,

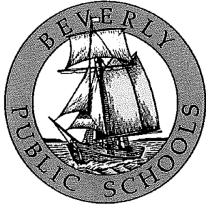
I am writing to you today in support of Change is Simple, Inc., and the work they have done in recent years. Change is Simple is an organization working to educate our youth in environmental health matters and to inspire them to take action in their community. The Change is Simple team has been an integral partner in many initiatives within my own community; from composting programs at Briscoe Middle School and Beverly High School to internships for local college students. These programs have allowed students at all levels to apply such knowledge and skills in real world applications, which are proving to have tangible outcomes concerning the health of the environment.

The commitment of the Change is Simple team to their mission and the unique services they offer are invaluable. It's clear that their passion for their work has evoked a movement among the youth in our city. My daughter has been fortunate enough to take part in their program for the last three years, and her excitement for Change is Simple is clear. Desired grant money would be very beneficial to not only the organization itself, but also the Beverly community as a whole. For these aforementioned reasons and many others, I'd like to express my sincere support for Change is Simple, Inc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry A. Parisella".

**Jerry A. Parisella**  
State Representative  
6<sup>th</sup> Essex District- Beverly



**BEVERLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**502 Cabot Street**  
**Beverly, Massachusetts**  
**01915**  
Telephone (978) 921-6100  
Fax (978) 922-6597  
[www.beverlyschools.org](http://www.beverlyschools.org)

**Steven A. Hiersche, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

**Suzanne M. Charochak, M.Ed.**  
**Assistant Superintendent**

May 12, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Change is Simple (CiS) has worked in the Beverly Public Schools since 2011 and delivers their environmental education lessons at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In addition to their classroom education, CiS designed and implemented the waste diversion programs at the Middle School and High School, both of which include increased recycling, new composting efforts and are successfully decreasing their trash volume by over 80%.

Within our elementary schools CiS is delivering powerful hands-on environmental lessons. By visiting classrooms multiple times during a school year, children build their environmental science knowledge and make changes to their behaviors to reduce their environmental impacts, both in school and at home. Students absolutely love the programs; teachers and parents are thrilled with their education model and see a genuine shift in the kid's thinking and behavior.

The CiS program not only inspires environmental stewardship but allows students to use their Math and Literacy skills in real life applications and has proven to impact students at all grade and learning levels. My staff and I see the value of instilling environmental responsibility in our youth and hope that the Change is Simple programs continues in the Beverly Schools.

Sincerely,

Steven A. Hiersche, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

SAH/dmb

*The mission of the Beverly Public Schools is to maximize academic achievement and personal growth of every student.*

May 14, 2015

Dear Grant Committee,

We are writing to strongly recommend that you select Change is Simple (CiS) as your grant recipient. We are members of the Beverly School Committee and Citywide STEAM Committee who have seen and experienced the impact of the work that Change is Simple has had on our community over the past several years. Patrick, Lauren and their team are an invaluable asset to Beverly. They are all about making positive change for our world.

Change is Simple has been a significant contributor to our public school community in Beverly since 2011. Their team has served our schools in many different ways from education to consulting services, most of which has come at little or no cost to the schools. They have spearheaded efforts to improve environmental operations and behaviors in Beverly. Over the course of two years, CiS brought together school administrators, Department of Environmental Protection representatives, students, and community members to develop and implement a plan that would significantly reduce the amount of waste generated at Beverly High School. Their execution of this plan educated students and staff in a way that has inspired interest and passion for the effort. The ongoing effort is proving to divert 85% of waste from incinerators. This model was then rolled out at the middle school with similar results.

Furthermore, the curriculum that is being delivered at our elementary schools is creating an exciting movement that will prepare these young students for the future. Their engaging lessons are reaching all students in grades 3-6. Lessons empower students to take direct action to protect their environment, their community and their health. Students are excited when they know that Change is Simple is going to be in their classroom. Teachers are thrilled with the lessons because CiS has taken the time to connect with them and align their educational model with Common Core elements. Students use Math and English Language Arts skills in hands-on activities which bring learning to life.

Additionally, CiS has mentored our High School seniors with internships, offered volunteer opportunities for students and community members, "Greened" school road races, collaborated on fundraising efforts and judged countless science fairs. It is clear that CiS cares deeply about enriching the fabric of our school community and inspiring a generation of environmental stewards and leaders.

Not only has CiS been such a valuable asset to our schools, but they have also raised awareness community wide and we are proud to have them helping us and our students to preserve our world, our community, and our future. As parents whose children have been impacted by their program, members of the Beverly School Committee and as community members, we express our sincere support for Change is Simple, Inc.

Kris Silverstein, Beverly School Committee Ward 3 – Curriculum Committee  
Annemarie Cesa, Beverly School Committee Ward 5 – Curriculum Committee  
Lorinda Visnick, Beverly School Committee Ward 6 – Curriculum Committee  
Matt Kavanagh, Beverly School Committee Ward 4  
Joanna Murphy Scott, Co-Chair of Citywide STEAM Committee  
Sherrie Otterbein, Co-Chair of Citywide STEAM Committee



May 2015

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Margo Casey  
*NSUW Executive Director*

To Whom it May Concern,

I am very pleased to recommend Change is Simple for your support. Change is Simple has a proven track record for effectively working with children and youth and dramatically shaping their understanding of the connection between environmental and human health.

North Shore United Way's Women in Action is proud to have funded Change is Simple this year and we hope to continue to support their great work. Women in Action's mission is to support programs that promote healthy eating, sound nutrition, and physical activity for children and families.

Change is Simple has great potential to continue to build off of the strong foundation they have built in the local school community. With additional funding I have no doubt that they will continue to drive change for local kids and, in turn, create cultural shifts across school systems and communities as a whole.

We hope that you will join North Shore United Way and our Women in Action initiative in supporting Change is Simple. I am more than happy to be contacted with additional questions at 978-922-3966 or [mcasey@nsuw.org](mailto:mcasey@nsuw.org).

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margo Casey".

Margo Casey  
Executive Director



# HAMILTON-WENHAM

## CUTLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Jennifer Clifford  
Principal

237 Asbury Street  
Hamilton, MA 01982

May 2015

Dear Patrick,

I would like to thank you and your entire team at Change is Simple for the learning experiences you have provided for our students at Cutler School this year. We often work with outside professionals who bring in special programs for our students. This process can be challenging as we combine schedules, priorities, and styles. However, this year, with Change is Simple visiting our school multiple times, we have found the process of collaborating with you to be seamless.

By surveying teachers as you began to plan and tailor lessons for each class, you ensured that clear connections were made for students between our ongoing classroom instruction and your specialized programs. We have found your programs for each grade level to be strongly connected to our cultural enrichment themes and developmentally appropriate.

It is not often that we have outside educators in the building for more than 35 hours over the course a year. It is even more rare to have absolutely no negative feedback regarding these sessions, especially in light of the amount of time your team has spent here this year. Your teaching staff were knowledgeable about the curriculum subjects, had a great rapport with all students, and were well prepared.

We also appreciate your timely communications, patience, and flexibility as we planned the programs. Your team was accommodating, friendly, and all-around easy to work with right down to the planning stages. You all embodied and modeled the sentiment that change really is *simple*.

Thank you for all that you have done for our students this year. We look forward to collaborating again in the future for the benefit of our students.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Clifford

## Change is Simple, Inc. – Teacher Reviews

- "I loved the multi-sensory approach to learning about a very important subject!" – Linda Geary, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Ayers Ryal Side, Beverly Public Schools.
- "My class loved all of the Change is Simple lessons, and match up perfectly with the Next Generation Science Standards" – Nichole Gray, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher, Buker Elementary Hamilton Wenham Public Schools
- "I loved how I was asked what we were working on in Math and that was incorporated into the program." – Kerrie Haverty 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Linscott Rumford, Woburn Public Schools
- "I thought it was wonderful how you incorporated measuring, math and map skills into the activities." – Erin Chisholm and Jaimelyn Raposa 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Wyman Elementary, Woburn Public Schools
- "The energy of the instructors is awesome; the hands-on, visuals are GREAT!" – Colleen Costain 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Centerville Elementary, Beverly Public Schools
- "I feel that this program should be in schools. Students need to know these concepts and hands on activities need to be more in the classroom setting. I love how math, science and all areas of the curriculum are provided all throughout the lesson." – Patrice Higgins, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Reeves School, Woburn Public Schools.
- "I loved everything about the programs! So much was taught in such a fun organized way! The games and manipulatives were first rate! Other subjects were incorporated into the lessons as well! (for one game the children had to do math problems to move to the next step!)" – Amy Mahoney, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Linscott Rumford, Woburn Public Schools.
- "The children were able to show what they learned during the culmination game! They were so proud of themselves! They would come back after weekends and talk about how much they recycled and what kinds of trees/leaves they saw. Many of them said they watch shows on Animal Planet and National Geographic to learn more! A few parents have also mentioned that their child loved to share what they learned!" - Amy Mahoney, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Linscott Rumford, Woburn Public Schools.
- "The instructors were excellent the combination of class control and patience made it a pleasant experience." – Kathleen Sullivan, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Altavesta Elementary, Woburn Public Schools.
- "I was very impressed with how into the program my students got. It is always challenging to get 21 kids interested in something, you guys managed to do that! The day after you all came in to do a lesson, my students wanted to spend a day without electricity. We spent the entire next day with no lights. They had a blast!" – Kristen Slagmolen, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Reeves School Woburn Public Schools
- "Saving the environment is something that is not written into our curriculum. Yes, we talk about it with our kids, but in not as much detail as is needed. There is just not enough time in the classroom to get it all done. It is wonderful for your company to come in and teach

## Change is Simple, Inc. – Teacher Reviews

students about helping our earth. They are the future, they should be educated on how and what to do in order to help." – Kristen Slagmolen, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Reeves School, Woburn Public Schools

- "Very interactive. Students were able to move around and grasp a much better understanding of subject matter they learned Term I. All students were successful with the lesson, no matter what their learning style or ability!" – Danielle MacDonald, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Shamrock Elementary, Woburn Public Schools
- "Children are constantly talking about Change is Simple and asking when they are coming back." – Patricia Kannler, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Linscott Rumford School, Woburn Public Schools.
- "We enjoyed the program and the students were talking about it to the parents. The program was extremely educational and the students can't wait for Change is Simple to come back." – Laurie Stantial, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, North Beverly Elementary, Beverly Public Schools .
- "I feel that the work that the Change is Simple is important to the learning experience of students. I firmly believe that life experiences such as this program is even better than reading textbooks and lectures!!! I feel that these hands on lessons are unforgettable!!!" – Kathleen Doherty, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Goodyear Elementary, Woburn Public Schools.
- "Due to the nature of our curriculum today as well as all the testing these kids get, it is so nice for them to have some hands-on and engaging lessons. Our schedules are so jammed pack, that we don't get those opportunities very often." – Marcy Nelson, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Centerville Elementary, Beverly Public Schools.
- "I thought it was great! The students were able to be hands on and Kids love to be hands on! They walked away with new vocabulary and ideas. they enjoyed it and learned something during the lesson. The other day while reading a story they remembered the word deciduous!!!!!" – Michelle McDonald, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Wyman Elementary, Woburn Public Schools.
- "The program connects real world with science. It was a great hands-on real life experience that every student could understand and put to use." – Rachel Collins, 6<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher, Briscoe Middle School, Beverly Public Schools.
- "The program really meshed well with the curriculum, especially throwing the fractions in with the science. I also like that I learned something as well as the kids learning." – Julianne Watros, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Reeves Elementary, Woburn Public Schools.
- "Each lessons connects so well to the previous as well as what we are working on in class. The kids love you guys and so do I. I've been doing this for over 30 years and you're program is the best I have worked with." - 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Wyman Elementary , Woburn Public Schools.

**Environmental Behaviors**

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please answer honestly to the following questions. There are no wrong answers! Check the box that best applies to you.

Do you?	No	Rarely	Sometimes	Yes
Bring lunch in reusable containers			✓	
Turn off tap when brushing your teeth / washing hands				✓
Recycle plastic, paper and aluminum at home				✓
Member of environmental club or participate in science fair or activities			✓	
Ride bike instead of driving			✓	
Talk to family about protecting the environment				✓
Pick up trash when you leave a park or beach			✓	
Turn off lights when not in room				✓
Watch TV / Video games each day				✓
Buy local fruits and veggies				✓

Tell us something you have done to make a difference on your community, health, environment because of what you have done with Change is Simple or simply share your comments about Change is Simple...

Change is Simple has been very inspiring to me. I didn't know that by using alot of fuel can cause pollution and that there are so many ways to save the earth. I didn't know worms were so helpful. Change is Simple is great. Patrick is unique and extraordinary!

**Student Response Example #2**

Tell us something you have done to make a difference on your community, health, environment because of what you have done with Change is Simple or simply share your comments about Change is Simple...

Everytime Change is Simple comes we always have fun and learn new things. I always have wanted to help the environment and now I have ways to. I always tell my parents what I did and give them ideas to help. Change is Simple is the best program ever!!

Dear Patrick and Lauren,

Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to work at Change is Simple. I am so grateful I got to intern for something that gives back to the community and even the world as a whole. You two do so much for such a great cause. It inspires me to pursue science and education in the future. Thank you again for such a fun and rewarding internship that I won't forget. If you ever need a volunteer for anything in the future I would be more than happy to help. Thanks and I'll miss everything and everyone at Change is Simple.

Sincerely,

Corinne

Change IS Simple is a smart group of fun scientists. They make me and my friends want to learn more! They teach us more about animals, the earth and, habitats. Change IS Simple is great.

Change  
IS  
Simple

I ♥ Change Is  
Simple!!

!!  
😊



THANK YOU  
SO MUCH!