

GLTHS gets a RISE out of grants

The Lowell Sun

UPDATED: 06/10/2019 10:02:20 AM EDT



From left are Assistant Superintendent/Principal Jill Davis, School Adjustment Counselor/RISE Coordinator Lauren Friedman, Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola, RISE Program Clinician Felicia Lumbert and RISE Program Teaching Assistant Allison Peluso. *(courtesy photo)*

TYNGSBORO — Greater Lowell Technical High school received two grants to support its Resilience in Student Effort program, also known as RISE.

First implemented this year at Greater Lowell Tech, the program provides a short-term intervention to improve outcomes for students experiencing extended absences from school due to mental-health conditions, medical treatment, concussions or birth/parenting leave.

To support those efforts, the schools received a \$19,000 Health Initiatives grant from the Greater Lowell Health Alliance and, most recently, a \$92,000 Improving Student Access to Behavioral and Mental Health Services grant from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Students who access the RISE program receive up to eight weeks of counseling services plus on-site educational support to complete their academic and technical assignments.

"The goal of this program is to allow students the flexibility to obtain the help or services they need, and then transition back to their regular schedule ready to learn and work while remaining on track for graduation," Superintendent Joseph Mastrocola said. "We're extremely thankful to the Greater Lowell Health Alliance and Department of Elementary

and Secondary Education for providing us with the needed funds to build and sustain this program. We are excited to be doing more to recognize and promote student well-being in school."

Mastrocola added that the program wouldn't be possible without the assistance of the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition program at the Brookline Center for Mental Health, which has assisted more than 100 schools across the state with establishing similar programs since 2004.