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Walsh hails opening of new Bromley-Heath learning center

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The Nurtury Learning Lab in Jamaica Plain.

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh met with educators in Jamaica Plain Monday morning to celebrate the long-awaited opening of a new learning center.

The Nurtury Learning Lab, located at the Boston Housing Authority's Bromley-Heath public housing development, will provide early education to children, according to a statement from the mayor's office.

“All children should have access to the best learning and school readiness opportunities we can provide,” Walsh said in a statement. “The Nurtury Learning Lab at Bromley-Heath is a great example of a service that will greatly impact children's lives and start them on a path for success.”

The new center will host a community-based lab school for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. It was designed to be spacious and is LEED Gold certified, according to the statement.

LEED, or Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, is a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. To receive LEED certification, building projects must satisfy prerequisites and earn points to achieve different levels of certification.



Nurtury Learning Lab brings new opportunities

Educators hope the site will improve lives and communities by tackling issues that mire families in poverty.

Nearly 200 students will attend school in 10 age-specific classrooms, and each room has been designed to help reduce stress. Outdoor playgrounds with vegetation and gardens, an art studio, and science classrooms will also be available for the children, the statement said.

In addition, the mayor's office said, the center will host afterschool care programs that are focused on the disciplines that make up STEM: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

"We really wanted to work with Nurtury to provide a better place for our kids to learn and play and prepare for their futures," Bill McGonagle, Boston Housing Authority administrator, said in the statement.

Educators will also reap the benefits of the high-tech facility. A documentation room will serve as a spot for teachers to record findings from their work with the children, the mayor's office said.

Nurtury is a 136-year-old child-care and education agency known until earlier this year as Associated Early Care and Education. The housing authority is leasing the group the land for \$1 per year, according to the statement.

The total project was budgeted for \$17.1 million, including costs for acquisition, design, construction, and financing.

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