

# PROPOSED LOWELL COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This was prepared by the founding group of the Lowell Collegiate Charter School.*

**Mission:** The mission of the Lowell Collegiate Charter School is to provide an academically rigorous and successful world-class college preparatory public educational program that enables all students, regardless of their background, to achieve their full potential, to be prepared for success in college, equipped with the ability and desire for lifelong learning, and to have developed strong civic, ethical, and moral values in a safe, caring, and rigorous environment built on a school ethos that emphasizes high behavioral and academic expectations.

**General Overview:** The Lowell Collegiate Charter School will be a commonwealth charter public school of choice serving a diverse student population. As a college-preparatory school, we seek to add a grade per year until becoming a K-12 charter school. The school will serve the following grade levels and students:

School Year	Grade Levels	Total Student Enrollment
First Year	K-5	540
Second Year	K-6	636
Third Year	K-7	738
Fourth Year	K-8	840
Fifth Year	K-9	942

The charter school will be non-selective in its admission process. If there are more applicants than spaces available, a public lottery will be held to randomly enroll students. Our mission, values, vision, structure, and academic rigor will offer our students the opportunity to succeed in a supportive academic environment. Parents are seeking high quality educational opportunities for their children. This outcomes-based school will offer all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, language, income or ability, an opportunity to enroll in a college preparatory school based on a proven educational model and curriculum.

**Community Need:** One of the essential purposes of the Lowell Collegiate Charter School is to offer families an opportunity to choose the school their child attends. Our school will offer families free public choice in a district where limited choice is available. Our school will also provide a high standards educational experience for all students, offering a college preparatory program where none currently exists.

Currently, there are two Commonwealth charter schools located in Lowell. One is a high school for students at risk and the other currently serves 653 students in grades K-6, making its grade span similar to the proposed Lowell Collegiate Charter School. The K-6 school is fully enrolled, despite difficulties during its renewal process in 2010, demonstrating the demand by parents for alternatives to the Lowell Public Schools.

**Founders Capacity:** The founding members of the board of trustees are an experienced, professional, highly qualified and diverse group of educators, and community and business

leaders. The group includes former educators, a banker, a business owner, and the director of governmental affairs for the major hospital in the region. The trustees are community residents who are as ethnically and culturally diverse as the community and students we expect to serve. This depth of cultural, civic, legal, and financial expertise gives this founding group the capacity to effectively govern and oversee this school.

**Educational Program:** The board has chosen to contract for management and operational services with Minnesota-based SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc., which currently manages two Commonwealth charter schools in Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts. The charter school will fully implement the proven, research-based SABIS® education program, assessment system, instructional methods and school management model. The SABIS® program is designed to challenge students to meet, indeed exceed, state and federal performance standards. The SABIS® curriculum is designed with the intention that all students obtain those skills necessary to be successful in colleges or universities. Although the curriculum places a heavy emphasis on the core subjects of English and mathematics, other subjects, such as science, world language, social studies, art, music, health, physical education, and computing are also considered important, and will be offered to provide a well-rounded education.

The SABIS® curriculum is a spiral curriculum design, meaning that previous concepts are revisited in a more advanced form in later units or grades. Students exhibit mastery of essential concepts at each level of advancement along the spiral curriculum. The SABIS® curriculum is comprehensive, dynamic, and continuously upgraded by the SABIS® Academic Operations Division. For every course, the objectives are clearly laid out on the Pacing Charts (“lesson plans”) provided weekly to teachers. Each unit of a course has its sub-objectives and, in turn, every lesson plan or period has its own sub-objectives. These objectives consist of skills, abilities, and new concepts that students acquire, or master, as a result of having attended a particular lesson. By breaking down the courses, the material becomes more meaningful, teachable, and measurable.

The SABIS® curriculum also provides for a variety of enrichment opportunities, such as: AP courses; math league; academic prefect; activities happening during the daily special Student Life period; students advancing a level in math or world language independent of their peers; taking two or three science, math or language courses at once; or travel abroad (for the annual Student Life Camp).

A core component of the SABIS® program is the frequent student assessment throughout the curriculum which enables timely identification of individual needs and talents. Thus, students who are capable of advancing rapidly have the opportunity to do so, and are prepared to successfully complete a variety of internationally recognized examinations. Conversely, students who are struggling are identified in real-time and provided with intensives designed to fill learning gaps that may have developed.