

PROPOSED SPRINGFIELD PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This was prepared by the founding group of the Springfield Preparatory Charter School.

Springfield Technical Community College takes great pride in its relationship with the City of Springfield and is keenly aware of the interdependencies between the City of Springfield and the college's health and well-being. By helping to create a college-affiliated charter school, Springfield Preparatory Charter School, will provide the college with the ability to exercise leadership to promote pre- and post-secondary college access to a population that might otherwise not have such an opportunity. Central to STCC's success is student access. Founded in 1967, STCC is a major resource for the economic vitality of Western Massachusetts, offering 86 programs and employing a faculty and staff of 425. With an enrollment of over 6,000 day, evening, weekend and online students, STCC is a vibrant campus rich in diversity. The creation of Springfield Preparatory promotes college accessibility and provides for synergies that will warmly enrich the education experience for students of the charter school and the college.

Among the benefits to Springfield Preparatory students are:

- the opportunity for juniors and seniors to take STCC college courses (early college model)
- the opportunity for students to attend STCC diversity and other cultural events
- the ability for students to take college placement exams in their junior year to certify college level preparation in math, English and writing
- the opportunity for students to share the college's resources such as the library and gymnasium

Among the benefits to the College and its campus community are:

- the opportunity to support quality education to benefit the citizenry of Springfield
- the ability for our faculty and professional staff to interact with middle and high school teachers, especially in English and mathematics to better align curricula and for our counseling professionals to better understand the social issues facing young students
- the joint opportunities for professional development in the areas of diversity, teaching effectiveness and professional recruitment, among others
- the opportunity to recruit well educated students into our myriad degree programs

Mission: The mission of the Springfield Preparatory 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, prepare them for success in college, equip them with the ability and desire for lifelong learning, and strengthen their civic, ethical, and moral values. The school will be recognized as safe, caring and rigorous by creating a school ethos that emphasizes high behavioral and academic expectations. We will partner with Springfield Technical Community College to enhance the college preparatory experience of the diverse students in Springfield, thus providing the same quality educational options to all of these students regardless of race, income, non-academic challenges, and ability, including special education students,

General Overview: Springfield Preparatory will be a commonwealth charter public school serving students who reside in Springfield. As a college-prep school, we seek to add a grade a year until serving grades 5-12, as follows:

School Year	Grade Levels	Total Enrollment
First Year	5-7	392
Second Year	5-8	530
Third Year	5-9	664
Fourth Year	5-10	800
Fifth Year	5-11	936

The charter school will be non-selective in its admission process and will actively recruit a diverse population, including linguistic minority students. If there are more applicants than spaces available, the school will hold a public lottery. 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 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: Currently, there are three charter schools located in Springfield serving approximately 3,500 students, and over 3,000 more on waiting lists. By law, Springfield can accommodate up to 1,757 more students before reaching the 14% cap in FY13. One of the main reasons for establishing Springfield Prep is to offer families an opportunity to choose the school their child attends. Springfield Prep will offer families free public school choice where there exists little choice, and will compete for students within a free market context. Our school will work diligently to provide a top-quality educational experience for all students. It will not only provide families with educational choice, but will increase the level of constructive competition among all public schools. There exists a tremendous need for a high quality college preparatory public school in our community.

Founders Capacity: The founding members of the board of trustees are an experienced, professional, highly qualified and diverse group of educators, community and business leaders. The group includes members who are educators, financial experts, business owners, and a board governance expert. Board members 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, financial and educational expertise makes this founding group an effective board that has the capacity to effectively govern and oversee this school.

Educational Program: Springfield Preparatory will be managed and operated by Minnesota-based SABIS® Educational Systems, Inc., which currently manages two Commonwealth charter schools in Springfield and Holyoke, Massachusetts. Springfield Preparatory 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 curriculum is designed with the intention that all students obtain the 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 in providing a well-rounded education.

The SABIS® Curriculum is spiral by design such 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. Frequent student assessment throughout the curriculum 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.