Student Opportunity Act Plan

Dracut

# Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups

*Student subgroups requiring focused support to ensure all students achieve at high levels in school and are successfully prepared for life.*

* First language not English students
* English learners and former English learners
* Students with disabilities
* Low income/economically disadvantaged students
* High Needs students (defined as any student who is economically disadvantaged, has a disability, or is an English learner/former English learner)
* African American/Black students
* Asian students
* Hispanic or Latinx students
* Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latinx students
* American Indian or Alaskan Native students
* Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander students
* White students

*The rationale for selecting these student subgroups.*

The district's plan to utilize additional funding is focused on the recruitment and retention of its educators (priority #13). Dracut's average educator salary, as measured by the last DESE report (2018) places Dracut educators 18th of its 21 neighboring districts, and 114 of 121 districts when considering northeast Massachusetts and greater Boston districts. The need for recruiting and retaining high-quality educators encompasses the needs of all district students.

Additionally, the district's plan is focused on increasing staffing to support student access to the arts, athletics, and enrichment and strategic scheduling to enable common planning time for teachers (#12). As measured by per-pupil spending, the most recent DESE spending report places the Dracut Public Schools 320 of 322 districts in Massachusetts. The lack of funding has hampered the district's ability to expand programming options across the district.

**Commitment 2: Using Evidence-Based Programs to Close Gaps**

***Focus Area 1:***  Strategies to recruit and retain educators/administrators in hard-to-staff schools and positions (D)

The district seeks to utilize new funding from the Commonwealth to improve the salary structure currently in place in order to improve the district's ability to recruit high-quality educators and to retain experienced educators.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the $ character** | **Foundation Category** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **1** |  | 0 | **Classroom & Specialist Teachers** |

***Focus Area 2:***  Increased staffing to expand student access to arts, athletics, and enrichment, and strategic scheduling to enable common planning time for teachers (B and D)

As previously described, as the Dracut Public Schools ranks 320 of 322 districts in Massachusetts in per-pupil spending the district does not have the capacity to expand existing programming.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 | **Classroom & Specialist Teachers** |
| **2** |  | 0 | **Other Teaching Services** |
| **3** |  | 0 | **Pupil Services** |
| **4** |  | 0 | **Guidance and Psychological** |

**Commitment 3: Monitoring Success with Outcome Metrics and Targets**

*Outcome metrics that will be used to measure progress in closing gaps for selected student groups.*

* Student Achievement: English language arts (ELA) achievement as measured by average scaled scores on MCAS
* Student Achievement: Mathematics achievement as measured by average scaled scores on MCAS
* Student Achievement: Science achievement as measured by average scaled scores (or CPI, depending on grade level) on MCAS
* Student Growth: ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Student Growth: Mathematics mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* English Language Proficiency: Progress made by students towards attaining English proficiency (percentage of students meeting annual targets calculated to attain English proficiency in six years).

**Commitment 4: Engaging All Families**

*District plans for ensuring that all families, particularly those representing identified student subgroups most in need of support, have access to meaningful engagement regarding their students’ needs.*

Should funding increase sufficiently, the district will be able to provide its students with high-quality educators who remain in the district, therefore providing a continuity of philosophy and pedagogy of instruction to support student achievement.

Additionally, additional funding would support the expansion of programming at all levels, across the district as well as support the addition of positions in Special Education, English Learners, Nursing, and other Pupil Services.

**Certifications**

*Certification that stakeholders were engaged in accordance with the Student Opportunity Act.*

The district consulted with the School Committee and the Dracut Teacher's Association. Additional outreach to parent groups was interrupted by the current public health emergency.

*Certification that School Committee has voted (or is expected to vote on the district’s Student Opportunity Act Plan.*

Date of Approval: January 17, 2021