**Student Opportunity Plan: SY 2021-2023**

**Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School**

→ **Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups**As one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Charter School Movement, Lowell Middlesex Academy (LMACS) has, from the beginning in 1995, focused on struggling and/or disadvantaged youth. Our mission is to enable students to achieve academic, social, and career success. Our supportive school community identifies, encourages and develops interests and abilities, while acknowledging and respecting each student's personal and cultural identity.

However, having acknowledged the alternative nature of LMACS, we recognize that not all student groups have experienced the same level of success to date. Using DESE and our district data, we seek to reduce the number of students designated as chronically absent by DESE. With the ultimate goal of increasing graduation rates.

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

As a MassGrad Grant recipient, we have been working with a community of like-minded people to improve school attendance and prevent dropouts. The goal is to ultimately increase graduation rates.

We intend to:

* Continue working with the MassGrad program on all their grant-funded initiatives.
* Attend all meetings of MassGrad member schools.
* Design and pilot a case management program for five students categorized as Chronically Absent.
  + Students will include: students of color, English language learners, and students with learning disabilities.

FY21 budget item Amount Foundation Category Tutors

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| **FY21 budget item** | **Amount** | **Foundation Category** |
| PT faculty | 3,000 | PT SPED teachers/Social Workers |
| **Evidence-based program identified by the Department:** | | Targeted Student Supports |
| **SOA program categories:** | | Dropout prevention and recovery programs (I) |

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

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| **Department outcome metrics:** |
| * Four-year cohort graduation rate * Extended engagement rate * Annual dropout rate |

**Department outcome metrics:**

→ **Commitment 4: Engaging All Families**

LMACS recognizes that family engagement is critical to ensuring successful outcomes for all students. Given our focus on student subgroups, it is particularly important that we find ways to effectively engage our families of students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, EL students and students with disabilities.

We recognize that existing family engagement opportunities at our school are not effective in reaching most of our families. LMACS has had some success when we partnered with local community members as part of our career readiness programs, so we began with that group as they also represent our ethnic membership.

Additionally, we created a subcommittee for academic student success that has solicited parent input from targeted parents.

We are also committing to pilot a parent-teacher home visiting project that will be organized in our new case management program.

We will measure the engagement of families who receive a home visit through a follow up survey and track the number and demographics of families reached through home visiting each year.

**Certifications:**

* **By checking here, I certify that our district has engaged stakeholders in accordance with the SOA Please summarize your stakeholder engagement process, including specific groups that were engaged: SPED parents and regular ed parents who also represent minority and low-income groups.**
* **By checking here, I certify that the Lowell Middlesex Academy Charter School’s Board of Trustees voted on our Student Opportunity Plan**

**Date of vote:** 1/25/2021 **Outcome:** Vote was affirmative