Student Opportunity Act Plan

Monson

# 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.*

* Early Childhood

*The rationale for selecting these student subgroups.*

As noted in our strategic plan, Monson Public Schools (MPS) is committed to providing all students opportunities to engage in complex tasks across the curriculum to develop higher order thinking and problem solving skills. We recognize that our Preschool and Kindergarten classes are the foundation of high academic success. We are committed to providing opportunities to ensure every child becomes a successful learner, developing the underlying cognitive, social and emotional skills needed to reach his or her highest potential. We will work to improve achievement and opportunity gaps for these early childhood students and recognize that this important work will take not just the efforts of district staff, but also our families. In addition, our strategic plan identifies the need to increase the quality and occurrence of two-way communication with families.

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

We have begun the implementation of Tools of the Mind in our early grades, and plan to expand this implementation to include training of more teachers, additional resources and classrooms kits as well as the app platform for families.

## Focus Area 1: Expanded access to full-day, high-quality pre-kindergarten for 4-year-olds, including potential collaboration with other local providers (SOA categories D, F, and G)

Tools of the Mind is a research-based early childhood model combining teacher professional development with a comprehensive innovative curriculum that helps our youngest learners to develop the cognitive, social-emotional, self- regulatory and foundational academic skills they need to succeed. The instructional

interactions are designed to help teachers be more effective in identifying teachable moments, assessing students' development and differentiating instruction.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the****$ character** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **Teacher training - five teachers** | **18,750** | **Professional Development** |
| **2** | **Ongoing professional development & support** | **2,000** | **Professional Development** |
| **3** | **App platform** | **400** | **Instructional Materials, Equipment, and Technology** |
| **4** | **Props & classroom materials** | **5,000** | **Instructional Materials, Equipment, and Technology** |
| **5** | **Parent Library** | **600** | **Instructional Materials, Equipment, and Technology** |
| **6** | **Consumables & Music materials** | **1,270** | **Instructional Materials, Equipment, and Technology** |

**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.*

* Additional Indicators: Chronic absenteeism (percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of their days in membership)
* Custom District Metric 1: Power Tools Literacy Writing Assessment
* Custom District Metric 2: ESGI Mathematics Assessment

**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.*

The Monson Public Schools recognizes that family engagement is critical to ensuring successful student outcomes for all students. Connecting with our families in meaningful ways the moment they enroll their child is our primary goal. Aside from evening events and parent-teacher conferences, we utilize social media platforms and computer apps like Class Dojo to ensure our parents are informed and involved.

The Tools of the Mind curriculum includes an app platform component to help us deepen our connection with families. We also plan to create a parent library, with books and other resources that parents can sign out and take home.

**Certifications**

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

As part of the Strategic Planning process, both visioning and SWOT protocols were conducted with the following groups:

* Administrative team
* Central Business Office members
* Department of Transportation
* Department of Food Services
* Faculty at each building
* Parent groups
* Community members

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

Date of Approval: 01/20/2021