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

***Mystic Valley Regional Charter School***

# → Commitment 1: Focusing on Student Subgroups

## Which student groups will require focused support to ensure all students achieve at high levels in school and are successfully prepared for life?

* Mystic Valley Regional Charter School (MVRCS) has identified the following subgroups as those in need of additional support: African American/Black, Male, and Students with Disabilities.
* The school has chosen the subgroups above based on the following data (MCAS, 2019), illustrating the difference of the percentage of students Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Expectations between All Students and the selected subgroups, illustrated in the chart below.

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| **Subgroup** | **ELA** | **Mathematics** | **Science/Technology** |
| AA/Black | -15% | -25% | -12% |
| Male | -5% | -5% | +2% |
| Students with Disabilities | -25% | -8% | -22% |

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

## What evidence-based programs will your charter school adopt, deepen, or continue to best support the closure of achievement and opportunity gaps? What resources will be allocated to these programs?

**Evidence-based program #1: Advanced Curriculum-Specific Professional Development for Teachers**

A central component of MVRCS’s Mission is to provide each student with the opportunity to acquire a world-class education. This concept is reinforced in the school’s Accountability Plan (Key Design Element 1). MVRCS’s goal is to provide its educators with thorough training and professional development in all curricular programs, and the school plans to continue to invest to achieve this outcome.

MVRCS aims to use teacher attendance at Direct Instruction (DI) and International Baccalaureate (IB) workshops to meet KDE 1 requirements in this current school year. Each year, the school provides new teachers with a robust DI training program. Throughout the school year, MVRCS also provides teacher supports in DI using internal observations and external consulting services. Ronnis Systems, Inc. provides MVRCS with DI consulting services for the 2020-21 school year for grades K-12, focusing on student-level classroom achievement data to drive professional development support. Similarly, MVRCS’s practice is to enroll all new IB teachers in subject-specific IB-led workshops. Experienced teachers also attend IB workshops periodically, typically when there is a change to any IB course requirements.

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| **FY21 budget item** | **Amount** | **Foundation Category** |
| IB Workshops | $15,000 | Professional Development |
| NIFDI & Ronnis Consulting | $173,600 | Professional Development |
| **Evidence-based program identified by the Department:** | | Supporting educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum |
| **SOA program categories:** | | SOA Category E |

## Evidence-based program #2: Remote Learning Resources

Although the majority of MVRCS students have returned to school for full-time in-person instruction this year, the school has made significant investments in supporting students whose parents opted for the hybrid or fully remote learning models during the 2020- 2021 school year. MVRCS devoted extensive resources to developing an asynchronous learning model option during the summer of 2020, with daily instructional videos for all core academic subjects filmed by MVRCS educators. MVRCS is in the process of auditing this video-based program (performed by a special educator) to ensure it is accessible and delivered to programmatic specifications. To supplement in English Language Arts and Mathematics, MVRCS has obtained IXL (a personalized learning platform) licenses for all students.

The MVRCS video-based curriculum, supplemented by IXL, has allowed all MVRCS students, even those who may be in school full time, with the ability to view and review instructional content. This will be particularly helpful for the student groups identified above.

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| **FY21 budget item** | **Amount** | **Foundation Category** |
| IXL Software | $15,000 | Instructional Materials, Equipment & Technology |
| MVRCS Video Curriculum Project | $242,942.50 | Instructional Materials, Equipment & Technology |
| **Evidence-based program identified by the Department:** | | Supporting educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum |
| **SOA program categories:** | | SOA Category F |

**Evidence-based program #3: Distribution of Pre-K Direct Instruction: *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons***

MVRCS has created a video-based program to complement the *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons* program, authored by DI founder Siegfried Engelmann. The school has recently made this program available to anyone who has requested access to it, prioritizing pre-K-aged students within MVRCS’s sending districts.

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| **FY21 budget item** | **Amount** | **Foundation Category** |
| MVRCS Parent & Community | $14,000 | Instructional Materials, Equipment & Technology |
| **Evidence-based program identified by the Department:** | | Research-based early literacy programs in pre-kindergarten and early elementary grades |
| **SOA program categories:** | | SOA Category G |

## Evidence-based program #4: Faculty Recruitment Efforts

MVRCS is a member of Nemnet Minority Recruitment, which is a “national resource organization committed to assisting schools and organizations in the recruitment and retention of diverse teachers, administrators and coaches*.”* MVRCS continues to use this relationship to gain access to diverse talent in the Greater Boston Area and beyond.

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| **FY21 budget item** | **Amount** | **Foundation Category** |
| Nemnet Membership | $5,000 | Administration |
| **Evidence-based program identified by the Department:** | | Diversifying the educator/administrator workforce through recruitment and retention |
| **SOA program categories:** | | SOA Category H |

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

## What metrics will your charter school use to monitor success in reducing disparities in achievement among student subgroups? Select from the list of Department metrics or provide your own.

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| 1. **Department outcome metrics:**    * MCAS student achievement (both absolute and growth) in Grades 3 and 10, ELA and Mathematics, defined as the   combined percentage of students scoring the Meeting or Exceeding Grade-Level Expectations categories.   * + Percentage of diverse staff members, along with annual   comparisons to sending districts and the state. | 1. **Custom metrics**    * Iowa Assessments results (external assessment) for Grades 3 and 9. Of particular interest will be   results/growth in Reading and Mathematics subscores, along with the Core Total metric.   * + Percentage of students enrolled in advanced   coursework (IB). |

→ **Commitment 4: Engaging All Families**

**How will your charter school ensure that all families, particularly those representing the student subgroups most in need of**

**support, have the opportunity to meaningfully engage with the charter school regarding their students’ needs?**

* Although the school currently meets all requirements regarding providing translated documents, MVRCS will partner with a new provider to ensure that a broad and comprehensive array of documents are available to families whose first language is not English and that these translations are efficiently processed. Services will be used for regular and special education documents.
* MVRCS has multiple staff members who are fluent in MVRCS’s most commonly-spoken languages and prepared to respond to parent inquiries and support school outreach initiatives.
* MVRCS will continue to work with its PTO to provide enrichment activities to all families.

# Certifications:

## ☒ By checking here, I certify that our charter school has engaged stakeholders in our community in accordance with the Student Opportunity Act

**Please summarize your stakeholder engagement process, including specific groups that were engaged:**

In the production of this document, MVRCS engaged various constituent groups in the school community, including members of the leadership team, staff members, current and former parents, and members of the Board of Trustees.

## ☒ By checking here, I certify that the Mystic Valley Regional Charter School’s Board of Trustees voted on our Student Opportunity Act Plan.

**Date of vote:** January 11, 2021 **Outcome of vote:** Approved by Board of Trustees