Student Opportunity Act Plan

Norfolk

# 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.*

* English learners and former English learners
* 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)

*The rationale for selecting these student subgroups.*

The Norfolk Public Schools has seen a significant increase over the past five years in the number of students enrolled in the district who are English Language Learners. We continue to build and expand our curriculum and instruction to best meet the needs of this growing population. In addition, the district continues to work towards closing achievement gaps for students identified as high needs. We have made progress in this area but have not closed existing achievement gaps fully and continue to need to develop instructional plans and resources to remove barriers and increase academic growth for these sub-groups.

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

***Focus Area 1:*** Supporting educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum (E and F)

The district will utilize funding from the SOA to provide rigorous, high-quality professional development to all staff members to support the implementation of effective practices for teaching literacy and guided math at all grade levels. This professional development will focus on strategies for closing achievement gaps and improving learning outcomes for high needs students, as well as implementing culturally relevant pedagogy and supporting the language and academic needs of EL students. We will be contracting with TLA (teachers learning alliance) to provide on-site coaching and instruction for teaching staff, as well as with other outside consultants to address these areas of need.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the $ character** | **Foundation Category** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **1** | **Educational consultants** | **18,000** | **Professional Development** |

***Focus Area 2***: Research-based early literacy programs in pre-kindergarten and early elementary grades (E, F, and G)

The district will be selecting and implementing a new research based phonics instruction program to be implemented in the lower grades. Additionally, the district will be purchasing subscriptions to Lexia to support EL students language instruction

and acquisition, as well as to provide additional tools for re-teaching, review and practice of core literacy skills for students who are struggling. The district will be providing access to technology devices for all students for use both in school and at home.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **Lexia, Phonics materials** | **10,300** | **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.*

* 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 Growth: ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Student Growth: Mathematics mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Custom District Metric 1: District ELA and Math Benchmarks

**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 district will provide multiple ways for families to engage in students' learning, through in person meetings, two-way communication, family events, teacher and staff outreach, parent workshops, virtual meetings and conversations and parent surveys.

**Certifications**

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

The district has conducted outreach to parents and staff through district curriculum surveys. The district has engaged teachers and administrators in identifying needs based on comprehensive review and analysis of student achievement data. The district also shares information and solicits feedback from school site-based councils, a district level parent advisory group and through the School Committee.

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

Date of Approval: 03/04/2020