Student Opportunity Act Plan

North Reading

# 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 North Reading Public Schools have selected all of the subgroups as indicated on this form as they all deserve our attention. With respect to the district data below, if there needs to be a focus area, it makes sense for us to focus on the Students with Disabilities and our High Needs populations as this focus will have a great impact on the greatest number of students. Our largest gaps in MCAS achievement are with our Students with Disabilities and High Needs populations.

* First Language not English 1.4%
* English Language Learner 0.5%
* Students With Disabilities 18.2%
* High Needs 24.3%
* Economically Disadvantaged 8.1%
* African American 0.5%
* Asian 4.5%
* Hispanic 3.9%
* Native American 0.1%
* White 88.0%
* Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander 0.1%
* Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic 2.9%

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

We are currently providing a tuition-based program for students in Kindergarten and so, as has been asked during the Student Opportunity Act forums, we would like to focus our attention on Kindergarten first before we expand access to pre- kindergarten. We currently charge $4,250 for registration and we would like to begin to address this cost through a reduction in the tuition to provide more equity for all students. More and more families are beginning to elect for Full Day Kindergarten given the known benefits of a full day's education for students of this age group. In in 2020-21 school year in North Reading it is anticipated that we will have 140 full day kindergarten students compared to only 28 half day kindergarten students. Since we are not receiving any additional funds as a result of the Student Opportunity Act we are optimistic that we could receive matching funds via a grant that would allow us to begin to reduce the fees and provide greater access to full day Kindergarten for all students.

## 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)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the $ character** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **Teacher/Paraprofessional Salaries** | **67,600** | **Classroom & Specialist Teachers** |
| **2** | **Professional Development** | **2,000** | **Professional Development** |

**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)
* Custom District Metric 1: Student and Parent Survey Data
* Custom District Metric 2: Enrollment Data

**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.*

During this process the Superintendent discussed this with the union presidents of the North Reading Educator Association, North Reading Federation of Paraprofessionals, and the North Reading Custodians. Further, this plan was discussed at the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Meeting on February 28, 2020 which includes representatives from Parent Teacher groups from all five schools and across the district. Additionally, this was discussed with the Administrative Council on several occasions. All focus groups agreed that reducing the fees for Kindergarten was an equity goal for the district and a good focus area for the Student Opportunity Act.

**Certifications**

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

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

Date of Approval: 03/23/2020