Student Opportunity Act Plan

Pioneer Valley

# 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.*

* Students with disabilities
* Low income/economically disadvantaged students

*The rationale for selecting these student subgroups.*

Pioneer Valley Regional School District (PVRSD) is committed to ensuring that all students achieve success in school and after graduation. Not all of our students experience success at the same levels. Our district data shows that students with disabilities (SWD) and/or lower income students have not demonstrated the same outcomes in MCAS results and graduation rates as their peers. Many do not consider higher education as a possibility or even desirable.

We need to improve, enhance and change the curriculum opportunities, strategies and teaching methods to increase student engagement and expand their views of future opportunities.

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

PVRSD continuously works on improving, adapting and enhancing the programs that we have in place and recognizing the needs of all the students and families in our district.

## Focus Area 1: Inclusion/co-teaching for students with disabilities and English learners (D and/or E)

Inclusion for students with disabilities (SWD). Our district has always worked with a full inclusion model based on the least restrictive environment mandate. We continuously strive towards improving upon this idea through training of both professional staff and instructional assistants. We currently have one Board Certified Behavior Analyst, who works directly with some of our most challenging students. The BCBA also trains IAs to use specialized techniques with these students. The ultimate goal being the full integration of these students into a classroom with their peers. The district is planning to hire an additional BCBA that will allow for more services for these students.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the $ character** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **BCBA/Inclusion Teachers** | **90,000** | **Classroom & Specialist Teachers** |

## Focus Area 2: Community partnerships for in-school enrichment and wraparound services (C)

Pioneer Valley Regional School is currently working on supporting current teachers and staff in using more diverse teaching methods that include a wide variety of methods to meet the needs of a diverse learning community. Pioneer also started a program working with other professionals from Brookline called the Bridge for Resilient Youth in Transition (BRYT). This program is to help students who may have been out of school for a variety of reasons (physical or mental health related). Students are referred to this program to receive counseling and help with expected academic work**.**

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 3: Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs (C and/or D)

The Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) and Pioneer Valley Regional School District are working together to offer programs for our students and out of district students. At Pioneer Valley Regional School, we have the Passages program. The Collaborative has provided an in-take coordinator. This program is for students who need a temporary alternative education placement for a variety of reasons. The duration of this placement could be 45 days or longer. Ultimately, the student would return to their school. While in the program, these students would have assistance in keeping up with their academic work. Our other program, the Intensive Therapeutic Intervention Classroom (ITIC) is designed for 4 - 7 year old students. These students have not been successful due to behavioral challenges. We have students from in our district and from outside the district. Each student must come with a 1 - 1 aide from their school. The intent of the program is to shape student's behaviors and, most importantly, train the instructional aide in maintaining positive behaviors. The ultimate goal is for these students to go back, with their aides, to their schools and be with typical peers.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 4: Early College programs focused primarily on students under-represented in higher education (I)

We offer high-quality, full day preschool programs at the elementary schools for 3 and 4 year olds. We have been working with coaches from the EC department at DESE to implement the Pyramid model for SEL. Bernardston Elementary received the training last year and this year Northfield Elementary is receiving the training.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **Mentor Stipends for educators** | **8,000** | **Professional Development** |
| **2** | **Trauma informed PD** | **5,000** | **Professional Development** |

## Focus Area 5: Evidence-based program identified by DESE.

Pioneer Valley Regional teachers use evidence based literacy programs, such as Fountas & Pinnell, LLI and Lively Letters.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 6: Evidence-based program identified by DESE.

Pioneer Valley High School provides dual enrollment with Greenfield Community College (GCC)

Currently, we are working with GCC, writing a grant to start the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program (MAICEI). This program encourages our students who have disabilities that may prevent them from graduating from high school to take some college courses that previously were not available to them.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 7: Evidence-based program identified by DESE.

We have a very active Coordinated Family and Community Engagement program (CFCE). This program is run by our out of school time district coordinator and provides services such as play groups, parent support groups, after school care and community engagement.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 8: Evidence-based program identified by DESE.

The elementary schools partner with Americorps to enhance the student's knowledge and enjoyment of the environment. Interns from Americorps come out to the schools and conduct workshops, and also offer free after school activities. They also bring students out to their camps to enjoy the trails and campfires at their facilities.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 9: Evidence-based program identified by DESE.

Pioneer Regional high school is also working with the TeleMed Therapy program from the Heywood hospital in Athol. We recognize the difficulty our families have in accessing mental health services in this area. There is a severe shortage of therapists. Using this model will allow our students to get the services they need without incurring the expense of using therapists and also driving there, taking time out of work, etc.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

## Focus Area 10: Evidence-based program identified by DESE.

Currently, we are working with GCC, writing a grant to start the Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Program (MAICEI). This program encourages our students who have disabilities that may prevent them from graduating from high school to take some college courses that previously were not available to them.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount (enter number, do not use the $ character)** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** |  | 0 |  |

**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 Growth: ELA mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Student Growth: Mathematics mean student growth percentile (SGP)
* Custom District Metric 1: Student and Family Engagement as measured by annual district wide survey.

**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 Pioneer Valley Regional School District recognizes the importance of engaging with all of our families. Preschool and Kindergarten teachers conduct home visits before school starts.

The Early Childhood programs have family fun nights in the spring, with music, food and other activities and also distribute free books.

The elementary schools have open houses, active PTOs, family picnics, concerts and arts nights. The middle/high school has student led conferences for parents to come in and have their own children explain their work to them. Pioneer also has plays, musical performances, chorus and many other activities to encourage the families and community members so that they are aware of the activities that students engage in.

There is also a Special Education Parent Advisory Council which serves as a resource for parents on special education issues.

**Certifications**

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

The Pioneer Valley Regional School District partnered with the Collaborative for Educational Services to enhance our community in working with students with disabilities and low-income students. We have also worked with the BRYT program, based in Brookline, MA. Our early childhood program is working with the Pyramid model for social emotional development. We continue to have PTO meetings, focus groups to discuss a middle school model, Special Education Parent Advisory Council and the teachers/instructional assistants unions.

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

Date of Approval: 3/26/2020