Student Opportunity Act Plan

Wachusett

# 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

*The rationale for selecting these student subgroups.*

As noted in our strategic plan, the Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) seeks to ensure meaningful student growth and promote social emotional wellbeing in a safe and nurturing environment. Based on a review of our district data around our subgroups, we have found that our students with disabilities (SWD) are not experiencing the same level of outcomes on MCAS and also graduation rates as their peers. Specifically, SWD MCAS scores drop to below the state average in both ELA and Math by grade 8, compared with the aggregate scores for the WRSD.

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

Focus Area 1: Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs (C and/or D)

Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs. During the past several years, the District has been focused on increasing the support for students' social and emotional learning (SEL) and health needs in schools by adding specific personnel to support students. First, a Director of SEL position was created and filled. Next, middle school counselors were added on a part-time basis until funding could be secured for increasing these to full-time counselors in all of our middle schools. We also increased the nursing support so that all of our schools now have at least one full time nurse. Our FY21 budget includes part-time elementary counselors for our 6 elementary schools, as well as a resource nurse who will support all schools. These personnel will be available to all students.

We will continue with the Bridge to Resilient Youth (BRYT) program supporting students at our 2,000 pupil high school. We have determined that students here require additional support as they transition from hospitalizations back into the educational setting, and the BRYT program helps to meet this need. In addition, we are seeing more of our student population in need of transition support as they attempt to re-enter our high school from various outside placements. The program requires the support of one teacher and one adjustment counselor. In addition, we have bought into the Interface referral service to ensure the timely implementation wraparound services for these students. Combined, these programs are vital for the success of these fragile students.

We are utilizing student survey data from Panorama Education to gauge the impact of this and other initiatives on student sense of belonging and connectedness.

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|  | **FY21 budget item** | **Amount: enter number, do not use the $ character** | **Foundation Category** |
| **1** | **Elementary Counselors** | **$225,000** | **Guidance and Psychological** |
| **2** | **Resource Nurse** | **$90,000** | **Other Teaching Services** |
| **3** | **Interface** | **$50,000** | **Guidance and Psychological** |
| **4** | **Panorama** | **$50,000** | **Guidance and Psychological** |
| **5** | **STAR Math and Reading** | **$49,968** | **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: Panorama Data
* Custom District Metric 2: STAR math and reading 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.*

Wachusett Regional School District understands the importance of engaging families to ensure more success for its students. The District surveyed all families in early March of 2020 and received 14 responses concerning thoughts on potential areas of interest.

**Certifications**

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

A survey was sent to families prior to the Covid shutdown. A public hearing was held on the 11th of January, 2021.

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

Date of Approval: 01/11/2021