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TO: Liam Skinner, Superintendent

FROM: Wendy Crocker-Roberge, Assistant Superintendent for School Leadership

DATE: August 17, 2024

RE: *Response to Motion Regarding UMass Lowell & MCC Partnerships*

The following report is in response to a motion by David Conway:

Partnerships with UML and MCC
Request the superintendent give an update on new and expanded partnerships with UML and MCC.

Lowell Public Schools (LPS) and Middlesex Community College (MCC)

The Early College Lowell Program has continued to expand its enrollment and course offerings to allow students who are focused on obtaining college credits while at LHS the opportunity to earn a full Associate's Degree during their four years at LHS.

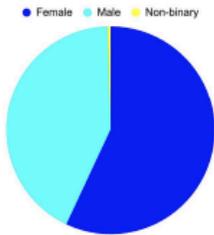
New this year: LHS students will be traveling to the MCC campus to take their Early College classes on site, giving them an authentic student experience in college. At a July 9, 2024 partnership meeting, LHS Head of School Mike Fiato and Assistant Superintendent Wendy Crocker-Roberge joined MCC Campus Presidents Russ Olwell and Phil Sisson for a strategic planning session facilitated by LZ Nunn of Project Learn and Judy Evans of UMass Lowell. Below are some key data points and plans that were shared relative to strengthening the partnership moving forward:

Response to Motion- August 17, 2024

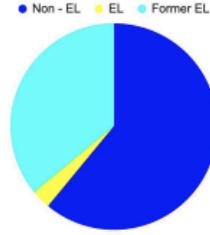


Student Demographics

422 students took a 3- or 4- credit Early College course, an increase of 29% from SY23 (327 students)

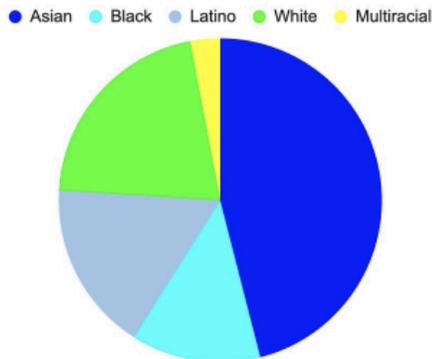


Gender
 Female: 241
 Male: 180
 Non-binary: 2



EL Status:
 61% non-EL students
 3% EL students
 36% former EL students

Special Ed/504 Status
 No SP: 395
 SP/504: 27



Race/Ethnicity:

Asian: 46%
 White: 21%
 Latino: 17%
 Black: 13%
 Multi-racial: 3%



Grades

Grade Distribution:

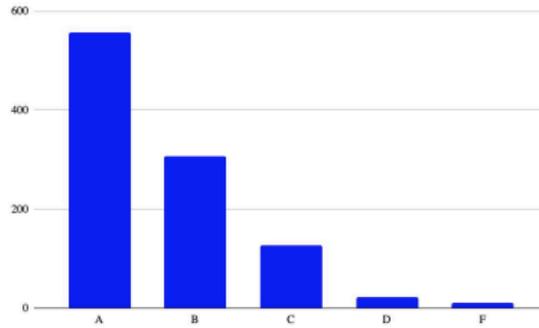
A: 557

B: 307

C: 126

D: 22

F: 11



PASSING RATE: 98.9%
3106 Credits Earned



Future Planning Coach/Tutor Program

- Highlight coaching/tutoring in contracts
- 400 agendas ordered
- Successful strategies through Flex Block, supporting PoG initiatives
- Increase # of tutors
- Get more teachers to refer students



New Programming Early College Independence

- Focus group met once a month to create a program, Independence, that will get students on campus at MCC
- Students will take 4 classes at LHS, then go to MCC for 2 courses
- Courses offered at MCC include: Anatomy & Physiology 1 & 2, Microbiology, Cultural Anthropology, Philosophy, Business, Statistics, Communication and Media, Precalculus, Ethics and Society, Entrepreneurship, Criminal Justice, Abnormal Psychology



Early College Advocacy Day

On Thursday, March 21st Head of School Michael Fiato, College and Career Counselor Heather Brunner, students Lesley Mariscal and Henrietta Nyandemoh, MCC President Phil Sisson, MCC Dean of Education Russ Olwell, Project Learn Executive Director LZ Nunn, and Public Policy Fellow Sneha Patel attended **Early College Advocacy Day** at the Massachusetts State House. They attended a debriefing on the budget and status of Early College programming, took a tour of the State House, and sat in on an informal session of the House of Representatives.

Most importantly they got the opportunity to sit with Representative Vanna Howard and Representative Rodney Elliott, both of Lowell, to discuss the positive impact Early College programming has had on Lowell High School students. Lesley and Henrietta did a wonderful job sharing their experience in a variety of Early College classes and how the program has saved them money and has academically and emotionally prepared them for life after school.



Students will attend LHS for the first half of the day (4 courses) and then go to the MCC campus. Class will be over at 1:45 with plenty of time to get back on campus and participate in extracurricular activities. The plan is to keep the current Early College offerings in place and offer 8 additional courses that fall in 3 distinct pathways. The goal of this program is to increase enrollment in transferable

college courses and to familiarize students with all aspects of a college campus (classrooms, tutoring center, library, etc.). This program is only open to rising senior students who have successfully completed an Early College class during their junior year.

We will evaluate the efficacy of each component of the Early College Program by semester to determine any next steps in the direction of the partnership.

Other ongoing partnerships that we are continuing to support with Middlesex Community College include:

TRiO Educational Talent Search (ETS)

ETS exposes students (grades 9-12) to higher education opportunities and provides information and assistance with the college process, from financial aid and scholarships to PSAT, SAT, and TOEFL tests. During the academic year, ETS provides student support with major emphasis in academic advising, college visits, life skills, test taking skills, college prep workshops, and more. Additionally, ETS provides summer programming for students enrolled in the program. Eligible students come from low-income families and/or are potentially the first family to go to college.

August 2024 Status: Ongoing for SY 24-25

TRiO Upward Bound (UB)

UB prepares students academically to enter higher education through a carefully planned intensive program of college preparation. It is a semester-based accredited academic program with a rigorous 6-week academic summer component tailored to meet the specialized needs of students in grades 9-12. Students must meet Federal Income guidelines for low income families and be a first generation college bound student.

August 2024 Status: Ongoing for SY 24-25

TRiO Upward Bound Math & Science (UBMS)

UBMS aims to help students recognize and develop their potential to excel in math and science and to assist students in preparing for higher education in math and science fields. The program serves students in grades 9-12 currently attending Lowell High School. Students are encouraged to attend a 6-week summer program along with regular Upward Bound students. Students must meet eligibility requirements: low-income and potential first in their families to go to college.

August 2024 Status: Ongoing for SY 24-25

GEAR UP: Massachusetts (GU)

GEAR UP's purpose is to increase the number of students (Grades 9-12) graduating from high school and pursuing higher education. The program works in close collaboration with Lowell High School to offer its students the resources needed to achieve academic success and exposure to higher education opportunities. Students must be enrolled in Free or Reduced Lunch.

August 2024 Status: Ongoing for SY 24-25

NEW For SY 24-25

As we work with DESE and Lowell High School on the expansion of our current Career Pathways options and the development of new Chapter 74 vocational/technical programs, there will be continued opportunities to collaborate with both UML and MCC for internships, coursework, and fieldwork. As such, MCC has shared its Pathways Maps to support the alignment of LHS College and Career Pathways & Chapter 74 Vocational Technical Programs with MCC to create a coherent transition process for students. Project Learn has identified their support of the Pathways development as a chief priority for funding and resources during SY 24-25.

[MCC Pathways for Alignment](#)

MCC & LPS Associate Degree Program

We had almost 100 staff members, including paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, custodians, clerks, and central office staff who expressed a desire to become a teacher and to make a commitment to this program.

Update August 2024: We have 14 LPS staff who have enrolled in the Pathways Associate Degree Program through MCC at no cost. Classes will begin at the end of August for the program.

Lowell Public Schools (LPS) and the University of Massachusetts Lowell (UML)

LPS and UML continue to work together in formal partnership for the greater benefit of students and faculty at both institutions.

Outlined in the table below are updates on all the initiatives and partnerships with which LPS and UML have engaged and are continuing to build, with an updated status report in the right-hand column:

Partnership	UML Lead	LPS Lead	Purpose	Cost	Updated Status
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Response to Motion- August 17, 2024

Title					August 2024
Undergraduate & Graduate Student Teacher Placement	Zakkiyya Witherspoon & Dr. Stacy Szczesiul	Individual Principals	Provide student teaching experiences for undergraduate & graduate UML students	No Cost	Placements Ongoing; Fall 2024 practicum students currently in process
Developing a Learning System for Continuous Quality Improvement	Jack Schneider; Peter Piazza, Abeer Hakouz	Liam Skinner	Provide a customized data visualization platform for school quality	No cost	Data Use Protocol DRAFT Ready for Feedback from Leaders
Green Schools Initiative	Ruairi O'Mahony	Liam Skinner	Climate control in schools	TBD	U.S. Dept. of Energy's 2024 Renew America's Schools Grant Award of \$300,000 to support investment in planning for HVAC upgrades
Individual contracts Phitsamy Uy	Dr. Phitsamy Uy	Latifah Phillips	Diversifying teacher leaders - pipeline between Ed Degree & LPS; curriculum development	No payment to UML	Ongoing
UML Center for Program Evaluation	Jill Lohmeier	Latifah Phillips	Provide external review of progress of the Diverse Teacher Leader Program and Community Schools Program	\$55,000 and \$10,000	No new projects currently
Bartlett Community School	Patricia Fontaine	Bartlett Principal/Latifah Phillips	Magnet School Model/Community School	No Payment to UML	Planning with ILT and School Site Council for SY 24-25 in progress
Family College Visit - Family	Admissions	Zoe Dzineku/ Latifah Phillips	LHS family college visit to	No Payment to UML	Plans to continue for SY 24-25

Response to Motion- August 17, 2024

Leadership Institute			campus		
UML College of Education	Dr. Stacy Szczesiul	Dr. Oneida Fox Roye	Since 2018 developed education pathway with college of education	MOU with UML	Education Pathway program will continue & expand enrollment and recruitment efforts
Asian American Center for Excellence and Engagement	Dr. Sue Kim; Dr. Phitsamay Uy	Latifah Phillips	Increase enrollment, retention and support of Asian American students	None	Ongoing; A follow-up community meeting was held on Sunday, May 5, 2024 to plan next steps for the working group
UML Athletic Teams (basketball, hockey)	Athletic Department	Individual Schools	Read Across America	None	Ongoing; Additional collaborations between UML athletes and summer program participants
UML DifferenceMaker Program	i-Hub Staff	Wayne Taylor, LHS Teacher	Entrepreneurship course visits i-Hub	None	Ongoing; Plan to resume for SY 24-25

The next follow-up meeting will be scheduled for fall 2024, with a focus on assessing the viability of current partnerships for continuation and expansion and a status update on the new initiatives (i.e. Green Schools Initiative and funding award). We will continue to focus on strengthening the remaining existing partnerships to increase participation and benefits to students.