Worcester School Committee Meeting
FY21 Budget and Multi-Year Planning
Foundation Budget Review Commission

Summary of Worcester Public Schools Underfunding and Advocacy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Worcester Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Category</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Language Learning:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income Student:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation Factor Adjustment:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBRC Final Report Impact:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Foundation Budget Gaps: Worcester Analysis**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY21 Annual Budget (in millions)</th>
<th>Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>$20.8</td>
<td>$35.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher PD</td>
<td>$2.5</td>
<td>$5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Materials</td>
<td>$7.5</td>
<td>$13.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Staffing**

- Special Education Aides: 73/348
- Special Education Teachers: 119/517
- Non-Special Education Aides: 73/199
- Non-Special Education Teachers: 1,612/2,633

From here... Anywhere!
Foundation Budget Review Commission

Actual Staff Compared to Foundation Budget Allocation

FY20, 90 FY21, 90 FY22, 90 FY23, 90 FY24, 90 FY25, 90 FY26, 90 FY27, 90

FY20 Budget Added 84 positions

90 Teachers Needed per year to close Foundation Budget Teacher Gap ($6.8 million new spending per year)

720 Non-Special Education Teacher Gap
Student Opportunity Act

Chapter 132 of the Acts of 2019
AN ACT RELATIVE TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS
Enacted: November 2019
Student Opportunity Act

*Elements in the new state law*

1. The Act establishes new, higher foundation budget rates all to be phased in over a seven-year period.
2. Re-defines low income students to pre-2017 methods.
3. Establishes a foundation budget review commission to review the components of the foundation budget “not less than every 10 years”.
4. Adds transportation costs to special education circuit breaker reimbursement
5. Commits to a three-year implementation to fully fund charter school reimbursement (as adopted in the FY20 budget)
6. Increases MSBA funding by $150 million annually.
7. Requires each district to establish targets for addressing persistent disparities in achievement among student subgroups consistent with the targets established by the department.
Student Opportunity Act

*Evidenced-based programs, supports and interventions to address persistent disparities among student subgroups.*

1. Expanded learning time (school day or year)
2. Common planning time for teachers
3. Wraparound services for students’ social-emotional and physical health
4. Hiring school personnel to best support student achievement
5. Increase or improve professional development
6. Purchase of curriculum materials and equipment
7. Expanding early education and pre-kindergarten programs
Student Opportunity Act Funding
Goal Rate Funding for Worcester

Overall Foundation Budget Growth
$97.9 million

FY20 Base Year

FY27 Base Year

Other Categories
$9.7 million

Employee Benefits
$13.8 million

Low Income Student Count
$9.7 million

Low Income Rate Change
$64.7 million

English Learners
$3.9 million

Guidance and Support
$2.3 million

Special Education
$3.5 million

From here... Anywhere!
Student Opportunity Act Funding

Estimated Seven Year Phase-In Targets for Worcester

Target Rates:

- FY21 Actual: $15.7
- FY21: $14.0
- FY22: $14.0
- FY23: $14.0
- FY24: $14.0
- FY25: $14.0
- FY26: $14.0
- FY27: $14.0

FY21 Annual Budget
## Student Opportunity Act Funding

### Seven Year Funding Models (Inflation Adjusted)

Seven Year Funding Amounts Assumed flat enrollment, 2.64% annual inflation with the new Goal Rate Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY21</th>
<th>FY22</th>
<th>FY23</th>
<th>FY24</th>
<th>FY25</th>
<th>FY26</th>
<th>FY27</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>$10.0</td>
<td>$10.3</td>
<td>$10.6</td>
<td>$10.8</td>
<td>$11.1</td>
<td>$11.4</td>
<td>$11.7</td>
<td>$75.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOA</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$14.0</td>
<td>$98.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$24.0</td>
<td>$24.3</td>
<td>$24.6</td>
<td>$24.8</td>
<td>$25.1</td>
<td>$25.4</td>
<td>$25.7</td>
<td>$173.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the Inflation Amounts are used to pay annual cost increases to sustain level service and has always been part of the funding formula.
FY21 Budget Themes

- **Enrollment** decline from October 1, 2018
- Modest **Inflation** Growth of Foundation Budget (2%)
- First year phase-in of **Student Opportunity Act**
- Funding maintains the **260 positions** ADDED this year!

---

**Overall Foundation Budget Growth**

$19.2 million
FY21 Budget

Total Foundation Budget

Adjust by Charter School and School Choice Tuition Assessment Changes

FY21 Preliminary WPS Budget
# FY21 Foundation Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Budget</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY21 Proposed:</td>
<td>$398,714,407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as contained in FY21 Governor’s Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY20 Current Year:</td>
<td>$379,530,589</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase:</td>
<td>$19,183,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.05% increase

Note: FY20 Increase was $25.9 million (7.31%)
## FY21 Foundation Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation Budget Change</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inflation</td>
<td>$7,703,630</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrollment Change</td>
<td>-$4,229,137</td>
<td>-358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Foundation Change:</td>
<td>$3,474,493</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NEW Student Opportunity Act Funding</strong></td>
<td>$15,709,325</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CHANGE:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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## FY21 Foundation Budget

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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL CHANGE:</strong></td>
<td>$19,183,818</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY21 Foundation Budget: Notable Trends and Data

Enrollment -381
WPS Student Enrollment Decline

2019=2017
Offsets last year’s enrollment increase

FY21 Annual Budget

WORCESTER
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

From here... Anywhere!
# WPS Enrollment Trends

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Enrollment 10/1/19</th>
<th>Change from Last Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-School</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>-200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades K-6</td>
<td>13,219</td>
<td>-176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 7-8</td>
<td>3,545</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 9-12</td>
<td>7,214</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25,022</td>
<td>-381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **25** Schools had enrollment decline from 0.5% to 11.0%
- **17** Schools had enrollment increases from 0.7% to 9.2%
- **2** Schools had no enrollment change
**FY21 Foundation Budget: New Student Opportunity Act Funding**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FBRC New Funding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low Income Student Count</td>
<td>$9,700,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income Student Rate Change</td>
<td>$2,735,290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee Benefits</td>
<td>$2,197,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Learners Increment Rate</td>
<td>$523,898</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance and Student Support</td>
<td>$304,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>$246,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$15,709,325</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# FY21 WPS Budget

## Change from FY20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change from FY20</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation Budget</td>
<td>$19,183,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Charter Schools and School Choice Tuition Assessment:</td>
<td>-$263,943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPS Operating Budget Change:</td>
<td>$18,919,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FY21 Revenue Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Reductions</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reduction of (carry-forward) state funded displaced student – hurricane assistance.</td>
<td>-$1.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Governor’s FY21 Budget did not include Extended Learning Time (ELT) Grant funds (Jacob Hiatt and City View)</td>
<td>-$1.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduction of Innovation Pathways grant and foundation support</td>
<td>-$275,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reduction of HEARS Grant funds</td>
<td>-$100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FY21 Funding Changes</strong></td>
<td>-$2.9 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Federal Grant allocations are usually not known until July*
## FY21 WPS BUDGET - Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preliminary Budget Status</th>
<th>Amount ($ in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Budget Increase</td>
<td>$18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Less Funding Changes</em></td>
<td>($2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Available Funds</td>
<td>$16.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## FY21 WPS BUDGET – Cost Increases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level Service Cost Increases</th>
<th>Amount ($ in millions)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td>$5.8</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Positions Added in FY20</td>
<td>$1.3</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance/ Retirement</td>
<td>$3.9</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>$0.7</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$1.4</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Cost Areas</td>
<td>$1.0</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Level Service Budget Increase</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.8%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FY21 Annual Budget
Positions Added During FY20

- 5 Behavior Specialists
- 2 Guidance Counselors
- 2 Special Education Teachers
- 1 School Adjustment Counselor
- 1 School Psychologist
- 1 English Learner Teacher
- 1 Health & Safety Teacher
- 1 Safety Center Teacher
- 5 Instructional Support Positions

$1.3 million in New Spending
## FY21 WPS Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preliminary Budget Status</th>
<th>Amount ($ in millions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Available Funds</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level Service Increase (and 19 new positions added during FY20)</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remaining Available Funds for Budget Priorities – Preliminary Budget</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New Funds to be spent in accordance with Student Opportunity Act to provide supports and interventions to address persistent disparities among student subgroups.*
FY21 Budget Planning

• School and District based Resource Allocation Process is Ongoing.

• Target New Funds to align with new Student Opportunity Act requirements, Strategic Plan, and district’s Seven Point Plan For Advancing Student Achievement and Program Sustainability
Student Opportunity Act: 
Community Input Forums

Bucket 1: Expanded learning time (day or year: e.g., acceleration academies)
Bucket 2: Common planning time for teachers
Bucket 3: Social-emotional and physical health services
Bucket 4: Hiring school personnel to improve student performance
Bucket 5: Increased or improved PD (e.g., principal training / pipelines)
Bucket 6: Curriculum materials/equipment aligned to state standards
Bucket 7: Expanding early education and pre-kindergarten programming
Bucket 8: Diversifying the educator and administrator workforce
Bucket 9: Additional pathways to strengthen college and career readiness (e.g., early college)
Bucket 1: Expanded learning time in the form of a longer school day or year

Strategic Plan Alignment
Implement Community-Based Learning Opportunities: Strengthen experiential learning options across grades K-12, providing students with multiple strategies to acquire and demonstrate understanding of concepts

Current Work

Summer School Programs and Enrichments
- Camp Invention STEM Camp - elementary
- Camp Explore - elementary
- Orchestra, Band, and Chorus Camp
- WELLS (Worcester English Language Learners Summer) Academy for HS ELs
- Summer programs for ELs (community based: LEI, ACE, SEAC, Soccer Exchange and Family Services)
- Spanish Math SAT/ACT tutoring
- Extended school year services for students with disabilities
- Jump Start - middle and high school
- Transportation to Rec Worcester

After School Expanded Learning Time: Programs and Enrichments
- Extended Learning Time (Jacob Hiatt and City View)
- Extended Learning Time for Former Level 4 schools (Chandler El, Union Hill, Elm Park, Burncoat Prep)
- Robotics Programs
- Afterschool Orchestra Band and Chorus Program (UNITES)
- Worcester Rising Civics Camp - held at Worcester State University over April break
- Visual Arts - After school programming at schools with mentor artists
- Model UN for all Middle & High schools
- ArtsWorcester: transportation
- OpportUNity: Collaboration with Anna Maria College (Lincoln Street)
- Art in the Park: materials and transportation for students
- Open Door Arts
- American Young Voices, elementary and middle
- Arts Festival Performances and Opportunities
- World Language - Ambassadors Program
- Advanced Health/Science Academy at WEM
- Math Clubs for ELs (South, North, and Sullivan)
- After school, on-site counseling through community partners
Bucket 2: Increased opportunity for common planning time for teachers

**Strategic Plan Alignment**
Monitor and Take Action to Improve Differences in Outcomes Among Student Groups: Develop a district approach to monitor differences among groups in academic performance, absenteeism, and behavior referrals and take corrective actions if gaps between groups exceed a specific threshold (e.g., 25%)

Monitor Student Needs and Allocate Appropriate Supports: Establish a consistent process for data conversations among educators and administrators to monitor student progress and determine necessary supports and interventions

Ensure Peer Learning Opportunities District-wide: Establish district expectations and opportunities for peer learning that can be implemented in schools

Encourage Existing Peer Sharing Initiatives in Schools: Support and encourage the development of existing communities of practice for educators
Bucket 2: Increased opportunity for common planning time for teachers

Current Work

- Common Planning Time - Former Level 4 schools (Chandler El, Union Hill, Elm Park, Burncoat Prep)
- Instructional Leadership Teams
- Professional Learning Communities for Co-planning and Curriculum Development and Assessment
- Consultants to facilitate Principals’ Networks and School Turnaround Network
- After school CPT for SLIFE: Literacy Assessment, Numeracy and Reclassification, Guiding Principles, Programming and Instructionals Considerations PLC’s
- Extended common planning time for 10 turnaround schools
Bucket 3: Social services to support students’ social-emotional and physical health

**Strategic Plan Alignment**
Support Behavioral and Mental Health of Students and Educators: Implement an internal comprehensive behavioral health program for all schools

Increase Availability of Wraparound Resources: Develop a wraparound coordinator position in all buildings, beginning with secondary and Superintendent’s Schools

Measure Social-Emotional Learning and School Climate: Employ validated measures of social-emotional development and school climate in each building

Develop District-wide Expectations for Social-Emotional Learning: Articulate district goals for social emotional competencies, to be achieved through school-based initiatives

Increase Staff Capacity to Address Trauma: Provide training on trauma intervention and trauma-sensitive practices at each school
Bucket 3: Social services to support students’ social-emotional and physical health

**Current Work**

- Consultant to train staff on behavioral and mental health strategies (Collaborative Problem Solving)
- Playworks K-6 to support Elementary Recess and Peer Leadership
- Consultant to train staff on Culturally Responsive Teaching and Implicit Bias
- Ongoing staff professional development on Universal SEL Strategies
- After school, on-site counseling through community partners (Cost for student supervision, site admin and custodial)
- Expansion of middle school sports programs
- District-wide training to increase resiliency in students and creating trauma responsive classroom practices
- Professional development to implement behavioral intervention tool for autism programs
- Expansion of district stabilization teams
- Addition of health counselor with focus on drug education
- Teen parent program
Bucket 4: Hiring school personnel that best support improved student performance

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

- Increase the Number of Highly Qualified Teacher Candidates: Partner with local teacher preparation programs to provide career pathways for top educators to train and remain in Worcester.

- Recruit Educators Knowledgeable in Instruction in Urban Environments: Identify and develop partnerships between the district and exemplary teacher preparation programs in urban education.

- Provide Supports to Increase New Teacher Retention: Enhance and scale mentoring strategies to support and retain new teachers.

- Develop a Pipeline of Educators among WPS Students: Strengthen existing educator development initiatives in the district using best practices from effective teacher training models.

- Employ Instructional Coaches for Technology Integration: Train instructional coaches in digital literacy at each school. Identify at least six educators with advanced technology and instruction skills to serve as master coaches who provide learning sessions for peers through a “train the trainer” model.

- Employ District Liaison in Digital Learning and Computer Science: Identify and bring on board a district liaison to work with educators to create and monitor K-12 DLCS curriculum.
Bucket 4: Hiring school personnel that best support improved student performance

Current Work

- 26 secondary teachers
- 12 elementary classroom teachers
- 12 guidance counselors
- 18 ESL teachers
- 21 special education teachers
- 24 special education instructional assistants
- 5 school adjustment counselors
- 3 school psychologists
- 1 wraparound coordinator
- 6 district instructional coaches (ESL, bilingual, technology, math and ELA)
- 9 school based instructional coaches
- 4 assistant principals
- 3 nurses
- 2 bilingual literacy interventionists
- 1 health teacher focused on drug education
- 1 teacher for safety center
- 1 BCBA (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst)
Bucket 5: Increased or improved professional development

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

Enhance School Leader Training Initiatives: Expand the New Principals’ Institute in partnership with community organizations, allowing aspiring and experienced principals to collaborate and catalyze innovative management practices that foster improvement and student success.

Provide Supports and New Learning Experiences for Veteran Leaders: Develop an Institute for veteran principals to support continued growth and development in school management and classroom pedagogy.

Provide Supports to Increase New Teacher Retention: Enhance and scale mentoring strategies to support and retain new teachers.

Provide Professional Development on Available Technology: Build the collective efficacy of teachers and leaders to utilize technology by developing a professional development plan based on current educator needs.

Increase Training District-wide on Technology-Enhanced Classrooms: Provide trainings on technical skills as well as strategies to maximize the impact of technology-integrated instruction.

Provide Variety in Continued Learning Opportunities: Offer self-paced and diverse professional learning for teachers.

Create Inclusive General Education Classrooms for English Language Learners: Implement staff training in co-teaching models for general education classes with English language learners beginning with elementary educators.

Provide Training in High-Need Content Areas: Provide district-level training opportunities in emerging content areas, including but not limited to social-emotional learning, trauma-sensitive practices, and cultural sensitivity.

Ensure Peer Learning Opportunities District-wide: Establish district expectations and opportunities for peer learning that can be implemented in schools.

Provide Trainings for Special and General Educators: Offer learning opportunities on updated assessments in special education as well as support for co-teaching implementation strategies.
Bucket 5: Increased or improved professional development

Current Work

- New Teacher orientation and mentoring
- New Principal orientation and mentoring
- New Administrative Cohort, Worcester State University Partnership Fellowship Program
- 11 district curriculum/content liaisons facilitating professional development
- 10 district focused instructional coaches facilitating professional development
- 60 school based focused instructional coaches facilitating professional development
- 459 professional development offerings
- Consultants and outside training for:
Bucket 6: Purchase of curriculum materials and equipment that are aligned with the statewide curriculum frameworks

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

- **Develop Digital Learning and Computer Science Options:** Create course curricula to meet state standards for DLCS and provide learning opportunities at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- **Implement Digital Skill-Building Opportunities:** Develop learning opportunities for students and their families to develop foundational digital skills.
- **Increase Access to Digital Learning Options and Courses:** Align curricula to include effective technology integration strategies and blended learning opportunities and ensure all students have the opportunity to participate in at least one digital learning experience each year.
- **Proactive Supports to Enable School Improvements:** Identify and develop aggressive improvement strategies for lower-performing schools prior to required state intervention, incorporating successful turnaround practices from across Massachusetts and providing necessary operational flexibility for successful implementation.
- **Develop a Strategy to Increase Access to Technology in Classrooms:** Craft a district-wide strategy to ensure all educators have access to basic technology that effectively supports instruction.
- **Increase Student Access to Devices in All Grades:** Provide access to devices to ensure that all students can use technology for personalized learning experiences.
- **Establish Funding for Device Maintenance:** Develop funding mechanisms for the maintenance and replacement of technology at appropriate intervals.
- **Address the Digital Divide Outside of School:** Work on solutions to improve after-school access to technology and the internet to support student learning.

**FY21 Annual Budget**
Bucket 6: Purchase of curriculum materials and equipment that are aligned with the statewide curriculum frameworks

Current Work

- Mobile technology for students and educators - moving towards 1:1 model as funding becomes available each year
- Updating end of life projectors in classrooms
- Modernizing classrooms with emerging technology
- Modern infrastructure to support technology
- Digital tools, platforms, and software to complement existing curriculum
- Modernizing student information system, LMS, and Gradebook
- Digital Literacy and Computer Science Curriculum and Materials
- New Preschool Math Program
- Seal of Biliteracy Expansion
- ST Math (Union Hill)
- Maintaining and modernizing curriculum materials and textbooks across all subject areas
Bucket 7: Expanded early education and pre-kindergarten programming within the district in consultation or in partnership with community based organizations

**Strategic Plan Alignment**
Expand Early Learning Supports: Increase implementation of, and access to, early literacy and math interventions for all students through the 6th grade

Scale Early Learning Solutions: Pilot early literacy initiatives in select elementary schools to determine the best fit for a district-wide approach

**Current Work**
- 13 integrated preschool programs
  - 30 half day
  - 1 full day
- 34 integrated Head Start preschool classrooms
  - 11 half day
  - 23 full day
- Early literacy – read on grade level by grade 3 program
- Worcester Family Partnership
Bucket 8: Diversifying the educator and administrator workforce

Strategic Plan Alignment
Expand and Enhance Recruitment of Diverse Educator Candidates: Review recruitment and retention processes to maximize the district’s ability to attract diverse candidates from across the nation and partner with local organizations to increase the community’s awareness of opportunities

Current Work
- JET Program for instructional assistants (Journey into Education and Teaching)
- “Grow Our Own” Diversity Initiative for Bilingual Teachers and Instructional Assistants
- Worcester Future Teachers
- WSU/WPS Administrative Cohort
- “Real” Talk Network to retain and support diverse staff
- Recruitment of Diverse Educators through attending job fairs and colleges
- Addition of Chief Diversity Officer

FY21 Annual Budget

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Bucket 9: Developing additional pathways to strengthen college and career readiness

**Strategic Plan Alignment**

Implement Community-Based Learning Opportunities: Strengthen experiential learning options across grades K-12, providing students with multiple strategies to acquire and demonstrate understanding of concepts.

Employ Demonstrated College and Career Academic Sequence: Align class offerings to state requirements and ensure all students can access learning opportunities to fulfill the state’s recommended course sequence for college and career readiness (MassCORE).

Offer More Advanced Course Options: Increase the number of advanced learning options and enrichment opportunities in 9th grade to better prepare students to succeed in advanced courses throughout high school.

Diversify and Increase High School Electives: Foster deeper and broader subject matter exploration in areas relevant to student interests and societal needs by increasing the variety of electives in grades 9-12.

Foster Career Skills Development: Vertically align career exploration experiences from elementary through high school, creating age-appropriate learning opportunities that are rigorous, skill-building, and linked to meaningful postsecondary options.

Implement My Career and Academic Plan and Mentoring: Increase relevance of learning experiences by aligning options to students' skills and interests through personalized learning plans and partnerships with students, families, and the community.

Increased Availability and Access of Career Learning Experiences: Create opportunities for students to develop real-world skills through integrated academic and career pathway initiatives in their own or other district schools.

Enhance Career Exploration and Planning Process through Technology: Use technology to streamline and support the postsecondary planning process by increasing access to career resources, assessments, and a digital portfolio of students’ accomplishments.
Bucket 9: Developing additional pathways to strengthen college and career readiness

**Current Work**

**Early College**
- 45 courses and 684 students enrolled in Early College at Worcester State/QCC 2019-2020 (including 4 new courses for ELs at QCC, Spring 2020)
- 1 dual enrollment course for ELs at Clark University, Fall 2020
- 100 Males to College
- Dual Enrollment

**Innovative Pathways**
- 136 students enrolled (advanced manufacturing, allied health, civil engineering, information technology, programming and web development)

**AP**
- Increase in number of AP Offerings - 28 AP classes are offered across the district
- AP Capstone Diploma

**CTE/CVTE offerings**
- Increased CVTE programming in the comprehensive high schools
  - Diesel Technician, Culinary Arts, Early Childhood at South High School
- Increased Internship Opportunities in High Schools
- Increased CTE offerings

**Other Opportunities**
- 150 students in VHS
- AVID College Fair
- Visual Art Portfolio Development: City wide trip to National Portfolio Day

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**FY21 Annual Budget**
**Student Opportunity Plans**

**Evidence-Based Program Examples Identified by DESE**

The Department has identified 17 examples of high-quality programs that the commissioner encourages districts to consider when selecting evidence-based programs to support student subgroups. Robust implementation of these programs may touch on multiple program categories (A through I) outlined in the SOA. The program examples below are organized into four domains that reflect the core work of districts. Each example is pre-aligned to the SOA program categories, which are noted in parentheses after each example.

The commissioner is encouraging the adoption of Priority Programs (in bold below) and will likely offer multiplier funds to districts with particularly strong plans in these areas. We hope to make funds available via competitive grants by realigning grants within DESE. Please note that to receive multiplier funds for a pre-K program, districts must also implement a research-based early literacy program.

**Enhanced Core Instruction**

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)
2. Research-based early literacy programs in pre-kindergarten and early elementary grades (E, F, and G)
3. Early College programs focused primarily on students under-represented in higher education (I)
4. Supporting educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum (E and F)
5. Expanded access to career-technical education, including “After Dark” district vocational partnerships and innovation pathways reflecting local labor market priorities (I)

**Targeted Student Supports**

6. Increased personnel and services to support holistic student needs (C and D)
7. Inclusion/co-teaching for students with disabilities and English Learners (D and E)
8. Acceleration Academies and/or summer learning to support skill development and accelerate advanced learners (A and E)
9. Dropout prevention and recovery programs (I)

**Talent Development**

10. Diversifying the educator/administrator workforce through recruitment and retention (D and H)
11. Leadership pipeline development programs for schools (D and E)
12. Increased staffing to expand student access to arts, athletics, and enrichment, and strategic scheduling to enable common planning time for teachers (B and D)
13. Strategies to recruit and retain educators/administrators in hard-to-staff schools and positions (D)

**Conditions for Student Success**

14. Community partnerships for in-school enrichment and wraparound services (C)
15. Parent-teacher home visiting programs (E)
16. Labor-management partnerships to improve student performance (A)
17. Facilities improvements to create healthy and safe school environments (J)

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1 A) Expanded learning time in the form of a longer school day or year; B) Increased opportunity for common planning time for teachers; C) Social services to support students’ social-emotional and physical health; D) Hiring school personnel that best support improved student performance; E) Increased or improved professional development; F) Purchase of curriculum materials and equipment that are aligned with the statewide curriculum frameworks; G) Expanded early education and pre-kindergarten programming within the district in consultation or in partnership with community based organizations; H) Diversifying the educator and administrator workforce; I) Developing additional pathways to strengthen college and career readiness; J) Any other program determined to be evidence-based by the commissioner.
## Student Opportunity Act:
### Remaining Community Input Forums

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Doherty Memorial High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>North High School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Meetings begin at **6:00 p.m. in the school’s Cafeteria**
FY21 Budget Schedule

February-March
School and District Resource Allocation Meetings to develop budget priorities and recommendations

Community Input Forums
Four Community Input Forums scheduled by School Committee

April 15
House of Representatives Budget Released (Expected Date). This budget is used to develop budget recommendations to School Committee

May 15
FY20 Budget to be submitted to School Committee and posted on district website

May (Week of 18th)
Standing Committee on Finance and Operations Public Budget Hearing

June 4 & 18
School Committee Budget Hearings