
PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE

Student Opportunity Act
June 2, 2020 -- PSB Curriculum Subcommittee

Objectives

- Provide subcommittee with information about the Student Opportunity Act
- Describe the district's plan to address the mandates of the Act
- Receive feedback from Curriculum Subcommittee on district plan

What is the Student Opportunity Act (SOA)?

- Passed by legislature in 2019, the Student Opportunity Act (SOA) allocates a percentage of each district's Ch 70 funding to addressing achievement gaps in all of our subgroups, including students of the global majority, English Learners and students with disabilities.
- All MA public school districts are required to submit three-year, evidence-based plans aimed at closing persistent disparities in achievement among student subgroups.

Four Commitments of the SOA

1. Intentionally focus on student subgroups who are not achieving at the same high levels as their peers;
2. Adopt, deepen or continue specific evidence-based programs to close opportunity and achievement gaps for student subgroups and allocate resources to support these programs;
3. Monitor success in reducing disparities in achievement among student subgroups over three years with a small number of metrics and targets; and
4. Engage families, particularly those families representing student subgroups most in need of support, about how best to meet their students' needs.

SOA Plan for PSB

- Brookline is responsible to allocate \$229,400 from Ch 70 funding toward the three year plan for Student Opportunity Act.
- Based on the advice from the state and our recent program review of PK-8 Mathematics, we are focusing on eliminating gaps in our Mathematics achievement among student subgroups.

*Advice from DESE: If a district is expected to receive minimal or no increases in Chapter 70 aid, we recommend the district document existing programs targeted to closing achievement gaps for subgroups or reallocate existing funds, whether General Fund or grant funds, to ensure such programs are in place.

SOA Plan for PSB -- Focus

- Focus: Enhanced Core Instruction in PK-8 Mathematics Program
- Support educators to implement high-quality, aligned curriculum
 - Increased or improved professional development
 - Purchase of curriculum materials and equipment that are aligned with statewide curriculum frameworks

SOA Plan for PSB -- Program Descriptions

Evidence based programming to address the achievement gap:

1. The district has now adopted the *Illustrative Mathematics* (IM) curriculum for grades 6-8. Driven by student discourse, IM Certified™ curricula are rich, engaging core programs built around focus, coherence, and rigor. The curricula are trusted, expert-authored materials developed to equip all students to thrive in mathematics.
2. The district will also begin the adoption of the *Investigations 3* math curriculum in the 2020-2021 school year. *Investigations 3* is a focused, coherent, and rigorous K-5 mathematics curriculum. Fully aligned to the content and practice standards of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), deep and careful attention is paid to mathematics content and to student thinking and understanding. Making sense of mathematics is the heart of the work, for students and teachers.

SOA Plan for PSB: Proposed Budget

Over 3 years:

Amount	Description
\$123,000	Materials and resources for grades K-5 including teacher curriculum packages, student workbooks, assessments, and subscriptions to digital courseware for teachers and students
\$36,000	Curriculum Implementation courses and workshops for K-5 teachers and ongoing monthly professional development support for Math Specialists supporting teacher teams
\$36,000	Student supplies and materials to support the implementation of new curriculum K-8 (math manipulatives, card packs)
\$35,000	Books, materials and online access for grades 6-8
\$230,000	Total



Questions?