



# Quincy Public Schools Reach Program

4/28/21

Joint Teaching and Learning and Special  
Education Subcommittee

# Current Elementary Advanced Placement Model

The current Elementary Advanced Placement Model services grade 5 students only.

- Top 20% of grade 4 students district wide, based upon a combined score of the MCAS English Language Arts and Mathematics Assessment determines who will be screened.
- Students identified for screening are administered a Reasoning (Cognitive Ability) test in their home school.
- School year 2020-2021, 140 grade 5 students were invited to participate in the program. In past years, 60-70 students participated.
- 8 groups of students meet remotely once per week, 2 hours per day

# Reach Planning Team

- Comprised of parent representatives, elementary and middle school teachers, curriculum and assessment team members, and principals
- Held meetings on 2/23, 3/9, 3/16, 4/6, 4/13, 4/27
- Focused on the current grade 5 screening protocol and communication
- Started a redesign of the elementary model

# Priorities Identified by the Planning Team

1. Continued focus on grade 5 students
2. Provide equitable access to advanced curriculum across the district, based on a screening rubric that uses a combination of identification tools including assessments and attributes
3. Incorporate grades 4 and if possible grade 3 into the new model
4. Collaborate with teachers working with advanced students in grades K-2

# Reach Mission Statement

The Quincy Public Schools recognizes that elementary students across the district exhibit the potential for higher-than-average performance across intellectual and academic disciplines. In response, the mission of Reach is to create a learning community that ensures equitable access to services at all schools. Reach will provide qualifying students with the opportunity to develop complex, abstract and higher level thinking skills while broadening students' competencies across disciplines. Reach will support the social and emotional needs of students and assist students in acquiring increased self-awareness of personal strengths and weaknesses, thus helping them reach their maximum potential.

# Reach Opportunities Description

Reach is a newly-designed opportunity for students in grades 3-5 who demonstrate advanced potential. This opportunity is intended to ensure equity across the district by offering the same services for these learners at each elementary school. It is designed to engage students in rigorous interdisciplinary activities and projects that will support and deepen complex, abstract and higher-level thinking skills. Reach incorporates proven methodologies and theories of high-ability learners. It focuses on developing and enhancing students' independent and collaborative research skills, while incorporating practices and structures that address the unique social and emotional needs of these learners.

# Proposed Model for School Year 2021 – 2022

- Teachers will travel to individual schools
- 13 schools in total (all elementary schools and grade 5 at Point Webster and Southwest) split between 3 teachers
- Grade 5 will continue to be a priority receiving 1 day of support
- Opportunities for grades 3 and 4 will also be built into the schedule
- Collaboration with teachers in grades K-2 will be built into the schedule

# Benefits of Proposed Model

- Increases the number of students exposed to advanced curriculum at earlier grade levels
- Increased enrollment in historically underrepresented schools
- Builds equitable experiences across the district
- More efficient use of time and resources (no travel time, half-day can be built into the schedule)
- Increased student engagement with more classmates from their elementary school
- Builds awareness and knowledge of attributes and characteristics of advanced students across the district



# Timeline

## Late April/Early May

- Finalize grade levels
- Determine criteria
- Create a mission statement
- Create a job description

## Mid-May

- Communicate programming descriptions on website
- Hold an information session for families (May 18, 6:30)

## Late May/Early June

- Job posting available
- Identify students

## Mid- Late June

- Interview and hire candidates
- Provide training and professional development
- Communicate with families of eligible students

# Next Steps

- ◆ Finalize Mission Statement
- ◆ Finalize acceptance criteria
- ◆ Complete a curriculum analysis/development
- ◆ Develop job description
- ◆ Provide necessary professional development
- ◆ Finalize roster and schedule for Fall 2021 implementation



# Thank You!

## Questions?