



MAP ACADEMY

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Press Release

New local charter school awarded \$350,000 grant from Barr Foundation to advance greater success for all New England students

Plymouth, MA (June 27, 2017)—This week, local nonprofit Map Education was named one of nine grantees in the Barr Foundation Education Program's *Engage New England: Doing high school differently* initiative to support the launch of Map Academy Charter School. They join the first cohort of education innovators participating in a multi-year initiative to connect all students to success in high school and beyond by assuring they have access to high-quality high schools that meet their interests and empower them to reach their full potential. Map Education received a grant of \$350,000, of which \$150,000 will support planning and participation in the *Engage New England: Doing high school differently* initiative to refine its model to serve students who have been underserved by current education approaches. The additional \$200,000 will build institutional capacity as the school, which was chartered by the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education in February, prepares to open in Fall 2018.

The Barr Foundation's *Engage New England: Doing high school differently* initiative is a \$30 million investment over five years to help New England innovators improve existing high schools and bring new school models to life in their communities. Participants receive one-year planning grants to support technical assistance with planning and capacity building, with the potential to be invited to apply for implementation grants of up to \$750,000 over two years. Participants also become partners in a learning community, to share and learn from like-minded innovators across the region. Together, they are doing high school differently by building a diverse set of school models that expand student success.

"We are honored by the Barr Foundation's significant investment in Map Academy's vision to create a new high-quality high school option for students in the Plymouth region and excited to connect with peers across New England engaged in similar work," said Rachel Babcock, the school's Co-Founder & Co-Director.

Intentionally designed around the principles of positive youth development theory, schools supported under this initiative will be as rigorous as they are flexible in developing content knowledge, successful habits, creative know-how and navigation abilities—the integrated knowledge and skills that are essential for today's students to connect to success in high school, college, career and community. Map Academy will serve students in the greater Plymouth area who are disengaged from or have dropped out of high school.

"This partnership brings together a diverse group of educators who share the belief that all students can meet high expectations when their schools engage their interests, empower their potential and fully prepare them for success in life," said Leah Hamilton, the Barr Foundation's Director of Education. "We are thrilled to include Map Academy in our first cohort of *Engage New England: Doing high school differently* grantees, and to support them in a planning process to refine their vision for cohesive school models that address the unique needs of their students and communities."

About Map Academy

Map Academy helps youth find their way with individualized roadmaps designed to promote success in students for whom traditional school has not worked. Student-centered academics, a highly supportive culture, and career development opportunities equip students with the knowledge, mindsets, and skills to meet the high standards necessary for postsecondary education and meaningful employment. Map Academy will open in Fall 2018 in Plymouth, MA. To learn more, visit www.themapacademy.org

About the Barr Foundation

The Barr Foundation's mission is to invest in human, natural, and creative potential, serving as thoughtful stewards and catalysts. Based in Boston, Barr focuses regionally, and selectively engages nationally, working in partnership with nonprofits, foundations, the public sector, and civic and business leaders to elevate the arts, advance solutions for climate change, and connect all students to success in high school and beyond. With assets of \$1.7 billion, Barr is among the largest private foundations in New England and has contributed more than \$834 million to charitable causes since 1999. For more information, visit barrfoundation.org.

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