



MAP ACADEMY

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Press Release

New local charter school announces \$750,000 grant award from Barr Foundation to support the launch of Map Academy

Plymouth, MA (April 3, 2018)—Last week, local nonprofit Map Education was awarded a \$750,000 grant as part of the Barr Foundation Education Program's *Engage New England: Doing high school differently* initiative to support the launch of Map Academy Charter School. This implementation grant follows a \$350,000 Barr Foundation planning grant awarded to the school last summer. Map Academy is part of the first cohort of education innovators participating in Barr's multi-year initiative to connect all students to success in high school and beyond by ensuring they have access to high-quality high schools that cultivate their interests and empower them to reach their full potential. Both grants were awarded to support planning and help Map Academy refine its model and build institutional capacity as the school prepares to launch for students this August.

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 received 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. Participants are also partners in a learning community, with opportunities 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're proud to support the Map Academy team, as part of our *Engage New England* initiative, to launch an innovative, new school for Massachusetts students who are off-track to graduate high school. Map students will be supported in a personalized, competency-based learning environment designed around their needs and interests. We firmly believe that all students can achieve success in school and beyond when students are at the center of school design," said Leah Hamilton, Director of Education for the Barr Foundation.

Map Academy is intentionally designed to serve students in the greater Plymouth area who are disengaged from, not finding success in, or have dropped out of high school. Map Academy will offer flexible scheduling for students juggling other responsibilities and will have a later start time with the typical student day beginning at 8:30am. Map Academy will utilize an asynchronous, competency-based approach that customizes each student's program according to an individualized learning plan designed to meet students at their current level of ability, engagement and resilience and gradually increase expectations as they develop the knowledge, mindsets and skills essential for success in high school, college, career and their community.

Although Map Academy is currently fully enrolled for the fall, school leaders anticipate that some spots may open up over the next few months. Any available openings will be filled by a lottery, and students who are interested in attending Map Academy are encouraged to apply online at www.themapacademy.org/application.

"We continue to be honored by the Barr Foundation's ongoing belief in our vision and significant investments in helping us bring Map Academy to life. We know there is a tremendous need in the greater Plymouth region for a high-quality high school option specifically designed to cultivate success in students who may not thrive in more traditional settings. We are excited to welcome our first 130 students and families this fall," said Josh Charpentier, the school's Co-Founder & Co-Director.

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. 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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