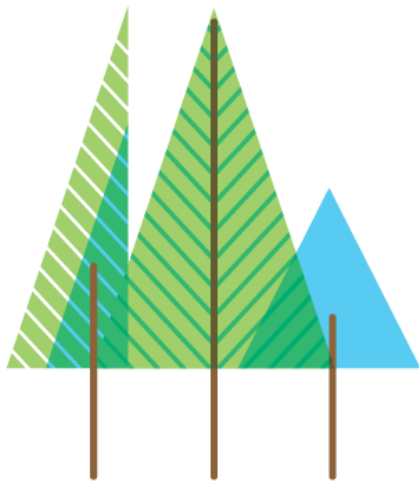


# Maine Charter School Commission



# MAINE VIRTUAL ACADEMY

## ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2019-2020

**January 2021**

**(Amended May 2021 to Include data that were not available when the report was approved by the Commission in January 2021 – Amended information is included in bold, italic font inside the report)**

*The Maine State Charter School Commission will provide thoughtful stewardship in authorizing and monitoring public charter schools consistent with State statutes to create unique, high-quality learning options for Maine students.*

## January 2021

In summer 2020, after Maine Virtual Academy's new 5-year charter contract was finalized and signed, the Maine Charter School Commission Review Team reviewed additional data provided by the Maine Virtual Academy. Information gathered from documents was used to determine the extent to which the school has met its contracted performance targets. This report addresses the school's performance relative to the performance framework.

In March of 2020, due to the COVID-19 virus, the school year was abruptly interrupted by the need for schools to close their facilities and continue the remainder of the school year via remote instruction. The Maine Charter School Commission realizes that these months were stressful and difficult for students, teachers, and families, and that the learning and assessments completed during this time were likely affected by the situation. The Maine Charter School Commission will take circumstances into consideration when reviewing data and making high-stakes decisions.

Commission Liaison to the School	Nichi Farnham
MCSC Executive Director	Bob Kautz
MCSC Director of Program Management	Gina Post
Consultant	Dr. Joe Mattos
Consultant	Joe Drago, CPA
MDOE Special Services	Dr. Roberta Lucas

School's Mission	Maine Virtual Academy's (MeVA) mission is to develop each student's full potential with learner-centered instruction, research-based curriculum and educational tools and resources to provide a high-quality learning experience for grade 7-12 students who are in need of alternative educational options. MeVA will develop an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) with specific learning goals to meet each student's needs.
School's Vision	MeVA will be a leading 21st century public charter school in Maine and will improve student learning outcomes through individualized instruction, as evidenced by student academic proficiency, student academic growth, post-secondary readiness, and the demonstration of 21st century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, and self-direction. MeVA will empower students to acquire the academic and life skills needed to succeed in post-secondary education and career opportunities. Our graduates will be prepared for college or other postsecondary career training opportunities.

## Section 1: School Information

School Name	Maine Virtual Academy
Address	6 East Chestnut Street, Suite 230, Augusta, ME 04330

### Governing Board

Board President	Amy Carlisle
Board Secretary	Peter Mills
Board Treasurer	Ed LeBlanc
Board Member	Donna Pelletier
Board Member	Kim Whitman

### Administrative Team

Head of School	Dr. Melinda Browne
Special Education Administrator	Dr. Melinda Browne
Program Manager of Operations	Stephanie Emery
Academic Administrator	Donald Fournier

Year Opened	2015
Years in Operation	6
Number of Sending Districts*	<b>110</b>
Grades Served	7-12
Current Enrollment*	<b>430</b>
Students on Waiting List*	254

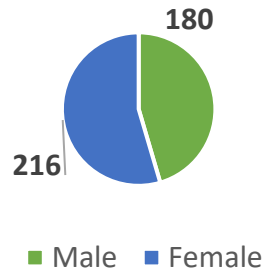
*\*As of October 1, 2020, certified enrollment data*

Section 2: Indicator Summary Table					
Indicator	Exceeded	Met	Partially Met	Did Not Meet	Other
<b>Student Academic Proficiency (See Page 6)</b>					
Target 1					*
Target 2					*
Target 3					*
<b>Student Academic Growth (See Page 6)</b>					
Target 1			X		
Target 2			X		
Target 3a		X			
Target 3b	X				
Target 4a		X			
Target 4b	X				
<b>Achievement Gaps (See Page 7)</b>					
Target 1					*
Target 2		X			
<b>Student Attendance (See Page 7)</b>					
Target 1		X			
Target 2		X			
Target 3	X				
<b>Student Enrollment (See Page 8)</b>					
Target 1		X			
Target 2		X			
<b>Post-Secondary Readiness (See Page 8)</b>					
Target 1			X		
Target 2			X		
Target 3	X				
Target 4	X				
<b>Financial Performance and Stability (See Page 9)</b>					
Target 1		X			
Target 2		X			
Target 3		X			
<b>Governance Board Performance and Stewardship (See Page 10)</b>					
Target 1	X				
Target 2		X			
<b>Adequacy of Facilities Management (See Page 10)</b>					
Target 1		X			
Target 2		X			
<b>School Social and Academic Climate (See Page 11)</b>					
Target 1		X			
Target 2	X				
Target 3		X			
Target 4	X				
Target 5		X			

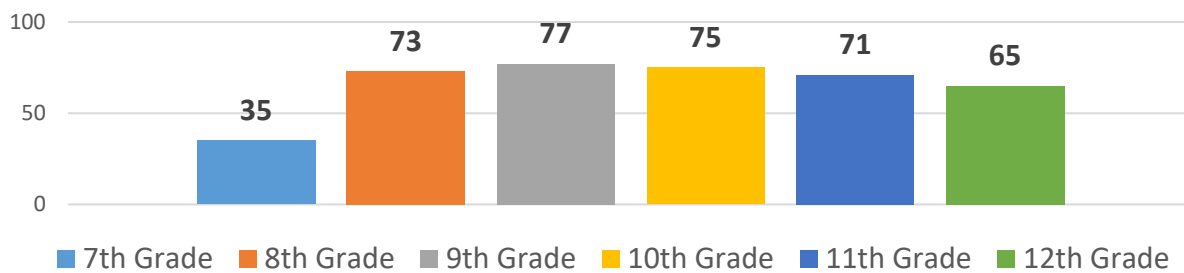
\*Due to COVID-19 and school facility closures, many assessments and evaluations were not given

### Section 3: Demographics 2019-2020

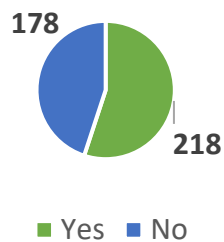
#### Gender Breakdown



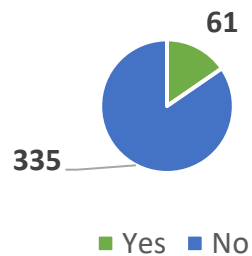
#### Grade Breakdown



#### Economically Disadvantaged



#### Special Education



## Section 4: Student Academic Proficiency

Measure	Target	Results	
Percentage of students scoring in the meets and exceeds categories of the MEA in ELA	At least 50% of students will meet or exceeds state expectations on the MEA in ELA.	N/A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maine Department of Education applied for, and received, waivers that eliminate state assessment requirements for this year.	NA
Percentage of students scoring in the meets and exceeds categories of the MEA in math	At least 40% of students will meet or exceeds state expectations on the MEA in math.		NA
Percentage of students scoring in the meets and exceeds categories of the MEA in science	At least 50% of students will meet or exceeds state expectations on the MEA in science.		NA

## Section 5: Student Academic Growth

Measure	Target	Results	
Students will show progress in their learning through growth in their NWEA scores in ELA reading from fall to spring of each school year.	Students will show progress in their learning through growth in their NWEA RIT scores from fall to spring of each school year.	73% of students showed growth on NWEA scores from fall to spring.	Partially Met
Students will show progress in their learning through growth in their NWEA scores in math from fall to spring of each school year.	Students will show progress in their learning through growth in their NWEA RIT scores from fall to spring of each school year.	76% of students showed growth on NWEA scores from fall to spring.	Partially Met
Growth on NWEA as measured by projected growth on MAP assessment	School will meet goal of 70% of eligible <sup>1</sup> students meeting their projected growth on NWEA ELA reading by the end of the school year 2021–2022.	60.9% of eligible students met their projected growth on NWEA ELA reading from fall to spring.	Met
		83% of eligible students met their projected growth on NWEA ELA reading	Exceeded

<sup>1</sup> Eligible is defined as having both a fall and spring score for students in grades k-10

		from fall to spring within one standard deviation.	
Growth on NWEA as measured by projected growth on MAP assessment	School will meet goal of 70% of eligible students will meet their projected growth on NWEA math by the end of the school year 2020-2021.	63.9% of eligible students met their projected growth on NWEA math from fall to spring.	Met
		81.3% of eligible students met their projected growth on NWEA math from fall to spring within one standard deviation.	Exceeded

## Section 6: Achievement Gaps

*Subgroups must have at least ten students to be reportable. Subgroups may not be combined to create a super-subgroup.*

Measure	Target	Results	
Achievement gaps in proficiency between major subgroups on the Maine state assessment	The school will provide evidence of closing achievement gaps between major subgroups (EL, special education, gender, ED, 504, ethnic and racial minorities).	N/A: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maine Department of Education applied for, and received, waivers that eliminate state assessment requirements for this year.	NA
Achievement gaps in growth between major subgroups on the NWEA	The school will provide evidence of closing achievement gaps between major subgroups (EL, special education, gender, ED, 504, ethnic and racial minorities).	Subgroups are performing similarly to comparison groups	Met

## Section 7: Student Attendance

Measure	Target	Results	
Chronic absenteeism	Schools will have 10% or fewer students classified as chronically absent on the last day of school.	9% of students were chronically absent as of the last day of school.	Met
Average Daily Attendance	Schools will have an average daily attendance rate in grades pre-k – 8 of 93% or higher.	The average daily attendance rate was 96.53%.	Met
Average Daily Attendance	Schools will have an average daily attendance rate in grades 9–12 of 91% or higher.	The average daily attendance rate was 97.64%.	Exceeded

## Section 8: Student Enrollment

Measure	Target	Results	
Enrollment throughout the school year	85% or more of eligible students enrolled on the last day of school will be the same students who were enrolled on state student count day <sup>2</sup>	85% of eligible students enrolled on the last day of school were the same students who were enrolled on state student count day.	Met
Recurrent enrollment from one year to the next	85% or more of eligible students enrolled on the last day of school will have completed an Intent to reenroll form for the next school year.	89% of eligible students enrolled on the last day of school completed an Intent to reenroll form for the next school year	Met

## Section 9: Post-Secondary Readiness

Measure	Target	Results	
4-year high school graduation rate (current cohort)	Schools will meet MDOE annual goal: 2020 – 87.74%	<b>64.1% 4-year graduation rate</b>	<b>Partially Met</b>
5 and 6-year average high school graduation rate (previous 2 years' cohorts averaged)	Schools will meet MDOE annual goal: 2020 – 89.74%	<b>64.1% 5 and 6-year graduation rate</b>	<b>Partially Met</b>

<sup>2</sup> State student count day is October 1.



Of students in their graduating year, percent participation in post-secondary readiness opportunities	At the end of their graduating year, 70% of each schools' eligible <sup>3</sup> students will have participated in at least one post-secondary activity such as <u>(and not limited to)</u> college course, Advanced Placement course, certificate program, or internship.	100% of students in their graduating year participated in post-secondary readiness opportunities.	Exceeded
Success rate of students participating in post-secondary readiness opportunities	70% of the school's students <u>who participated in at least one post-secondary activity</u> such as <u>(and not limited to)</u> college course, Advanced Placement course, certificate program, or internship will complete it successfully <sup>4</sup> .	100% of students participating in post-secondary readiness opportunities were successful.	Exceeded

### Section 10: Financial Performance and Stability

Measure	Target	Results	
Near Term Measures a) Current Ratio b) Unrestricted Days Cash on Hand	School evaluates its Near-Term Financial Health using the Financial Performance and Stability outline provided by the Commission.	Near-Term Financial Health was reviewed by the Commission using the Financial Performance and Stability outline.	<b>Healthy/Met</b>
Sustainability Measures a) Total Margin b) Debt to asset ratio	School evaluates its Financial Sustainability using the Financial Performance and Stability outline provided by the Commission.	The Financial Sustainability was reviewed by the Commission using the Financial Performance and Stability outline.	<b>Healthy/Met</b>
The school has an annual financial audit conducted. audit and management letter are submitted to the commission. audit has no material findings or misstatements.	Unmodified opinion on [consolidated] financial statements: no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies or reportable instances of noncompliance and other matters identified	The Board has engaged a firm to conduct the FY20 financial audit of the school. The Audit Report and Management Letter will be reviewed.	<b>Healthy/Met</b>

<sup>3</sup> Students not excluded via IEP or other individual plan

<sup>4</sup> Successfully is defined as a passing grade, meeting appropriate standards, or other clearly defined measure of success.

	in the other information accompanying the auditor's report on financial statements or in the auditor's report on internal control over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters.		
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### Section 11: Governance Board Performance and Stewardship

Measure	Target	Results	
Public Accountability: Transparent, responsive, and legally compliant Board operation.	The Governing Board will hold a minimum of 6 meetings per school year <sup>5</sup> .	The Governing Board held 12 meetings during the school year.	Exceeded
Public Accountability: Transparent, responsive, and legally compliant Board operation.	Timely <sup>6</sup> publication of Board meeting agenda and minutes upon approval.	Board meeting agendas and minutes were timely published.	Met

### Section 12: Adequacy of Facilities Management

Measure	Target	Results	
Meet Local and State requirements	The school certifies that its facility (or facilities) meet all local and state requirements for public school facilities.	The school certified that its facility (or facilities) meet all local and state requirements for public school facilities.	Met
Capital Improvement Plan	The school has a current capital improvement plan approved by its governing board.	The school has a current capital improvement plan approved by its governing board.	Met

<sup>5</sup> A school year is July 1 – June 30

<sup>6</sup> Timely is defined as posting agenda a minimum of 5 days before the meeting and for minutes, posting within 5 days of approval.

## Section 13: School Social and Academic Climate

Measure	Target	Results	
Reporting of behavior incidents	The school will follow the Maine DOE required reporting for incidents of behavior.	The school reported incidents of behavior as required by Maine DOE.	Met
Panorama Survey- Family Participation	40% of families will participate in the Panorama survey.	60% of families participated in the Panorama survey.	Exceeded
Panorama Survey- Student Participation	65% of eligible students will participate in the Panorama survey. <sup>7</sup>	68% of eligible students participate in the Panorama survey.	Met
Panorama Survey- Teacher/Staff Participation	70% of teachers/staff will participate in the Panorama survey.	100% of teachers/staff participated in the Panorama survey.	Exceeded
Panorama Survey	Annually, the school will review its spring Panorama Education results and develop an action plan for the following school year to address areas for continued improvement. Plan and outcome will be submitted to the Commission in September.	The school reviewed its Panorama Education survey results and developed an action plan to address areas for continued improvement and submitted the plan to the Commission in September 2019 as required.	Met

## Section 14: Mission and Vision Implementation Evidence and Results

*(See Page 2 for School's Mission and Vision)*

The 2019-20 school year provided an opportunity to demonstrate the continuity and value of (secondary) virtual education by successfully implementing its mission and vision during the public health crisis (COVID-19). MEVA operated in accordance with its school calendar, academic schedule, and grading schemes, despite the significant disruptions. Specific evidence includes the following:

- MEVA administered the spring NWEAs and achieved strong growth performance results.

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<sup>7</sup> Students in grades 3 and up are eligible to participate in the Panorama Education surveys.

- MEVA administered the Spring 2020 Panorama Survey and achieved strong participation.
- MEVA conducted monthly governing board meetings and posted agendas and minutes as scheduled.
- MEVA improved its student attendance and retention.

## Section 15: Commendations and Considerations

### Commendations

- MEVA reported that 100% of students in their graduating year participated in post-secondary opportunities.
- MEVA reported that enrollment throughout the year, as well as recurrent enrollment from one year to the next, both were at 85% or higher.
- On the NWEA, 83% of eligible students met the projected RIT growth in ELA and 81.3% of eligible students met the projected RIT growth in math, which exceeded the 70% target.
- There was a high rate of participation by all groups in the Panorama education survey.

### Considerations

- MEVA should continue to address and improve average daily attendance rates.
- MEVA should closely review the Plimpton Graduate Study Report to identify areas of improvement; for example: career and/or college readiness, career development curriculum and post-graduate career guidance, and mastery of high standards for graduation.
- MEVA should review and address the recommendations presented in its 2020 External Evaluation Report.