

Maine Charter School Commission



ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2017-2018

Annual Monitoring Report 2017-2018 DRAFT

September 2018

On June 20th an announced on-site visit was made to Harpswell Coastal Academy. The Maine Charter School Commission (MCSC) Review Team of 3 members was accompanied by the MCSC Executive Director, and MCSC Director of Program Management. The visiting team held interviews with school leadership, and the school’s Governing Board. They also reviewed data provided by the school. Information gathered from documents, interviews and on-site observation was used to determine the extent to which the school has met its contracted performance targets.

Commission Member, Review Team Chair	Laurie Pendleton
Commission	John Bird
Commission	Shelley Reed
MCSC Executive Director	Bob Kautz
MCSC Director of Program Management	Gina Post

School’s Mission	<i>To offer a rigorous, personalized, project-based education to mid-coast Maine students in grades 6-12.</i>
School’s Vision	<i>To use Maine’s shorelines, working waterfronts, forests, and farms as classrooms. To partner with local organizations and businesses, entrepreneurs, and community members who are committed to our goal of preparing caring, creative, resilient citizen-scholars who will flourish in a rapidly changing economy.</i>

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.

School Information

School Name	Harpwell Coastal Academy
Address	

Governing Board

Board Chair	Sally Mackenzie
Board Vice Chair	Ed Harris
Board Treasurer	Dave Jean
Board Secretary	Sharon Whitney
Board Member	Eileen Hornor
Board Member	Cynthia W. Shelmerdine
Board Member	Nancy Andersen
Board Member	Sue Priest

Executive Director	Carrie Branson
Division 1 Principal	Scott Barksdale
Division 2 Principal	Maria Russell
Special Education Director	Deryl Holt
Business & Finance Director	Andrew Smaha

Year Opened	2013
Years in Operation	5
Number of Sending Districts	13
Grades Served	6 - 12
Current Enrollment	195*
Students on Waiting List	0*

*As of October 1, 2017 certified enrollment date.

Section 1: Overview

Harpswell Coastal Academy (HCA) is a public charter school established in 2013 offering rigorous, personalized, project-based education to Maine students in grades 6-12. Originally initiated by a group of Harpswell citizens concerned that many of the town's young people were increasingly disengaged from school, HCA has grown to include a diverse group of mid-coast educators, business leaders, and community partners committed to preparing students to live and work in the rapidly changing coastal economy. Harpswell and the surrounding towns consist of a varied population of business and professional, military, blue collar, and fishing families.

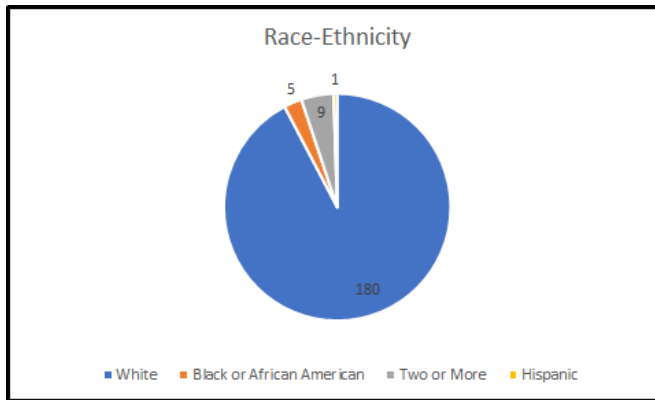
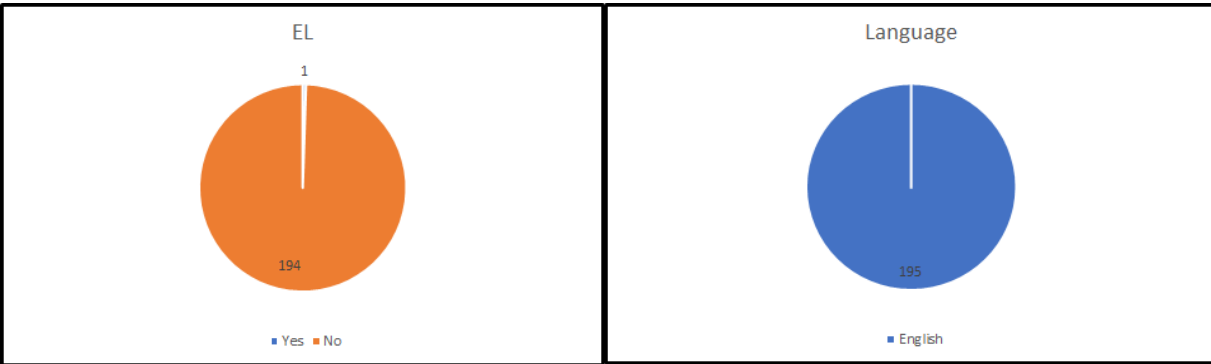
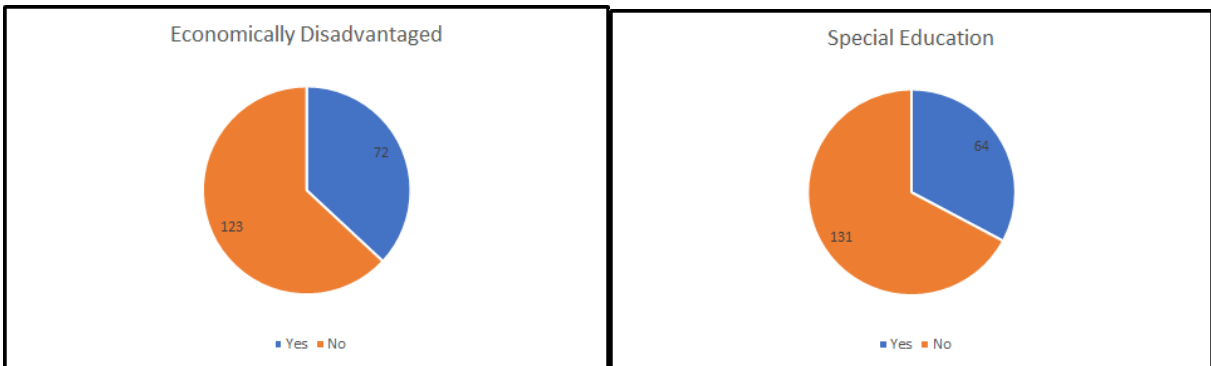
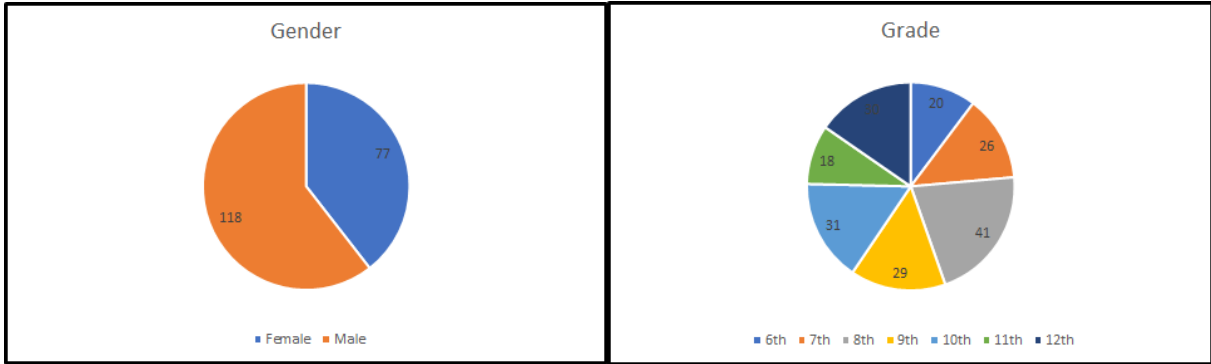
HCA students currently come from mid-coast Maine towns including Harpswell, Brunswick, Bowdoinham, Topsham, Freeport, and Bath. Currently, HCA enrolls 195 students and enrollment is based on a lottery. HCA serves 36.9% Free or Reduced Lunch students and 32.8% Special Education students.

HCA's curriculum and pedagogy is intended to showcase best practices developed over the past 20 years by organizations such as the Coalition of Essential Schools and Expeditionary Learning: standards-based teaching and learning; relevant, place-based curriculum that incorporates fieldwork and internships; and deliberate structures for building students' character and holding them accountable. HCA's organizational structure supports students in achieving high standards in a variety of ways including a longer school day, summer programs, and community mentors for each student. The curriculum at HCA is a college-preparatory and meets the same Common Core standards in Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Health and Physical Education and Fine Arts, as do all Maine public middle and high schools. However, HCA offers two tenets to its approach of the curriculum that differentiates its school from others. One central tenet of the HCA approach is that students move on when they are ready, not when they reach a certain birthday. A second tenet is that students benefit from teachers who know them well over a longer period of time and are much more accountable for ensuring that each student is able to progress over that time.

Section 2: Indicator Summary Table

Indicator	Meets Contract Agreement	Partially Meets	Does Not Meet
Student Academic Proficiency			
Student Academic Growth			
Achievement Gaps in Proficiency and Growth Between Major Student Subgroups			
Student Attendance			
Enrollment			
Post-Secondary Readiness			
Financial Performance and Sustainability			
Governance Board Performance and Stewardship			
Adequacy of Facilities Maintenance in Support of Program			
Transportation			
School Social and Academic Climate			
Parent and Community Engagement			

Section 3: Demographics



Section 4: Academics

Student Academic Proficiency

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
State Assessments in Reading & Math	Difference between the percentage of HCA students scoring proficient (or exceeds) on the MEA and the percentage of all Maine students scoring proficient (or exceeds) in the state: Grade 6=3, Grade 7=3, Grade 8=3, HS= 3	Not yet available	NA
School Selected Assessment	Percent of students in grades 6-12 scoring in the average to above average RIT band in reading on the NWEA: Grade 6 = 55%, Grade 7 = 70%, Grade 8 = 55%, Grade 9 = 55%, Grade 10 = 75%, Grade 11 = 55%	Grade 6 = 53% Grade 7 = 59% Grade 8 = 44% Grade 9 = 61% Grade 10 = 64% Grade 11 = 67%	Partially met
School Selected Assessment	Percent of students in grades 6-12 scoring in the average to above average RIT band in math on the NWEA: Grade 6 = 55%, Grade 7 = 55%, Grade 8 = 55%, Grade 9 = 50%, Grade 10 = 45%, Grade 11 = 50%, Grade 12 = 55%.	Grade 6 = 37% Grade 7 = 32% Grade 8 = 28% Grade 9 = 57% Grade 10 = 57% Grade 11 = 72%	Partially met
School Designed Assessment	Division 1: 6th grade: 99% students will approach proficiency (score 2 or higher) in 50% of Division 1 measurement categories. 7th grade: 80% students will approach		NEED DATA

	<p>proficiency in 90% of Division 1 measurement categories.</p> <p>8th grade: 85% students will approach proficiency in 100% of Division 1 measurement categories.</p>		
School Designed Assessment	<p>Division 2: 9th grade: 85% students will approach proficiency in 75% of Division 2 measurement categories.</p> <p>10th grade: 95% students will approach proficiency in 75% of Division 2 measurement categories.</p> <p>11th grade: 85% students will approach proficiency in 80% of Division 2 measurement categories.</p> <p>12th grade: 85% students will approach proficiency in 80% of Division 2 measurement categories.</p>		NEED DATA
School Designed Assessment	<p>98% of students will submit three satisfactory portfolio pieces.</p>		NEED DATA

Discussion

Student Academic Growth

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Establish baseline for growth on State Assessment	Report Data	Results not yet available	NA

Discussion

Achievement Gaps in Proficiency and Growth Between Major Student Subgroups

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Establish baseline for gaps in proficiency and growth between major student subgroups on Maine State Assessment	Report Data	Results not yet available	NA

Discussion

Section 5: Attendance and Enrollment

Student Attendance

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
	95% Average Daily Attendance for Division 1, 92% Average Daily Attendance for Division 2		Need data
	In each school year the number of unexcused absences will decrease from the fall to the spring trimester		Need data

Discussion

Enrollment from Year to Year

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
	90% of students enrolled on state "student count day" will still be enrolled on the last day of school	88% still enrolled	Did not meet
	80% of students enrolled on the last day of school indicate intent to return the following year.	94% re-enrolled	Met

Discussion

Post-Secondary Readiness

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Federal Graduation 4 year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate13 (ACGR)	Report data		Need data
Federal Graduation 4 year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate13 (ACGR) Federal Graduation 4 year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate13 (ACGR)	90%		Need data
Percentage of students completing dual enrollment courses	Establish Baseline	12 students successfully completed SMCC courses. > 50% of 12 th grade class	Met
Percentage of students scoring at or above state average on SAT	Report data	Results not yet available	NA
Enrollment in postsecondary institutions	Report data	11 of 23 graduating students plan to enroll in post secondary institutions	Met
Outcomes for students not attending postsecondary institutions	Report data	Several students have secured employment for after graduation. Others will be seeking employment. A few students have a gap year planned.	Met

Discussion

Section 6: Finances

Financial Performance and Sustainability

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Governance Board reviews budget and makes appropriate adjustments to ensure school remains financially healthy.	Governance Board and/or Finance Committee review budget on a quarterly basis at a minimum. Quarterly financial reports and end of year audit are available to authorizer.	The Board Finance Committee met monthly, with additional meetings as necessary, to review reports and provide oversight to the Finance Director and Executive Director.	Met
School conducts an external audit	The end of year audit is made available to authorizer.	The school completed an audit in the fall for FY17. A copy was submitted to the Charter Commission.	Met

Discussion

Section 7: Governance Board Performance and Stewardship

Governance Board Performance and Stewardship

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Governance Board operates in a transparent, responsible, and legally compliant manner	Governance Board holds public meetings with posted agendas and minutes.	The HCA Board holds bi-monthly meetings. Agendas and minutes are posted on the school website. Reminders of the meetings are included in family newsletters.	Met
Governance Board provides oversight of school leadership team	Board conducts an annual evaluation of school leadership	Evaluation completed	Met

Discussion

Section 8: Facilities & Maintenance, Food Service, and Transportation

Adequacy of Facilities Maintenance in Support of Program

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
School facilities meet educational and health and safety standards.	Board certifies that the facilities meet educational, health & safety standards	Certified in report	Met
Site Development	Report progress	Continuation of planned maintenance	Met
Food Service: School reports on costs and student participation	Report data		Need data
Transportation: School reports on costs and student participation	Report data		Need data

Discussion

Section 9: School Climate

School Social and Academic Climate

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Instances of bullying, harassment, or other abusive practices	Decrease from previous year	Decreased from 22 incidents to 17 incidents	Met
Student (HOWLs) Habits of Work and Learning	1. HOWLs are reported to students & families 3 times yearly 2. HOWLs improve or reach proficiency from fall to spring each year for each Division	1. HOWLS were reported at student led conferences twice during the year and were reported again at the end of the school year. 2. HOWLS progress and proficiency data not reported.	Partially met
School Climate Survey	80% of students report via school climate survey: active participation in Restorative Justice and Community Meeting	85% of students participated in Restorative Justice model 100% participated in Community Meeting.	Met

Annual improvement in targeted areas on student and family climate survey			Need data
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Discussion

Section 10: Parent and Community Engagement

Parent and Community Engagement

Measure	Target	Results	Met/Did Not Meet/Partially met
Student participation in activities provided by Community Partnerships	Each student participates in at least one Workshop, club or internship during the year	100% of students participated in at least one activity with a community partner	Met
Parent Communication	1. Parent checks student portal at least once every other week. 2. Parent opens weekly newsletter	1. Data not reported 2. 40%-65% newsletter opening rate	Partially met
Parent participation in their children's education and operation of school: Participation in Student Led Conferences	Division 1: 90% of parents attend at least one (SLC) per year Division 2: 60% of parents attend at least one SLC per year	91% of Division 1 parents attended at least one SLC 75% of Division 2 parents attended at least one SLC	Met
Celebration of Learning & Passages	Each student presents to the larger school community twice each year at minimum.	95% of students participated in 2 presentations	Met

Discussion

Section 11: Administration

Section 12: Evidence of Mission and Vision Implementation

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

Section 13: Commendations and Concerns

Commendations

Concerns