



28 LORD ROAD, SUITE 125; MARLBOROUGH, MA 01752

www.avcollaborative.org

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

December 17, 2021

Message from Executive Director

Dear Assabet Valley Collaborative Community Members,

As per M.G.L. c. 40, § 4E and CMR 603 CMR 50.00, AVC is required to publish an annual report that includes the following:

- Information on the programs and services provided by the collaborative.
- Discussion of the cost-effectiveness of all programs and services.
- Progress made toward achieving the objectives/purposes set forth in the collaborative agreement.

This annual report covers the period July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. Below are some of the highlights of the priorities addressed during that period:

COVID-Context Challenges & Opportunities

- Operating virtual summer school
- Reopening schools safely - hybrid Fall/Winter; fully in-person Spring
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Distancing, Protocols, Control Plans, Cleaning, Contact Tracing, Testing, COVID-leave Policies, Staffing shortages
- Continued financial stability in face of financial setbacks
 - Covid-related grants and supplies
 - Overall sustained enrollment in REACH, Evolution, OSA, FSP and Consultation Services
- Loss of revenue
 - PD and facilities rentals closed
 - Transportation closed, reduced ridership, hybrid till Spring 2021; contract challenges led to significant loss of revenue
 - Enrollment down

MISSION

The Mission of the Assabet Valley Collaborative is to provide effective and efficient services to meet the current and evolving needs of member communities to promote student success and community integration. It is also the mission of the Assabet Valley Collaborative to jointly conduct programs and/or services in a cost-effective manner which shall complement and strengthen those provided by member school committees and to increase equitable and inclusive educational opportunities for children and young adults.

FOCUS

The focus of AVC is the development and delivery of high quality programs and services to member districts which shall complement and strengthen those provided by member school committees. .

Board of Directors	Member Districts	MEMBER SINCE
Ernie Houle	Assabet Valley Regional Vocational	1976
Casey Handfield	Auburn Public Schools	2018
Jeffrey Zanghi	Public Schools of Berlin and Boylston	1976
James Cummings, Chair	Grafton Public Schools	2015
Marco Rodrigues	Hudson Public Schools	1976
Michael Bergeron	Marlborough Public Schools	1976
Brian Haas	Maynard Public Schools	1976
Gregory Myers	Millbury Public Schools	2011
Brooke Clenchy	Nashoba Regional School District	1976
Gregory Martineau	Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough	1976
Joseph Sawyer	Shrewsbury Public Schools	1976
Amber Bock, Vice Chair	Westborough Public Schools	1976

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Receive member discounts

All AVC programs and services are provided to members at membership rates. Nonmember districts may access AVC programs and services at a 12-15% surcharge.

2. Influence and guide decision making

Member districts influence and guide decision-making regarding existing and new programming, improving the quality of services and pooling resources with neighboring districts. In the last decade, member district influence resulted in the opening of SOAR Assessment Center, Evolution, Family Success Partnership, and the expansion of OSA to include grades 5-8 and the addition of music therapy, equity-centered consulting, and a consulting child psychiatrist.

3. Obtain cooperative/volume purchasing advantages

Members have access to Cooperative/Volume Purchasing through collective procurement activities. AVC procures goods and services on behalf of member communities, resulting in more competitive pricing for goods districts need to purchase. In FY21 AVC contracts included office supplies, copy paper, school supplies, and transportation services.

4. Gain access to grant-funded initiatives

Members have access to grant-funded initiatives through collective, collaborative stakeholder groups. AVC seeks to identify areas of need and determine grant funding or other sources of revenue to support the launch of new initiatives.

5. Network and Collaborate with Colleagues

Members have access to Job-Alikes and joint initiatives for district faculty. Through joint initiatives, member districts share expertise, pool resources to increase capacity, collaborate on new regulations and mandates, and launch innovations and projects to improve public education in our region.

Orchard Street Academy (OSA) and SOAR Assessment Center

57 Orchard Street; Marlborough, MA 01752

Orchard Street Academy offers academic and clinical services to students in grades five through twelve. Programming includes:

- Small instructional groups
- Integration of academics, expressive therapy and transition skills
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)
- Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) & Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)

Within OSA, SOAR Assessment Center is a short-term stabilization and diagnostic assessment program for middle and high school students (grades 5-12). Our team collaborates closely with parents and districts to identify appropriate academic and clinical supports for students with social/emotional difficulties. Program features include:

- Customized educational and clinical assessments
- Individualized academic and clinical services
- Comprehensive reports and recommendations

Value

OSA's expressive therapy programs and high-interest electives add value to our comprehensive academic and therapeutic setting. Our educators, clinicians, school psychologists support the academic and clinical needs of a wide range of students.

2020-2021 Highlights

- Safe reopening of schools during COVID
- COVID protocols - including distancing, pooled testing, contact tracing
- Student/Family involvement in hybrid learning models
- SOAR Assessment referrals down; OSA referrals up
- Art, Music and Theater Arts
- Community service projects
- One-to-one technology provided
- School work and supplies delivered to students as needed
- No in-school transmission

	FY21 Member Tuition	FY21 NonMember Tuition	Membership Savings
Middle School	\$64,148	\$70,503	\$6,355
High School	\$56,270	\$61,898	\$5,628

Evolution

- Shrewsbury High School; Shrewsbury, MA
- AVC Main Office; Marlborough, MA

Evolution is located in Shrewsbury and Marlborough. This transition program is designed for students ages 18-22, who continue to be eligible for educational services as they transition to adulthood. Evolution blends educational opportunities within real-world settings in the community. Our programming includes:

- Transition assessment, job development and job coaching
- Community-based instruction – Travel training, fitness: YMCA, college coursework, shopping, and recreation
- School-based instruction – healthy relationships, cooking, finance, laundry, and hygiene
- Work experiences in a variety of locations based on student interests

Value

The transition to adulthood looks different for each Evolution student. The team at Evolution works with each student and their team to support the development of rigorous and attainable transition goals and plans. Students have access to a wide range of opportunities to prepare for their transition to adulthood.

2020-2021 Highlights:

- Safe reopening of schools during COVID - 4 days per week November 2020
- COVID protocols - including distancing, pooled testing, contact tracing
- Student/Family involvement in hybrid learning models
- Virtual job-shadowing
- Enrollment continued to grow
- One-to-one technology provided
- School work and supplies and equipment delivered to students as needed
- Home-based services
- No in-school transmission

	FY21 Member Tuition	FY21 NonMember Tuition	Membership Savings
Tier 1	\$36,230	\$41,303	\$5,073
Tier 2	\$53,743	\$61,270	\$7,527
Tier 3	\$82,261	\$93,782	\$11,521

Family Success Partnership (FSP)
28 Lord Road; Suite 125; Marlborough, MA 01752

Family Success Partnership (FSP) is a family-centered wraparound program designed to support students and their families who have needs that fall outside of school that have not yet been met by community or state agency services. Family Support Counselors help each family develop goals and identify resources needed to achieve those goals. FSP helps families navigate the intricate process of health care insurance, state agency applications and waitlists – assisting schools in addressing the non-academic needs of students that impact student outcomes.

Value

FSP wraparound is a strengths-based, student-centered, collaborative support that assists schools in addressing barriers to learning. In collaboration with district administration and school counselors, FSP supported over 100 families to access:

- Medical care
- Counseling
- Housing and essential resources
- Insurance

2020-2021 Highlights.

- Services provide virtually, hybrid and in-person
- 2nd year of new contract with nonmember district - Acton Boxborough
- READS Collaborative continued to partner with AVC on replication project.
- Marlborough Coalition Monthly Meetings
- CBHI-System of Care Meetings
- Assist families with navigating pandemic-related needs
- Pivot to remote services due to COVID-19 closures;

Service	FY21 member rates	FY21 Non-member rates	Membership Savings
10 cases	\$34,055	\$38,823	\$4,768