

Issue in Brief: Wraparound Services

Wraparound services provide young people an opportunity to thrive by helping schools address social and non-academic barriers to student learning. With wraparound services, student and family support programs are integrated with schools, working in concert with their academic mission. Examples of wraparound services include school-based healthcare, mental health services, nutrition and wellness programs, and family resource centers. Similar services are also known in the field as full-service schools, integrated student supports, and community schools.

These services have the potential to improve academic performance. By improving health, social factors, school climate, and family conditions, students can be better able to learn. At the same time, wraparound services can also help families and educators better address social challenges faced by their children.

This fact sheet summarizes the Roadmap to Expanding Opportunity paper [Uplifting the Whole Child: Using Wraparound Services to Overcome Social Barriers to Learning](#) from the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center. The paper examines how the Commonwealth can effectively confront family, health, and economic challenges to student success.

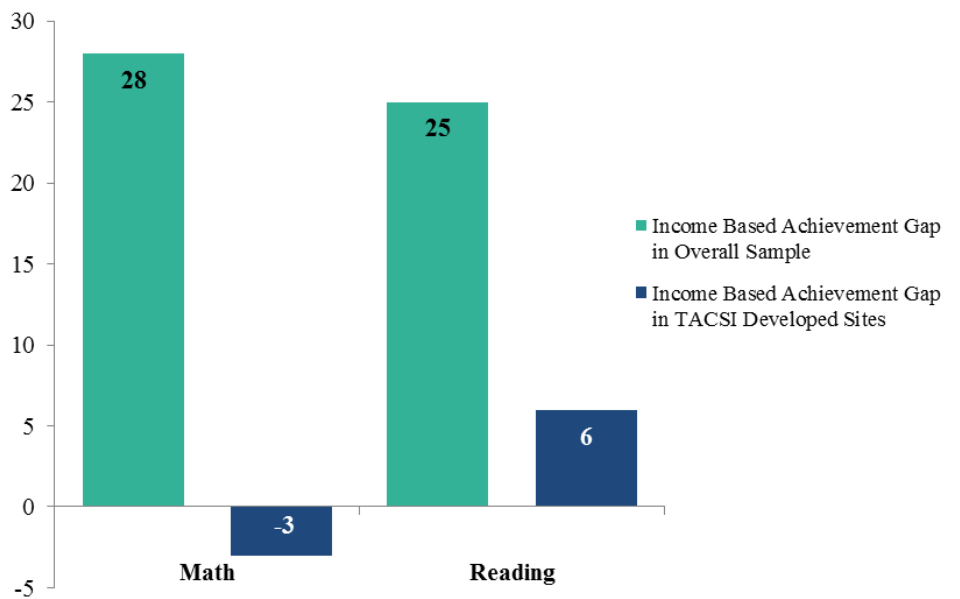
The Evidence: National Studies Find Academic and Social Benefits

Studies across the U.S document that high-quality wraparound programs have numerous benefits. Academic benefits include improved grades, attendance, behavior, and test scores. Non-academic benefits include greater family stability, employment, parent engagement with schools, and increased access to medical care and other basic needs. One example of successful wraparound services is the Tulsa Area Community School Initiative (TACSI).

TACSI Developed Sites Greatly Reduced Achievement Gap of Low-Income Youth

The Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative served 9,000 students in 25 schools since 2007. TACSI offers health clinics, wellness programs, parent engagement and school leadership teams of staff, community agencies, and families. TACSI developed sites have closed the academic achievement gap in math and 76% of the gap in reading on Oklahoma state tests.

Oklahoma 5th Grade Standardized Test Score Gap



What could Massachusetts do? How much would it cost?

Our research identified five elements of high-quality wraparound services. The evidence suggests that this set of services would be a powerful asset to schools in helping thousands of students and families across Massachusetts. Below the five elements are described along with estimates of the cost.

Element	Function	Per-Student Cost
Wraparound Services Coordinator	Coordinate wraparound services, assess community needs, work with families, administrators, partners, wraparound providers to ensure services are accessible and effective.	\$526
Health Service Clinics	Provide on-site medical, dental, and vision care.	\$549
Mental and Behavioral Health, Wellness, & Prevention	Promote mental health, positive behaviors, and school culture. Includes mental health awareness, early warning, and crisis response.	\$111
Family Resource Centers	Centralized location for family supports. Direct services and referrals to other available social services e.g. housing, job training, ESL, adult education.	\$97
District Administration	Oversees wraparound services site coordinators, sets strategy and evaluation, and interfaces with state agencies.	\$29
Total Annual Cost		\$1,312/student

In many communities, children and families have access to most of the above services and have less acute social barriers to success in education. Therefore, it is important to carefully target the communities to receive enhanced wraparound services. The evidence of effectiveness is based on services in under-resourced areas where students may not otherwise receive important social supports. As a baseline, this study used a cutoff point of 40 percent low-income or greater, which aligns with the threshold for school-wide federal Title I grants.

There are 65 districts serving 356,000 students with populations of 40 percent or more low-income. This suggests a total statewide cost of roughly \$468 million annually to provide this set of services for all of those students. This projected cost does not represent completely new spending, as programs already working in the field could be brought under the umbrella of wraparound services. To create these services at statewide scale, community agencies, municipalities, school districts, medical institutions, and the state must collaborate while dedicating adequate resources. Continuously evaluating and improving wraparound services is critical.

Confronting students' non-academic and social barriers through wraparound services has been shown to be effective across the country and the approach holds potential for Massachusetts. When combined with strong and engaging academics, wraparound services can help create a foundation for academic and social progress assisting students from all backgrounds in receiving a quality education.

For the full report, "Uplifting the Whole Child," and other research, visit the Roadmap to Expanding Opportunity website at:

ExpandingOpportunity.org