

# Breaching Barriers to College

## Mentor Information Session



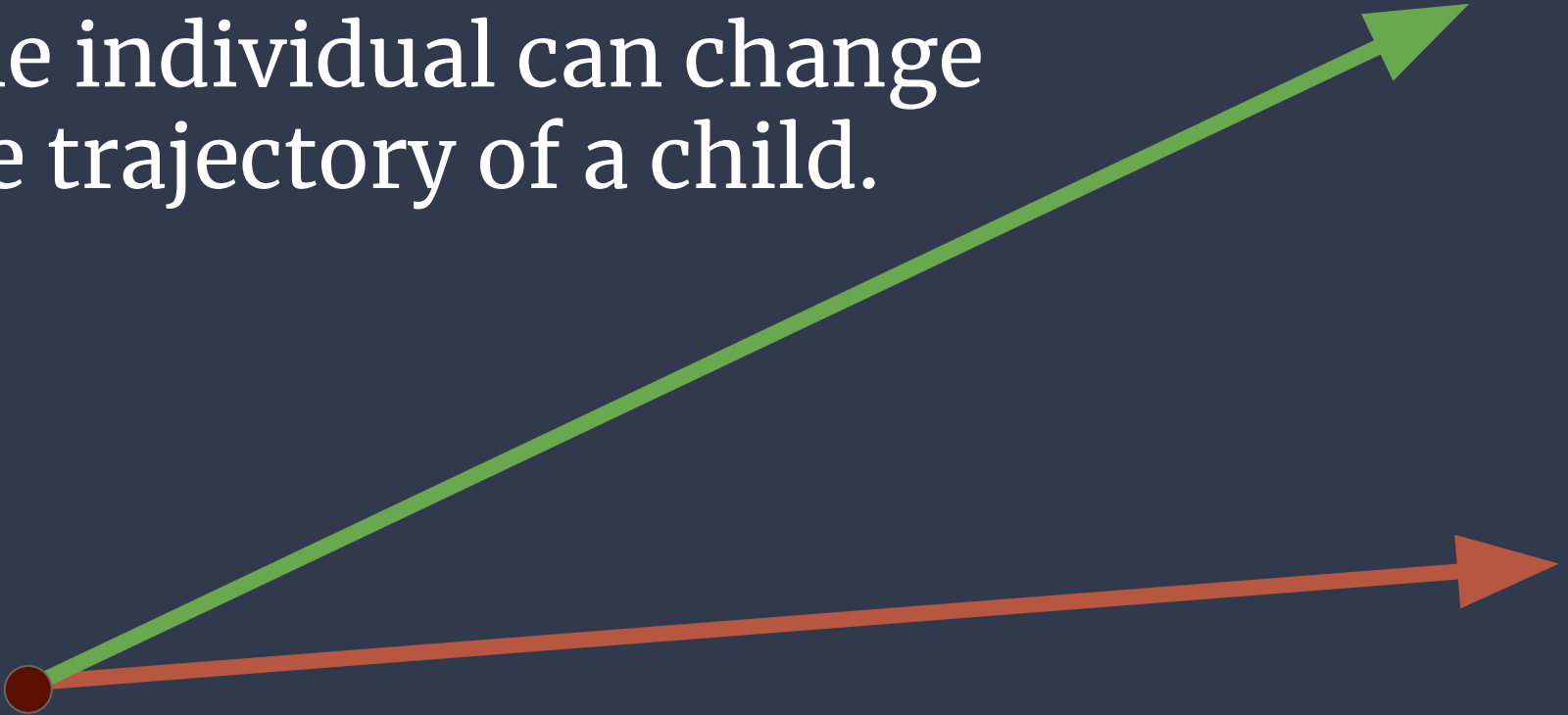
**Thank you for your interest in this important program!**

**The Breaching Barriers mentoring program is a school/community partnership that connects college-educated community members, particularly empty-nesters and retirees, with students and families who would benefit from early intervention and support with planning for college and the college search process.**

**The goal of this program is to improve equity by providing additional coaching and mentorship throughout the college planning, search, and application process, particularly for students facing one or more barriers to postsecondary education.**

The premise behind this initiative:

One individual can change  
the trajectory of a child.



While many Monomoy students move on to college after graduation, our data suggests that there are certain segments of our population that do not pursue that option.

The goal of this program is to support those underrepresented students.

<b>% of High School Graduates Enrolling in College</b>	<b>All MA High School Graduates</b>	<b>Cape Public High Schools*</b>	<b>Monomoy Regional High School</b>	<b>Suburban High Schools**</b>
Class of 2021	60.5	67.8	68.1	81.0
Class of 2020	61.7	66.9	71.6	78.5
Class of 2019	67.4	74.2	<b>80.5</b>	83.2
Class of 2018	68.1	71.5	72.7	83.2
4-year Average	64.4	70.1	73.2	81.5

Note: The Class of 2020 was the graduating cohort at the height of uncertainty during the COVID pandemic.

\*Excludes Sturgis and the two Voc-Tech high schools

\*\*A composite of Weston, Wellesley, and Wayland high schools

**Monomoy is consistently above the state and Cape averages for college enrollment rates of high school graduates ... and there's room for improvement.**

Class of 2019 College Enrollment Rates (%)	Race		Socioeconomic	Disability	All Students	Gender	
	Black	White	Disadvantaged	On an IEP		Male	Female
Monomoy	62.5	83.5	70.7	66.7	81.2	76.9	85.4
MA State Avg.	61.0	72.5	51.6	50.0	67.5	60.9	74.0
Suburban Avg.**	78.6	84.0	80.0	77.9	83.2	81.7	84.7

**Monomoy's disaggregated college enrollment rates mirror state and national trends, with some subcategories having significantly lower enrollment rates than those of all students or those of the white majority.**



**The Breaching Barriers program will create a school/community partnership that connects college-educated empty nesters and retirees with students and families who would benefit from early intervention and support with both planning for college and the college search process.**

# Barriers to College Enrollment

Above and beyond the grades a student earns and their SAT scores, other barriers to college exist and persist in our society, including:

- Feeling that their family cannot afford college
- Not having a parent who is a college graduate
- Being a student of color
- Having a learning disability
- Being an English language learner
- Being economically disadvantaged
- Being male



# Barriers to College Enrollment

If students feel their family cannot afford college, they are

**34%**

less likely  
to pursue higher education  
*(national average)*

# Barriers to College Enrollment

If students do not have a parent with at least a bachelor's degree, they are

**26%**

less likely  
to pursue higher education  
*(national average)*

# Barriers to College Enrollment

Black students  
at Monomoy are

**23.4%**

less likely  
to pursue higher education  
than white students

*(Monomoy DESE data, 2018-2021)*

# Barriers to College Enrollment

Monomoy students  
on IEPs are

**18.5%**

less likely  
to pursue higher education  
than the average student

*(Monomoy DESE data, 2018-2021)*

# Barriers to College Enrollment

Former and current English-language learners are at least

**18%**

less likely to pursue higher education than the average student

*(MA DESE data, 2019)*

# Barriers to College Enrollment

Economically-disadvantaged students at Monomoy are

**15.7%**

less likely  
to pursue higher education  
than the average student

*(Monomoy DESE data, 2018-2021)*

# Barriers to College Enrollment

Boys at Monomoy are

**14.9%**

less likely  
to pursue higher education  
than girls

*(Monomoy DESE data, 2018-2021)*

# Using Coaching and Mentorship to Close an Equity Gap

Percent of Grads Enrolling in College

Monomoy	Black Grads	White Grads
2021	50.0	73.3
2020	50.0	75.3
2019	62.5	83.5
2018	50.0	73.9
<b>4-Year Average</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>76.5</b>

Percent of Grads Enrolling in College

Graduating Cohort	Wayland High School	
	Black Graduates	White Graduates
2021	63.6	79.6
2020	77.8	87.1
2019	100	94.1
2018	100	89.8
<b>4-Year Average</b>	<b>85.4</b>	<b>87.7</b>

**Between 2018 and 2021, Wayland had an average college enrollment gap between white and Black grads of 2.3%. Monomoy's gap has been 10 times greater (23.4%).**



# Program Overview

The program will support both students and their families by:

- offering college planning mentorship and parent engagement beginning as early as 9th grade;
- helping families understand college costs, financing options, scholarship availability, and how they and their student can make college an affordable and realistic option;
- coordinating and leading on-campus tours at colleges in the Northeast region on weekends and vacations, and
- connecting well-educated and caring empty-nesters, retirees, and community members who have experience in the college process with the students and families who could most benefit from this expertise and knowledge.

The Breaching Barriers program is be overseen by the district's Community Engagement Coordinator, working closely with the Superintendent, and will supplement the excellent college counseling process already happening at the high school.

# Mentor Expectations

- Mentors will be asked to commit to at least one school year
- All mentors will undergo a CORI and SORB check, and will need to be fingerprinted
- Mentors will complete the initial application/interest form and the more detailed questionnaire form
- Training sessions will be provided for mentors, as well as ongoing support and opportunities to connect and collaborate with fellow mentors
- Support students & families in understanding higher education finance and personal finance
- Support students with editorial support in writing college essays and help students and their families through the admissions process
- Mentorship of individual students and their parents/caregivers through the college search and application process
- Organize and lead tours of New England colleges

# MRHS Guidance Department Support

This program will work in conjunction with the process and support already provided by the Monomoy High Guidance Counselors

- Counselors will recommend students for participation in this program
- Counselors will help facilitate communication with students and families
- Counselors will share college planning opportunities with students and mentors, to ensure mentors are informed and can encourage mentees to participate

# Mentor–Student Timeline

- The students would be paired with a mentor who would begin meeting with the student and parents as early as freshman year, providing:
  - Academic coaching
  - Financial planning for college
- In the earlier years, such as grade 9 and 10, much of the work will be done in groups, to introduce students to the concepts of college planning, and encourage them to consider college an option
- This support would ramp up heading into senior year
  - Support with visiting colleges
  - Support with the college essay and application process
  - Support with the financial aid process

**Thank you!**

**Questions and Discussion**