



## Accelerated College and Employability Skills (ACCESS) Academy

A lab school that provides an innovative educational experience to high school students, who have not historically had access to opportunities and pathways that meet their needs and lead to high-demand and well compensated career opportunities, as they simultaneously work toward two- and four-year college degrees.

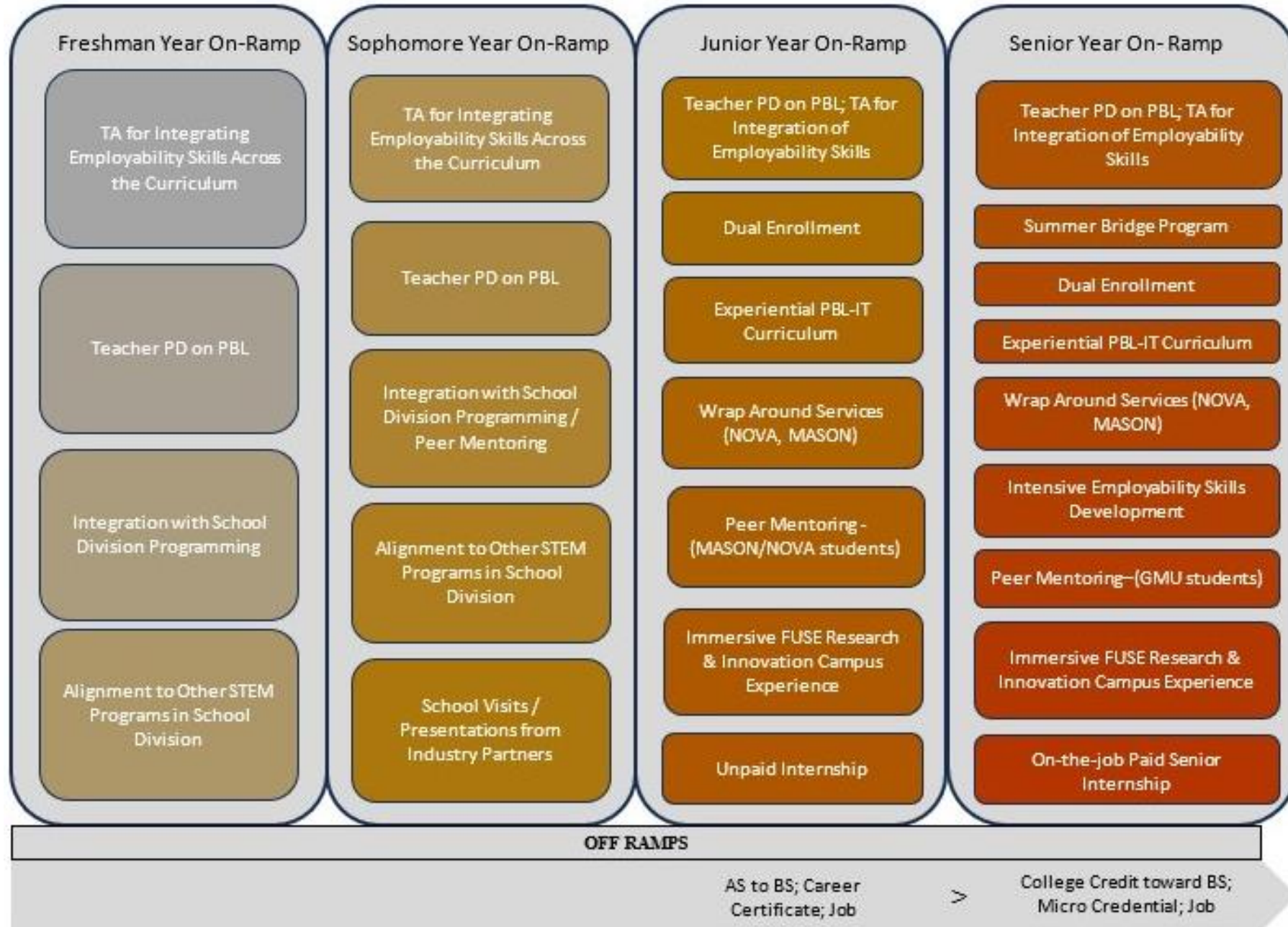
### Mission

To provide new innovative pathways for traditionally underserved students toward high demand, well compensated careers, while simultaneously working toward two- and four-year degrees to maximize their earning potential over their work life.

### Vision

To prepare adaptable lifelong learners that collaboratively and creatively solve complex problems in any setting, as technologies, the nature of work, workers, and the workplace evolve over time.

# Instructional Model



# Support & Partnerships - Transdisciplinary Collaborations



## **Industry:**

Authentic Problems & Case Studies

Internships

Mentors

Site Visits

Guest Presenters



## **CEHD and IT:**

PBL IT Curriculum

Research & Innovations in Teaching  
& Learning



## **Mason, NOVA, LCPS, Other School Divisions:**

Learning Ecosystem

Dual Enrollment

Wrap Around Services

# Budget summary and Sustainability

Figure A: Illustrative Itemized Budget Spreadsheet

	Yr 0	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3	Yr 4	Yr 5	Total	Comments
<b>Lab School Operating Costs</b>								
Personnel	368,006	529,437	555,373	582,605	602,502	585,138	3,223,061	per lab school application pages 40-43
Non-personnel Expenses	380,154	93,033	67,100	39,865	19,970	36,797	636,919	per lab school application pages 40-43
Staff development	46,500	46,500	46,500	46,500	46,500	46,500	279,000	per lab school application pages 40-43
Equip/Tech/Furniture		-	-	-	-	-	-	
Admin Fee	205,340	171,027	171,027	171,027	171,027	171,563	1,061,011	per lab school application pages 40-43
<b>Total Lab School Operating Costs</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>839,997</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>839,997</b>	<b>839,999</b>	<b>839,998</b>	<b>5,199,991</b>	<b>[A]</b>
Annual Enrollment (# of pupils)		120	120	120	120	120	600	
Cost per pupil (\$)		\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$1,733,330	
<b>Estimated Lab School Funding</b>								
Planning Grant	199,789						199,789	per lab school planning grant
Start-up	1,000,000						1,000,000	per lab school application page 37
Operating		840,000	840,000	840,000	840,000		3,360,000	per lab school application page 37
<b>Subtotal College Partnership Lab School Fund</b>	<b>1,199,789</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,559,789</b>	
<b>Outside Funding</b>								
Local share			-	-	-	-	-	
Grant funding			-	-	-	440,000	440,000	per lab school application page 43
Philanthropic funding			-	-	-	400,000	400,000	per lab school application page 43
Higher education institution support			-	-	-	-	-	
Business & industry partner contributions			-	-	-	-	-	
Fundraising and development			-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Subtotal Other Funding</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>1,199,789</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>840,000</b>	<b>5,399,789</b>	<b>[B]</b>

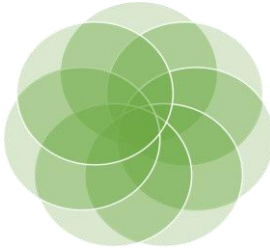
Funding Sustainability? Yes Funding is greater than costs

## Sustainability

Engagement among MASON, School District Partners, NOVA, and Industry

Scalable and Replicable Model

Continuous Program Monitoring & Evaluation



Using Data and Feedback to Inform Strategic Decisions

Diversified Funding Strategy

Fostering Community among Alumni and Families

Ongoing Professional Development for Educators

Over the six-year period of performance, the cost of the Lab School is estimated to be \$5,199,991 with \$1,000,000 of startup and \$3,360,000 of projected operating revenue needed during years zero through four for a total of \$4,360,000 requested from the Virginia Department of Education. Operating revenue in years 1-5 is based on \$7,000 per student and 120 students for a total of \$840,000 per year. George Mason University will provide in-kind support during years 1-5 and will work on securing philanthropic gifts and grants to support remaining proposed expenditures in year 5

# Outcomes

## Short-Term Outcomes

- ACCESS teachers will be competent in innovative teaching methods, specifically, Problem-Based Learning
- ACCESS students will develop foundational skills in Problem-Based Learning and Employability
- ACCESS wrap around services will reduce the administrative and financial burden associated with college admissions for students and families

## Mid-Term Outcomes

- ACCESS 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders will earn 15 - 30 dual enrollment and IT course credits
- ACCESS graduates will have higher self-efficacy in their IT and employability skills
- ACCESS Academy graduates will earn micro-credentials and industry certificates
- ACCESS Academy graduates will be enrolled in two or four-year degrees while working in IT related fields for which they were prepared

## Long-Term Outcomes

- ACCESS Academy graduates will earn two- or four-year degrees
- Employers will find ACCESS Academy graduates well prepared for their IT careers
- ACCESS graduates will increase their earning potential

# Contingency Information Requested

## **Additional Information on Sustainability**

- GMU's robust fundraising arm has over 135 team members working across the university. The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) unit reflects 35 years of fundraising experience and manages a sophisticated program that includes all aspects of philanthropy. Major gifts increased 7-fold, annual fund saw a remarkable 44% increase and support from foundations and corporations has steadily increased. A college record of \$5 million was reached in 2022, this coincides with unrepresented gifts to the university in each of the last 2 years above \$100 million. Additionally, CEHD has a proven record of working with industry partners to match public support, most notably the Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement (VISTA) project culminating in 2016. This statewide partnership was among 60+ Virginia school districts, six Virginia universities, and the Virginia Department of Education. VISTA was funded by a five-year, \$34 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education and required a \$5.7 million private sector matching requirement which CEHD successfully met.

## **Letters of Support/Commitment**

- Industry letters of support/commitment have been provided.

## **Enrollment**

- ACCESS Academy will be open to **all students** in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Mason and LCPS will conduct extensive outreach including additional measures to share this opportunity with families that have historically been underrepresented. Strategies would include presentations at advisory committees, including the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee, (MSAAC) Equity Committee, and Loudoun Education Alliance of Families (LEAF), collaborative work with local parent, teacher, and student organizations and other targeted communication measures.
- Additional information will be provided in the application.

## **Additional Detail on Meals**

- LCPS will provide meals to students while at the NOVA Loudoun Campus in a similar manner to LCPS small schools without cafeterias. Meals are made at the closest high school or middle school cafeteria and transported to the site.
- When students are at Mason's FUSE campus, Mason will provide meals.
- Additional details will be provided in application.