



**Accountability Plan
2014-2019**

River Valley Charter School (RVCS)			
Type of Charter (Commonwealth or Horace Mann)	Commonwealth	Location	2 Perry Way Newburyport, MA 01950
Regional or Non-Regional?	Regional	Districts in Region (if applicable)	Newburyport, Newbury, Salisbury, Amesbury, West Newbury
Year Opened	1999	Year(s) Renewed (if applicable)	2004, 2009, 2014
Maximum Enrollment	288	Chartered Grade span	K-8
Mission Statement			
<p>The mission of the River Valley Charter School is to provide a rigorous academic program based on the Montessori philosophy and rooted in the history, culture, and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley. Students will reach their full potential as scholars and become self-reliant, productive members of society. They will be adept at critical thinking and creative problem solving and will be fully prepared to succeed in future schools, careers, and civic life.</p>			

- Key Design Elements:**
- Montessori education
 - Curriculum rooted in the history, culture and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley
 - Critical thinking and problem solving

The charter school commits to meeting Criteria 1 through 10 as outlined in the Charter School Performance Criteria.

Date of Board Approval:	1-12-14
Date of ESE Approval:	3-15-15

Objectives and Measures related to Mission and Key Design Elements (required):

Objective 1: River Valley Charter School will provide a high quality Montessori learning environment for all students.	
<p>Measure 1A: River Valley will alternate internal and external audits of its Montessori program every year. Both audits will assess the school’s Montessori programming against the American Montessori Society’s (AMS) “Elements of a Successful Montessori School in the Public Sector”*.</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: Evidence of this measure includes the report generated by the external Montessori evaluator following the biennial audits. In the alternating years, an internal, or self-audit which follows a similar format as the external audit, will be conducted by members of the RVCS administrative team and a similar report will be generated.</p>
<p>Measure 1B: Annually, River Valley will be found to be in compliance with a minimum of 18 of the 20 applicable American Montessori Society’s (AMS) “Elements of a Successful Montessori School in the Public Sector”*.</p> <p><i>*Exception: The document contains 22 elements. Two elements require a 2.5-6 year old multi-age grouping that is not possible due to MA public school design limitations. RVCS excludes these two elements from the measurement.</i></p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: Every year a table indicating the number of elements in which River Valley Charter School is compliant with the AMS “Elements of a Successful Montessori School in the Public Sector” guidelines will be produced based on either the internal or external audit.</p>
<p>Measure 1C: At the end of each academic year, at least 90% of lead teachers in grades K-6 will be Montessori trained by an accredited training institution.</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: At the end of every school year, River Valley Charter School will collect training/credential information from every grade K-6 lead teacher. It will include the name of the training institution, the location and the name of the training/credential received, and the date the training/credential was completed.</p>
Objective 2: Every River Valley Charter School student will demonstrate their learning about the history, culture and ecology of the Merrimack River Valley.	
<p>Measure 2A: Annually, every class will engage in a minimum of three place-based learning experiences about the history, culture or ecology of the Merrimack River Valley.</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: Aggregated data will be collected which identifies the participating classroom and grade levels, the name and location of the experience, the date, and the educational relevance of the experience.</p>
<p>Measure 2B: Annually, every student in grades 3 through 8 will demonstrate their place-based knowledge to a group of peers and adults through written, oral or multi-media presentations. A minimum of 85% of students at each grade level will earn a score of 3 or better, on a 1 to 4 scale, on an assessment rated against a</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: Student scores will be collected, aggregated and graphed by grade to reflect student scores on the presentations.</p>

<p>standardized place-based learning rubric for their grade level. Rubrics will include specific language designed to assess the level of student learning about the history, culture or ecology of the Merrimack River Valley.</p>	
<p>Objective 3: Every graduating student will demonstrate the ability to critically self-reflect and to assess their academic strengths and challenges.</p>	
<p>Measure 3A: Annually, 100% of graduating students will successfully create and deliver a River Valley Celebration of Learning (COL). Every COL will include a portfolio of student work with corresponding reflections for selected artifacts, as well as a formal presentation to peers and adults.</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: At year-end the schedule for the Celebration of Learning presentations will be collected to reflect every student’s participation. Project guidelines will be collected and reported as well.</p>
<p>Measure 3B: 90% of graduating students will earn a final score of 3 or better, on a 1 to 4 scale, on rubrics specifically designed to assess the student’s ability to critically self-reflect during their COL. Rubrics will be completed by a minimum of four jurors, including both internal RVCS staff and external, non-RVCS jurors. (From 2011-2013, graduating classes have averaged 91% on this measure.)</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: Student scores will be collected, aggregated and graphed to reflect student scores on the presentations.</p>

Objective and Measures related to Dissemination (required):

<p>Objective 4: RVCS will share its Montessori curriculum with other school in Massachusetts over the course of its charter term.</p>	
<p>Measure 4A: By the end of this charter term, RVCS staff will lead at least ten workshops or presentations for non-RVCS teachers to disseminate best practices in public Montessori education. RVCS staff will average two workshops or presentations per year toward this objective.</p>	<p>Kinds of data gathered/data collection plan: Conference or workshop acceptance letters, PDP certificates, and documents related to the presentations.</p>