

## RREV School Snapshot – RSU #22 (Hampden Academy)

### Background

In June 2020, the Maine Department of Education (MDOE) was awarded a \$16.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Rethink K–12 Education Models program to implement the Rethinking Responsive Education Ventures (RREV) program. The overarching purpose of RREV is to support Maine educators to create, implement, and disseminate responsive and innovative educational models that help all students learn and thrive.

### Pilot Description

In March 2022, Hampden Academy (RSU 22) received an Accelerator award from RREV to implement its individualized learning pathway pilot, *The Corral*, which is in the Online Learning category.

The overarching goal of this pilot is to:

- Provide an individualized learning pathway with in-person and digital learning options for students who were disengaged and struggling with the return to in-person school, and in so doing support their social-emotional well-being and academic performance.

Key activities of this pilot include:

- Hiring a facilitator for the Corral program who is solely designated to the individualized learning pathway.
  - The facilitator acts as a coach who is especially equipped to handle academic progress and socio-emotional needs of students.
  - The facilitator meets with each student weekly to help them self-regulate their learning and socio-emotional wellbeing. This includes activities that focus on goal setting and providing strategies to meet those goals.
  - The facilitator supports students by teaching them strategies, including time management, focus, study, and other executive functioning skills, to be effective learners in the Corral program.
- Identify and acquire curriculum and technology, online subscriptions, and a remote learning platform.
- Foster students’ sense of connection with their peers through seminars and in-person field trips, such as involvement with workplace and community partners.

### Exhibit: RREV Award Summary

Category	Year 1
Personal Services – Salaries and Stipend	\$40,430.31
Employee Benefits	\$16,615.90
Purchased Professional Services	\$1,500
Other purchased services	\$5,000
Instructional Supplies	\$2,500
Technology Related Supplies	\$11,250
Miscellaneous	\$22,813.79

- 9 students are directly involved.
- Serves Grades 10-12
- 1 teacher, the Corral Facilitator, is directly involved

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
--------------	------------------

### Responsiveness of the pilot

Hampden Academy's Corral program is responsive to local needs and/or assets because:

- **The Corral pathway targets students who benefit from elements of in-person and remote learning.** With the transition to remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff noted that while some students reported being disconnected from their peers and from school in general, others thrived in the remote learning modality. With the return to in-person instruction, staff shared that some of these students experienced difficulties in this in-person instructional setting. While Hampden Academy offered an alternative education program consisting of remote learning, they did not have a program in place that offered elements of remote and in-person learning prior to the inception of the pilot. The Corral Program is primarily designed to support students who have had success in the past with remote learning and aims to provide positive experiences to help these students reconnect with school, their peers, and their teachers. Students in the Corral program engage in a hybrid mix of online asynchronous courses and in-person activities, such as weekly seminars with the Corral Facilitator, courses, and other in-person experiences, such as field trips, community service and workplace activities.
- **The Corral pathway is both flexible and individualized to students' learning needs.** Hampden Academy's Corral pathway is tailored to students' needs and offers flexibility for students to achieve their academic and socio-emotional goals. The pilot offers a unique blend of structure, flexibility, and in-person experiences that are tailored to students' academic and social-emotional wellbeing. As an example of the flexible and individualized nature of the pathway, staff noted that while most students are taking the asynchronous online courses at their own pace, one student completes asynchronous courses under a given timeframe, (i.e., not self-paced). This is because, as the staff noted, that this student expressed that they needed deadlines in order to manage their schoolwork. Moreover, the program offers both in-person and digital learning which students can choose from based on their learning goals. The Corral Facilitator provides ongoing one-on-one individualized support and ensures that students are set up for success in the pathway by way of providing feedback on their progress and performance as well as equipping students with study strategies and self-regulated learning skills.

### Innovativeness of the pilot

Hampden Academy's Corral program is innovative because:

- **Students are entrusted with more responsibility over what and how they learn.** The Corral Facilitator provides ongoing support, including one-on-one meetings with students encouraging them to set their learning goals, assisting them with creating their PowerSchool schedule, and leveraging existing technology (e.g., Google calendars and reminders) to manage their time and resources for the week. The facilitator also provides weekly Corral seminars where students are taught study strategies, time management, and other executive functioning skills necessary to be successful in Corral. In doing so, the Corral Facilitator's goal is to empower students with necessary strategies and skills to be successful. In practice, this means students have more

autonomy over what courses they take, how they choose to take these courses, how many courses they enroll in, and their learning pace. The role of the administrator is also reimagined in this setting where there is an increased emphasis on being flexible and having an open mind that students' voices are at the center of learning in the Corral program. As such, the pilot is considered another tool in RSU 22's toolbox to ensure that all students have an opportunity to succeed in school.

### Sustainability of the pilot

Hampden Academy's strategy for the sustaining its pilot model includes:

- **Identify supplemental funding sources from local avenues.** Staff noted that they were successful in obtaining supplies and online subscriptions for future use. However, a challenge to sustaining the pilot is having adequate to support the Corral Facilitator. Key to this is to identify additional sources of funding at the local level that would continue to be available at the culmination of the RREV award year that could be used to continue to offer the pilot. Staff recognized the importance of capturing data that speaks to the impact of the pilot as one of the ways to potentially identify additional funding sources.