Veritas Preparatory Charter School ranks among state’s best for MCAS scores
Veritas scholars ranked second overall in the state for math and fifth for English language arts

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Veritas Preparatory Charter School, a public charter school in the south end of Springfield, today announced that the release of the most recent MCAS data shows the school ranks second in the Commonwealth for math student growth percentiles (SGP), and fifth for English language arts (ELA).

“This is a testament to the hard work of both our staff and scholars,” said Rachel Romano, founder and executive director of Veritas Prep. “This growth percentile is very important because it does not just show a student’s absolute performance, but rather how much they’ve learned in comparison to their academic peers across the state. This shows the value we added for our scholars in just one year.”

Highlights of the report include:

- Veritas’ 8th grade math SGP of 94 is the highest 8th grade SGP of all schools in the state.
- The overall percent of Veritas students scoring “Proficient” or above* in all three subjects was higher than the statewide averages across grades 5-8.

*Meeting or exceeding expectations in ELA and math and earning “Proficient” or “Advanced” in science.

- More than 70 percent of Veritas 8th graders met or exceeded expectations in both ELA and math, significantly higher than the state average, which is below 50 percent.
27 percent of Veritas 8th graders exceeded expectations in math, compared to 9 percent of 8th graders across the state and 1 percent of 8th graders in Springfield. This means:
  - 15 of the 55 8th graders at Veritas exceeded expectations in math (27 percent)
  - 19 of the 1,618 8th graders in Springfield district exceeded expectations in math (1 percent)

Overall SGP in both subjects was strong: ELA SGP was 72.5 and math SGP was 73.5

Median SGP was particularly strong across the following grades and subjects:
  - 8th grade SGP was 94 in math and 82.5 in ELA
  - 7th grade SGP was 72.5 in ELA
  - 6th grade SGP was 75 in math and 72.5 in ELA
  - 5th grade SGP was 72.5 in math

8th graders at Veritas had higher average scaled scores and higher median SGP than all other 8th grade classes in Springfield and Holyoke and nearby charters. The 8th grade class at Veritas outperformed many 8th grade classes across the state as well, particularly in math: their SGP of 94 is the highest in the state and their average scaled score of 514.5 was ranked 31st out of 477 8th grade classes (93rd achievement percentile, as listed on the state website). 8th grade ELA results were also strong, with an SGP of 82.5 and an average scaled score of 508.2 (83rd achievement percentile).

56 percent of Veritas 5th graders were “Proficient” or “Advanced” on the science MCAS, compared to 46 percent of 5th graders in the state.

Veritas Prep serves 324 scholars in grades five through eight. As a charter school, it is a tuition-free public school that is available to all students through an open lottery system.
About Veritas Preparatory Charter School
Veritas Preparatory Charter School opened its doors in 2012 as an alternative, public, free charter school in the south end of Springfield, Mass. The school features a longer school year and longer school days, a college preparatory focus with a rigorous curriculum, and individualized supports in order to close the achievement gap—the traditionally large difference between standardized test scores from an inner-city school student to those in public schools in suburban cities and towns. Veritas Preparatory Charter School’s mission is to prepare students to compete, achieve and succeed in high school, college and beyond. To accomplish this, the school’s educational philosophy is based on the principles of high expectations and a structured learning environment focused on student outcomes. Learn more at veritasprepcharterschool.org.

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