



Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership is a unique collaboration of the **Springfield Public Schools** (district), **Springfield Education Association** (teachers' union), and **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** (state). These entities are working to improve student achievement in the **City of Springfield's most underperforming schools**.

## We Believe

We believe that principals and teachers should have the power to make decisions tailored to their students' unique needs. We believe in the value of local partnerships and community participation.

So we've combined the autonomy of a charter school model with the support and accountability of the local school district to create the Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership, an equitable learning environment where students receive high quality education, rich support systems and specialized opportunities that contribute to lifelong success.

## We Value

- ✓ **Developing the whole child** to give them the enduring intellectual, social and emotional skills and development necessary for deeper learning
- ✓ **Differences in people** and how a racially, multilingual, and culturally diverse community enhances the learning environment
- ✓ **Teacher voice** and participation to drive change within our schools
- ✓ **Our families/caregivers** and the expertise they provide in developing our students

## Impact

Since the inception of the Zone, SEZP has made the following impact:

- ✓ Only two schools serving grades 6–12 in the state of MA have exited underperforming status since 2019. They are both SEZP schools.
- ✓ SEZP has launched 9 new schools including two dual language middle schools, an early college high school, an early college/career pathways high school, an honors academy high school, and a 6–12 school for newcomers/immigrants.
- ✓ The high school graduation rate at SEZP's High School of Commerce has risen 40% in the past five years.

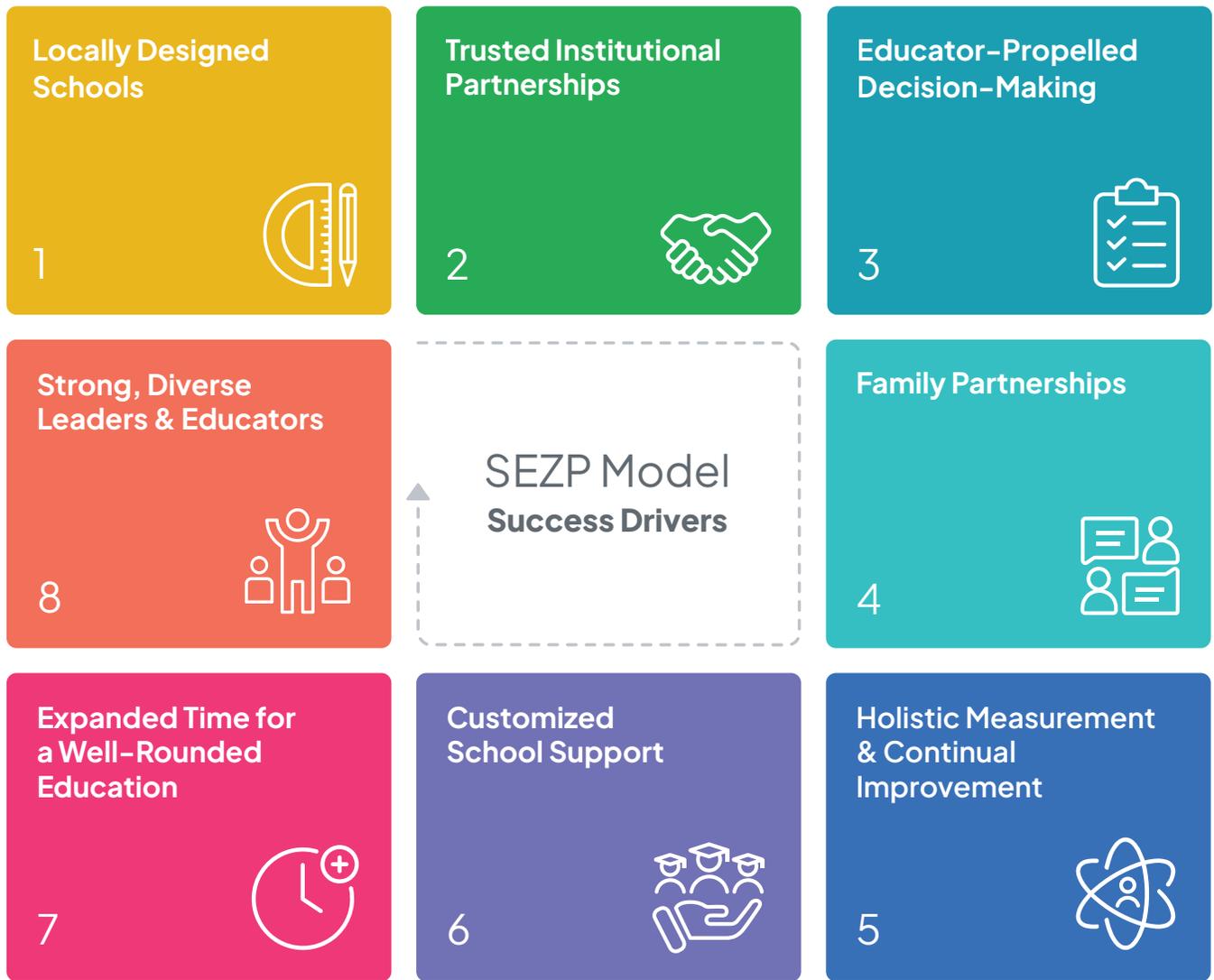
SEZP has launched 9 brand new schools including two dual language middle schools, a wall-to-wall early college high school, an early college/career pathways high school, an honors academy high school, and a 6–12 school for newcomers/immigrants

**5,115**  
Student  
Enrollment

**92%**  
Students  
of Color

**↑160%**  
School Leaders  
of Color  
(over 5 years)

**↑40%**  
High School  
Graduation Rate  
(over 4 years)



For details on how each Success Driver works, visit: [sezp.org/approach/success-drivers](https://sezp.org/approach/success-drivers)

*“SEZP demonstrates a collaborative approach to turning around low-performing schools and making them sustainable and accountable. This model gives our schools the flexibility and the tools needed to have our students and staff succeed.”*

**Daniel Warwick, Superintendent**  
Springfield Public Schools

*“The Zone partnership works in a way where there's collaboration. There's respect. We can have open-ended conversations, agree to disagree and still come out shaking hands.”*

**Tracy Sasanecki, President**  
Springfield Education Association (Teachers' Union)



Springfield Public Schools negotiated a new union contract that gives school teams the flexibility to be creative and to do things differently. The contract was overwhelmingly ratified by 95% of the teachers.

## Interested in learning more?

**Matt Brunell**  
Co-Executive Director

**Colleen Curran**  
Co-Executive Director

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**SEZP** // Springfield Empowerment Zone Partnership