



**MY BROTHER’S KEEPER INITIATIVE**



**Background**

In September 2016, Martin Van Buren (MVB) High School leadership and staff reviewed academic and attendance data for all student subgroups and identified young men and boys of color as the subgroup performing in the lowest third of all MVB students and who are most at risk for not graduating in four years. Data showed that the majority of these students entered 9<sup>th</sup> grade having performed at Level 1 or Level 2 on the State’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math assessments. Demographic, performance, and chronic absenteeism data for the targeted MVB group compared to the all student population are provided on Charts’ 1, 2, and 3 below.

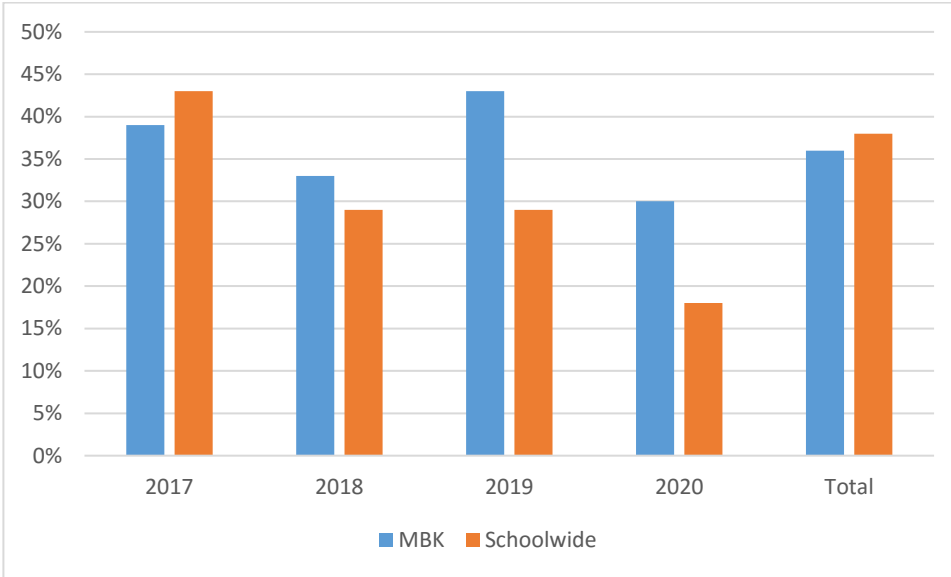
To address the academic and social-emotional needs of this targeted group of young men and boys of color, MVB established a My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) initiative at the school focused on creating personalized interventions to reduce chronic absenteeism and increase on-track credit accumulation.

**Chart 1 – MBK Target Group Demographic Data**

<b>Target Population</b>	<b># of Students</b>
Class of 2017 – Current 12 <sup>th</sup> Graders	31
Class of 2018 – Current 11 <sup>th</sup> Graders	21
Class of 2019 – Current 10 <sup>th</sup> Graders	35
Class of 2020 – Current 9 <sup>th</sup> Graders	30
<b>Total # in MVB Target Group</b>	<b>117</b>
<i>Disaggregated Data:</i>	

Target Population	# of Students
# Black Students included in total	90
# Hispanic Students included in total	27
# ELLs included in total	14
# SPED included in total	31

**Chart 2 – Chronically Absent Rates by Cohort**



## MBK Program Goals at MVB

1. To **personalize and enrich** the school experience for MBK mentees so that mentees become more engaged in school.
2. To **identify the underlying causes** of chronic absenteeism and begin to address the causes through peer-to-peer support groups and positive mentoring relationships.
3. By August 2017, we expect to see a 5% increase in the total number of MBK target group students with 10+ credit accumulation compared to last year. Our baseline goal is 58% (2015-2016), so we intend to end the 2016-17 school year with at least 63% of MBK participants earning 10+ credits.
4. By August 2017, we want to reduce chronic absenteeism among the MBK target group by 10%.
5. By August 2017, 10% or less of our participants will have 1 Out of School Suspension.

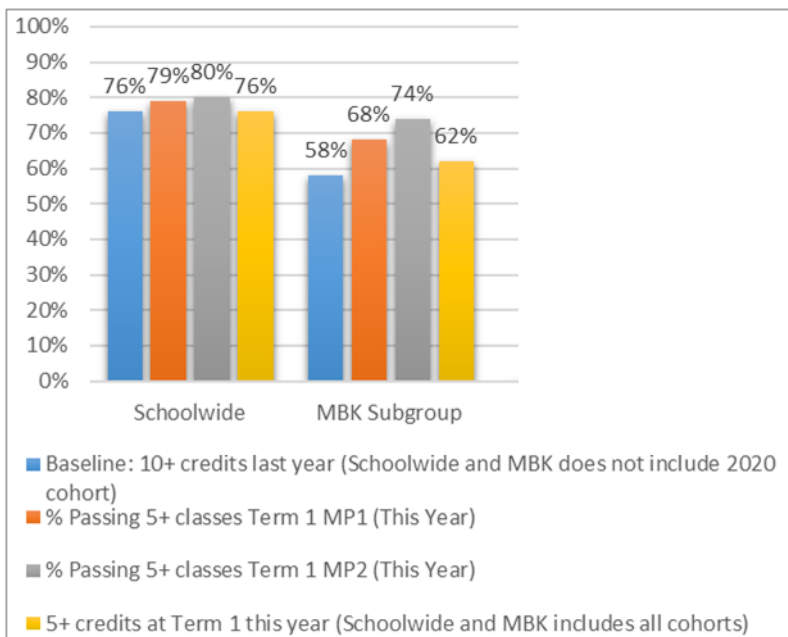
## The MBK Program Model at MVB

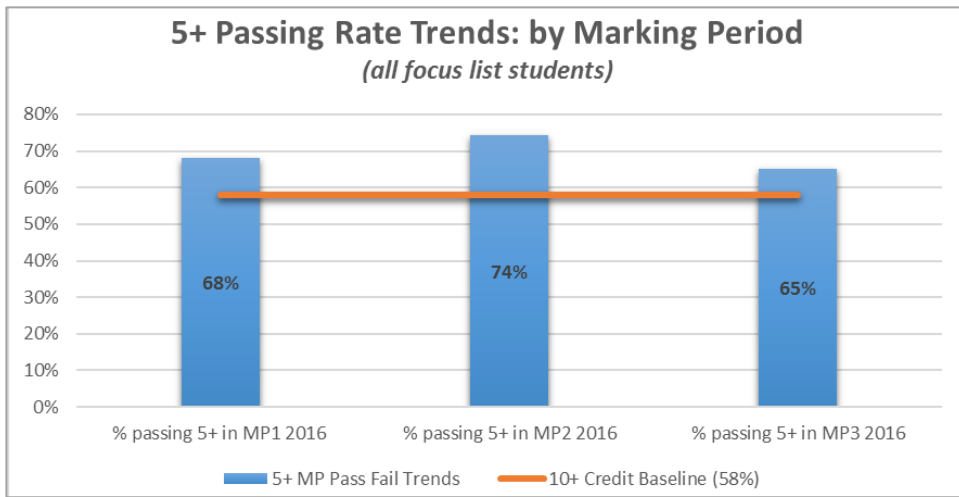
Peer to Peer Mentoring takes place every Thursday, after-school, 2:40PM – 4:00PM. Mentors are Graduating 4th year Seniors, boys and girls. Mentors are paired (Boy & Girl) and mentor 6 – 8 mentees (Freshmen & Sophomores) in small groups. During meetings, mentors facilitate:

1. **Academic and Social Check-ins** – Brief conversations to support relationship development, building trust and unity among mentor groups
2. **Weekly Goal Setting and Follow Up** – Extended 1:1 conversations between mentor and mentee, discussing mentee’s goal for the week and determining clear and specific next steps mentee and mentor will take to support successful completion of mentees’ goals.
3. **Team Building** – Mentors lead mentees through detailed team building activities. Each activity supports the development skills for Psychological Recovery and Social-Emotional Support
4. **Caught Doing Good** – Mentees earn rewards based on teacher recognition, or Caught Doing Good, for improvement in attendance, participation and performance
5. **MBK Pledge** – We close every MBK Thursday with a Closing Circle. One brother shares out something positive they experienced at school during the week. Another brother leads us in reciting our MBK Pledge while all the brothers lock arms in a circle of trust.
6. **MBK Study Hall** – Once a week, we host study halls in our MBK/VIP Lounge for mentees and their mentors to check in about academics and provide mentees a space to complete school work.

## Impact of the MBK Initiative – Term 1

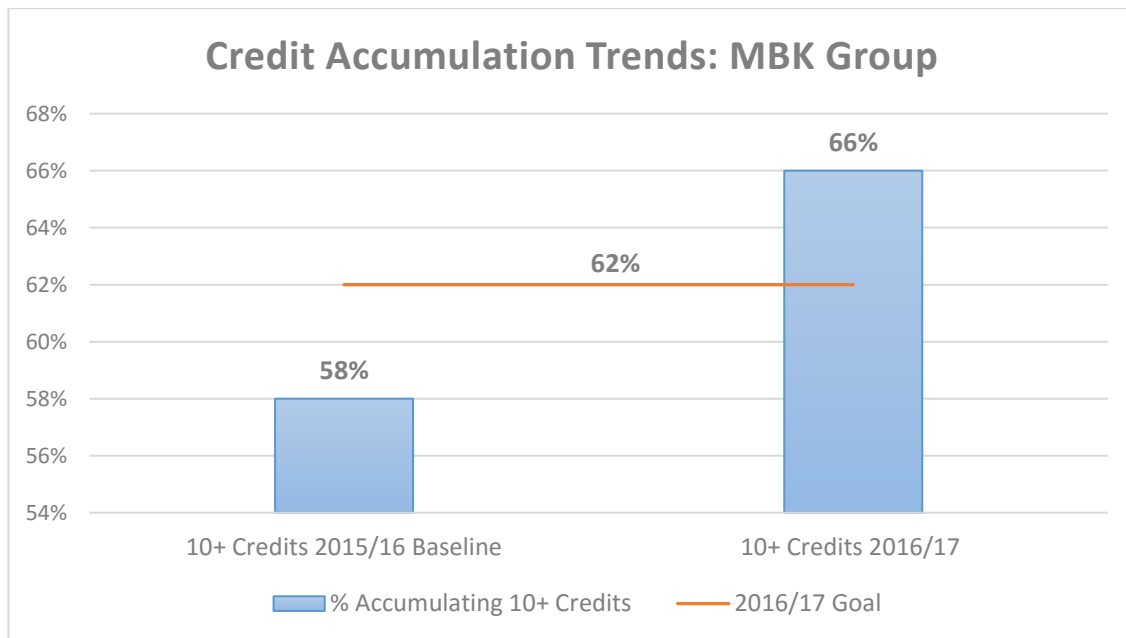
Charts 3 & 4 – Credit Accumulation and Passing Rate Trends



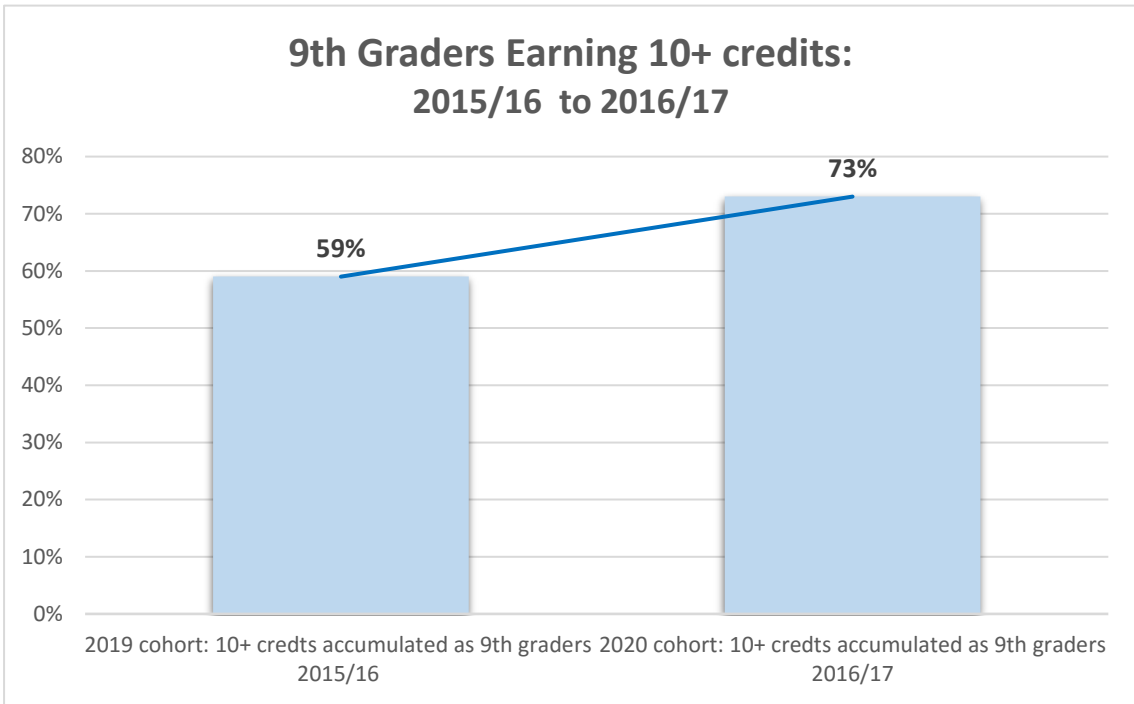


**Observations:** For the total 115 students (adjusted for withdraws) that comprise the lowest 1/3 subgroup focus list (MBK students), we see a consistent trend of an increase in students passing 5+ classes from MP1, MP2, and MP3. We also see an average of an 11% (MP1 -10%, MP2- 16%, MP3 – 7%) increase over the baseline goal of 58% 10+ credits from the previous school year. **62% of the MBK subgroup earned 5+ credits at the conclusion of Term 1.**

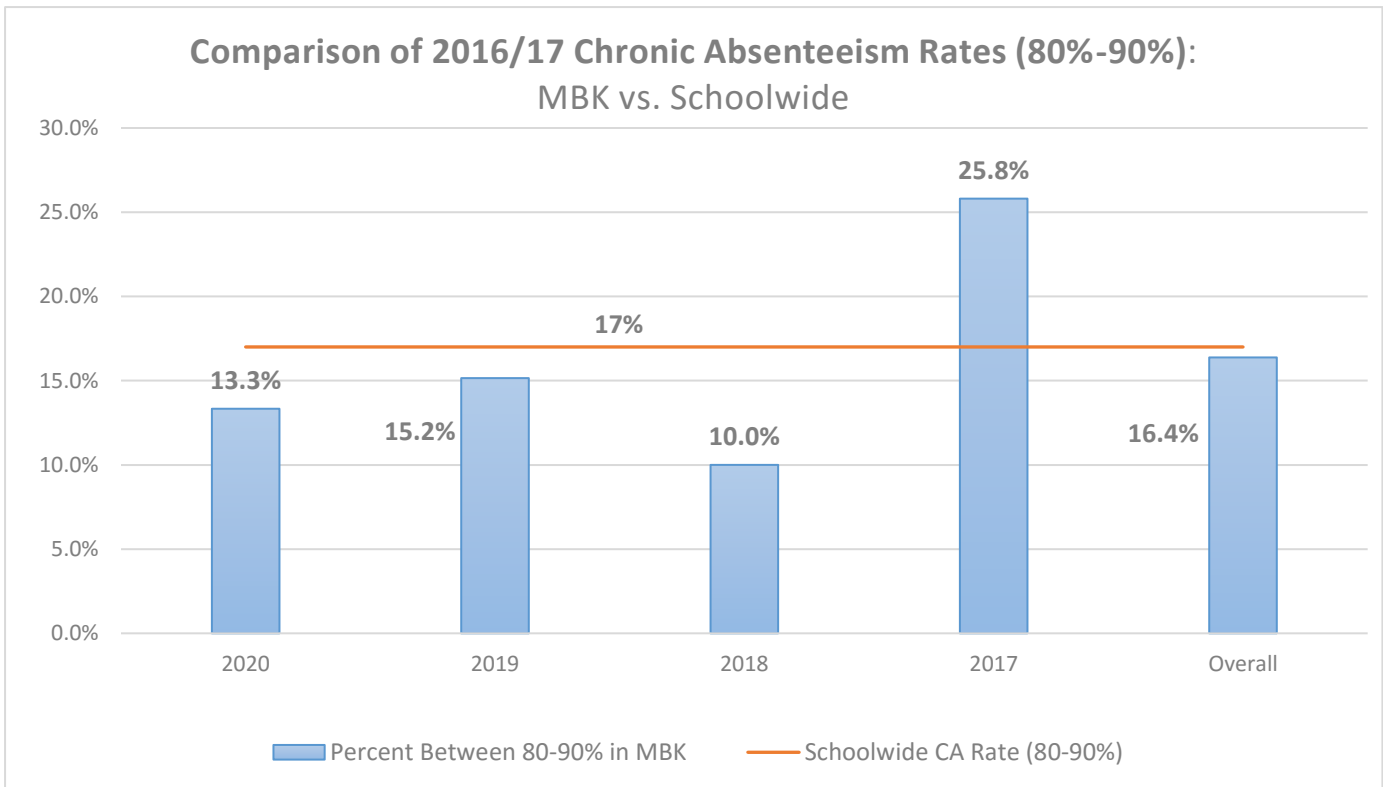
### Impact of the MBK Initiative – End of Year 2016-2017



**Comparing all cohorts across school years:** The My Brother’s Keeper group saw an 8% increase in students accumulating 10+ credits from 2015/16 to 2016/17. This is 4% higher than the RSCEP goal for this initiative.



**Comparing 9<sup>th</sup> grade performance across cohorts:** The 2020 cohort's 9<sup>th</sup> grade year outperformed the 2019 cohort's 9<sup>th</sup> grade year by 14%; 14% more students in the 2020 cohort earned 10+ credits during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year than the 2019 cohort earned during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.



**Comparing CA Rates across cohorts:** 2020, 2019 and 2018 MBK cohorts ended the year with a CA rate (13%, 15% and 10% respectively) lower than the schoolwide average (17%).

## Contact Information

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