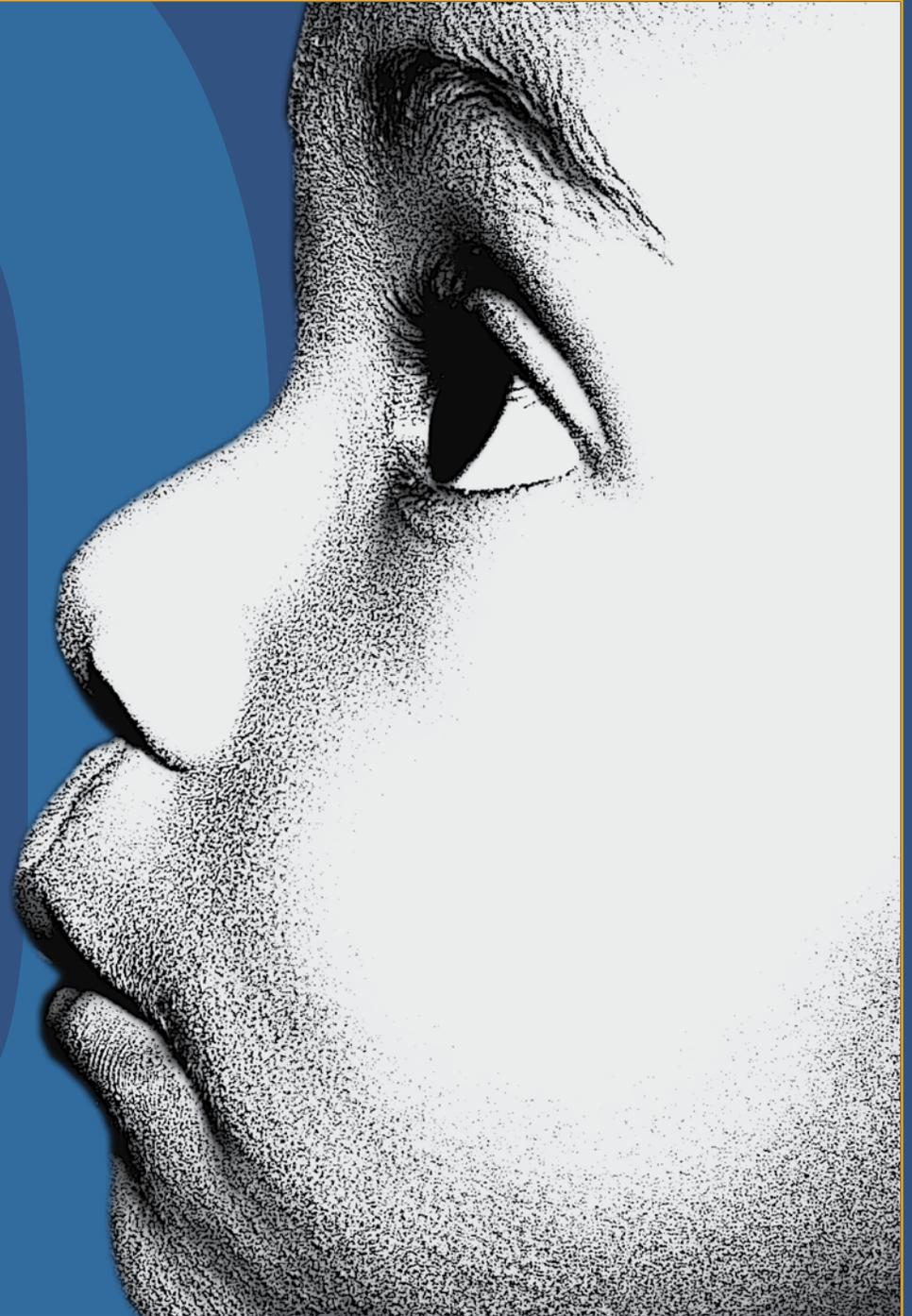


The Boston Opportunity Agenda

Tenth Annual Report Card

May 2022



A Historic Partnership

Convening Partners and Investors

- Angell Foundation
- Archdiocese of Boston Catholic Schools Office
- Boston Charter Alliance
- Boston Children's Hospital
- The Boston Foundation
- Boston Public Schools
- Bunker Hill Community College
- Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Boston
- City of Boston
- Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Boston
- EdVestors
- Nellie Mae Education Foundation
- New Profit Inc.
- Smith Family Foundation
- United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
- University of Massachusetts Boston



Table of Contents

Introduction		2
A Strong Educational Foundation		4
On Track for High School Graduation		8
High School Graduation		10
On Track for College, Career and Life		14
Postsecondary Attainment		16
Adult Learners		20
Birth to Eight Collaborative		22
Summer Learning Academies		25
Generation Success		28
Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative		30
Success Boston		33
About Us		36

A Note about Catholic Schools in this Report Card

Data availability issues prevented us from including indicators for Catholic schools in this issue of the report card. Once the data become available, we will create an addendum to this report card that contains results for Catholic school students.

We remain committed to creating a just educational system by removing the systemic barriers that create unacceptable outcomes and lack of opportunity for historically oppressed and economically disadvantaged populations.

Introduction

This past year has been one of ongoing challenges, marked change, cautious hope, and renewed strength. As we continue to navigate multiple crises—in COVID-19, economic suffering, social and racial injustice—children, families, schools, and communities are adjusting to aspects of what may be our new normal: resumed in-person schooling accompanied by sometimes severe teacher and staff shortages; an economy with labor market dislocations and rising prices; a renewed focus on racial justice in our institutions and systems; and a strengthened collective resolve to make our communities more just and equitable.

Last fall, Boston voted in Mayor Michelle Wu, the first person of color and the first woman to be elected mayor in the city’s history. She succeeded another trail-blazing leader, Acting Mayor Kim Janey. The new administration brings with it a fresh sense of hope, optimism, and opportunity, which has the chance to grow even more with incoming new leadership at both Boston Public Schools and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The past year brought change to the Boston Opportunity Agenda as well. Its long-serving founding Executive Director Kristin McSwain joined Mayor Wu’s administration to lead the City of Boston’s new Office of Early Childhood. Kristin leaves this organization strong, vital, and impactful. Its renewed mission and values reflect our continuing work and purpose. We remain committed to creating a just educational system by removing the systemic barriers that create unacceptable outcomes and lack of opportunity for historically oppressed and economically disadvantaged populations.

Over the last decade, our annual report card has been an important platform for tracking and reporting on successes and challenges at the system and student levels across Boston’s education pipeline. While the pandemic interrupted both this annual series and a number of the data indicators it incorporates, we are pleased to share with you this Tenth Annual Report Card.

It is clear from the data that the many months of interrupted or remote schooling—along with the public health crisis, economic adversity, and racially motivated violence—have taken a toll. Students in Boston returned to school and our systems returned to work to close the learning gaps that have ensued. Some of these gaps are evident in the downward direction of several indicators in the report card, such as third-grade literacy and sixth-grade math proficiency. Yet, other indicators point to continued student resiliency and success.

It is also clear that we must grasp what past and current trends tell us—about systemic shortfalls and signals of hope, about what we ought to do individually, institutionally, and collectively—to create the conditions for students to succeed, regardless of their race, ethnicity, family income, language skills, or disability. We hope that this report card spurs the conversation and action needed to get us there, as we seek to build on new opportunities created by the transition of leadership in the district, city, and state.

We thank you for all you do daily to make the Boston Opportunity Agenda vision a reality.

M. Lee Pelton, *Chair*

Antoniya Marinova, *Interim Executive Director*

Values Statement

Pursue Equity: We focus our efforts on young children, students and families traditionally marginalized due to race, income or immigration status who experience visible and invisible barriers to high quality services and therefore experience inequitable outcomes.

Adopt Anti-Racist Policy: We work to ensure that programs, services and supports are respectful of and responsive to the language and culture of the population being engaged and are rooted in anti-racist practice and policies.

Strengthen Community: We build diverse coalitions and partnerships across sectors while elevating the voice and leadership of community members most directly impacted by the challenges we seek to address.

Continuously Learn: We actively seek new perspectives and information as well as evaluate our work to ensure that we are continuously learning and growing across our networks and member organizations.

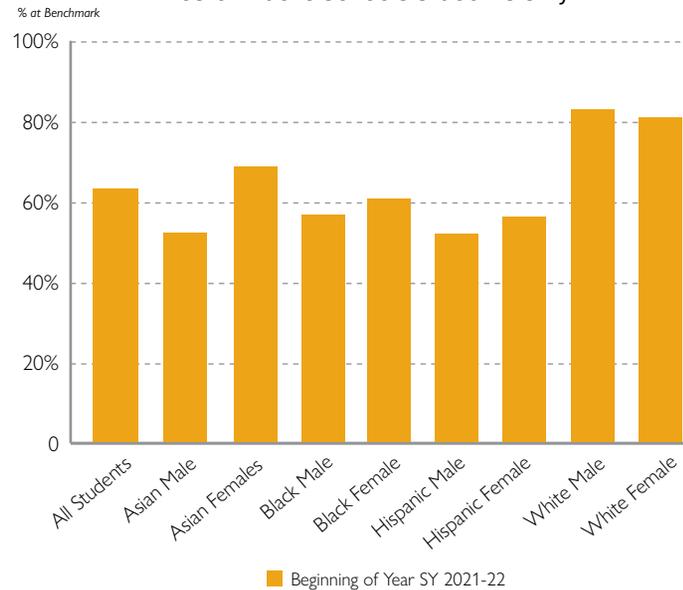
Act with Humility: We acknowledge the limitations of our perspectives and approach our work with humility. We actively seek diverse perspectives and historical contexts.

Achieve Impact: We pursue ambitious, meaningful changes that lead to access, opportunity and quality. We hold ourselves to making data-informed decisions and are focused on long-term success.

A Strong Educational Foundation

Early Literacy: Percentage of Kindergartners at Benchmark on the MAP Fluency

What's Under the Hood: MAP Fluency in Kindergarten Boston Public Schools Students Only



*MAP Reading Fluency is an adaptive universal screening and progress monitoring assessment for grades pre-K to 5.

How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

In the fall of 2019, the Boston Public Schools moved to using the MAP Fluency Assessment to screen students for reading. The MAP Fluency Assessment is given when children enter kindergarten and periodically throughout the year. In the fall of 2021, 62.8% of incoming kindergartners were assessed as having the necessary early learning skills. This represents a 5.2 percentage point increase over the baseline rate of 57.6% established in 2019. (Unfortunately, the pandemic impacted the implementation of MAP Fluency for students entering kindergarten in 2020, so we were unable to assess performance on this indicator last year.)

How is Boston promoting readiness?

Work to improve kindergarten readiness does not begin in pre-kindergarten; rather it begins when a child is born. Boston's Birth to Eight Collaborative is focused on increasing school readiness by ensuring that all children in Boston have high quality childcare, participate in developmental screening and receive referrals as necessary, and experience a smooth transition from childcare to kindergarten. We are also piloting a system to measure authentic parent engagement since parents/caregivers are a child's first teacher. In future report cards, we intend to track and report on the number of children in Boston who:

- are enrolled in high quality childcare,
- have received a developmental screening, and
- are "kindergarten ready."

Percentage of Kindergartners Achieving the MAP Fluency Benchmark

	Base Fall 2019	Previous Year	Current Fall 2021	Number of Students	Change Since Last Fall 2019
Boston Public Schools	58%	n/a	62.8%	1790	+ 5.2% points

Work to improve kindergarten readiness does not begin in pre-kindergarten; rather it begins when a child is born.

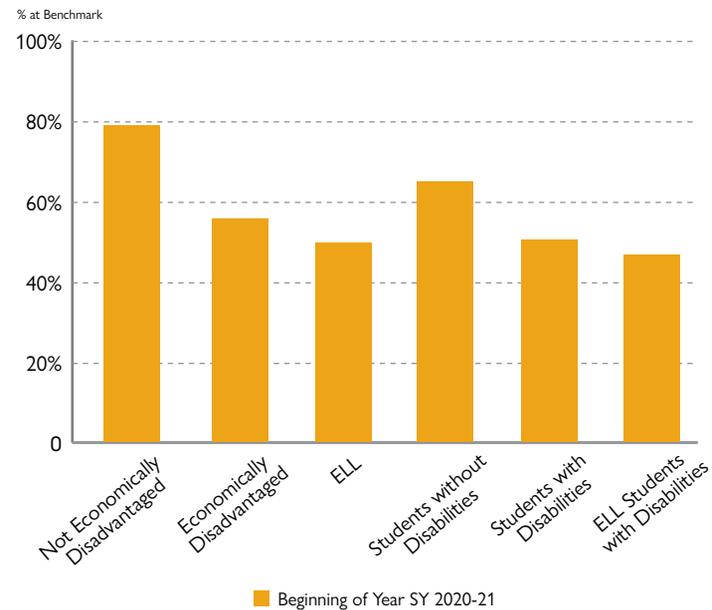
The Boston Opportunity Agenda is working with childcare providers and the Boston Public Schools to develop a common measure of kindergarten readiness across settings so that all children can successfully transition from pre-kindergarten into the K–12 system.

Why does it matter?

A child's brain develops more during the first five years of life than at any other time. Infants and preschoolers experience enormous social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth during this period. This is also the time when a child's ability to self-regulate begins to emerge. A high-quality early education program provides preschoolers with the opportunities they need to grow and thrive, and those who participate in these programs are 40% less likely to repeat a grade, 30% more likely to graduate from high school and all are more than twice as likely to go to college. They develop better language skills, score higher on school readiness tests and have fewer behavioral problems once they enter school. Finally, as adults, they have higher annual earnings and are more likely to be homeowners.

Other Drivers

Boston Public Schools Students Only



A Strong Educational Foundation

Third-Grade Reading Proficiency

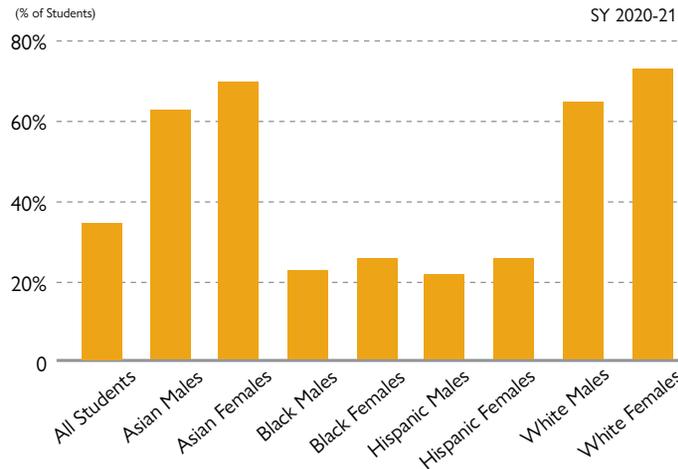
How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

During the 2016–2017 school year, public schools across Massachusetts administered Next Generation MCAS for the first time. For the next two years, students in Boston Public Schools continued to improve their MCAS scores year over year. This positive trend from 30% to 34% to 40% of students scoring Exceeding or Meeting Expectations was interrupted by the COVID pandemic: The MCAS was not administered in 2020. And in the 2021 test administration, the percentage of students scoring Exceeding or Meeting Expectations declined back down to 34%.



What's Under the Hood:

Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for Next Gen MCAS
Boston Public Schools Students Only



The charts on this page and the next show how this aggregate rate breaks down across different Boston Public Schools (BPS) student groups. The percent Exceeding or Meeting Expectations ranges from a low of 7% for ELLs with Disabilities to 72% for White female students.

Over the past decade, BPS has been developing and implementing an aligned reading curriculum from K1 to second grade. This work has now spread across the district. Over the period of implementation, there have been three different statewide literacy assessments, which has made it difficult to measure the real impact of these changes. Despite the pandemic setbacks in reading proficiency, the upward trend that preceded it gives us reason to be optimistic.

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

The decline in third-grade reading proficiency among Boston Charter school students was even more pronounced over the past couple of years. Thirty seven percent of Boston Charter public school third-grade students scored Exceeding or Meeting Expectations on the Next Generation MCAS in 2020–21, a significant drop from the rate of 52% measured in 2019. The aggregate figure reported here includes data from all of Boston's Charter public schools with a third grade: Boston Renaissance, Bridge Boston, Brooke Charter School, Codman Academy, Conservatory Lab, KIPP Academy Boston, MATCH Community Day, and Neighborhood House.

Percentage of 3rd-Graders Reading Proficiently

	Base 2016/2017	Previous 2018/2019	Current 2020/2021	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	30%	40%	34%	1159	- 5.7% points
Boston Charter Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	41%	52%	37%	238	- 14.6% points

Data from DESE and the Boston Public Schools

Note: The spring 2020 MCAS for the 2019–2020 school year was not administered due to the cancellation of state assessments and school closures related to COVID-19.

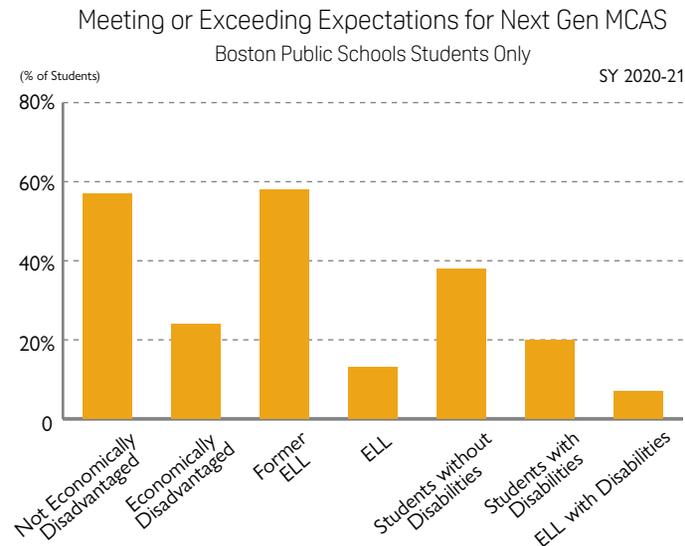
In the first three grades, students are learning to read; from fourth grade on they must be able to read to learn.

Why does it matter?

In the first three grades, students are learning to read; from fourth grade on they must be able to read to learn. In grades one through three, pupils are building skills, including all-important reading skills—and the habits they develop become deeply ingrained. Success in third grade reading provides a foundation that has an impact throughout students' entire educational experience, even affecting graduation from high school.

Over the past two years, students have been engaged in a wide variety of ways of learning: total remote, hybrid, in-person learning pods, in-person classrooms. For our younger students, these different learning venues appear to have exacerbated the challenges of reading acquisition. Therefore, in our continued attempts to navigate schooling options and environments during a prolonged pandemic, special attention must be paid to ensure that our youngest learners are acquiring the skills that they need for success throughout their academic careers. Reading is one such skill.

Other Drivers



On Track for High School Graduation

Sixth-Grade Mathematics Proficiency

How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

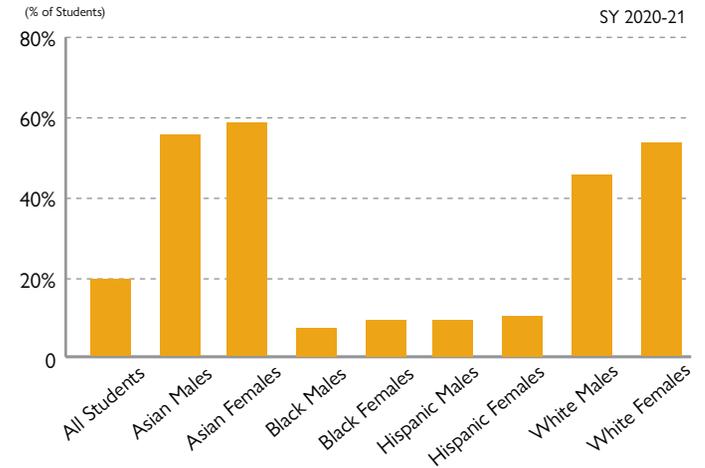
After the 2020 Next Generation MCAS exams were cancelled due to the pandemic, public school sixth graders in Massachusetts took the test in the spring of 2021 for the first time since in 2019. As a result of multiple pandemic-related disruptions, including prolonged remote schooling, only 19% of BPS sixth graders were proficient on the 2020–2021 Mathematics MCAS, significantly fewer than the 32% of sixth graders who met or exceeded expectations in 2018–2019. The charts to the right and on the next page show how different groups of students performed. The share of high scores ranges from a low of 1% for English Language Learners with Disabilities to 58% for Asian females.

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Sixth-grade Math scores in the aggregate were 21% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for Boston's Charter public schools. Similarly to BPS schools, this represent a dramatic drop of 34.5 percentage points from the pre-pandemic proficiency rate of 55% in 2019. The aggregate figure reported here includes data from all of Boston's Charter public schools with grade six: Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, Boston Renaissance, Bridge Boston, Brooke, Codman Academy, Conservatory Lab, Excel Academy, Helen Y. Davis Leadership Academy, KIPP Academy Boston, MATCH Community Day, Neighborhood House, and Roxbury Preparatory.

What's Under the Hood:

Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for Next Gen MCAS
Boston Public Schools Students Only



Percentage of Sixth-Graders Proficient in Math

	Base 2016/2017	Previous 2018/2019	Current 2020/2021	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	30%	32%	19%	603	-12.7% points
Boston Charter Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	46%	55%	21%	258	-34.5% points

Data from DESE and the Boston Public Schools

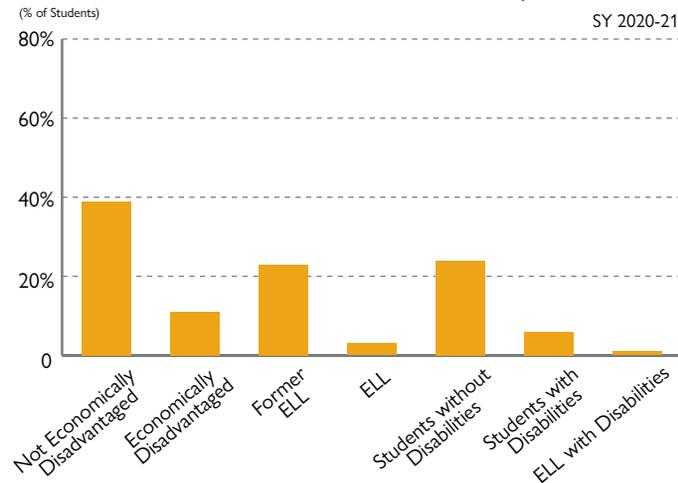
Note: The spring 2020 MCAS for the 2019–2020 school year was not administered due to the cancellation of state assessments and school closures related to COVID-19.

Why does it matter?

Proficiency in middle grade math is just one of the leading indicators for high school and postsecondary success. Successful completion of middle school math requirements puts students on track to access and complete advanced math courses in high school. As such, sixth-grade math proficiency has been included in the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's College and Career Readiness Early Warning Indicator System. Middle grade math is also a key metric that all three education systems are paying attention to, as they look to improve rigor for every student in Boston. The deleterious impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning, as indicated in these data, are therefore a worrisome sign. They should serve as a call to focus special attention to reversing these trends through additional personalized supports and opportunities for students.

Other Drivers

Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for Next Gen MCAS
Boston Public Schools Students Only



Successful completion of middle school math requirements puts students on track to access and complete advanced math courses in high school.

High School Graduation

Annual Dropout Rate

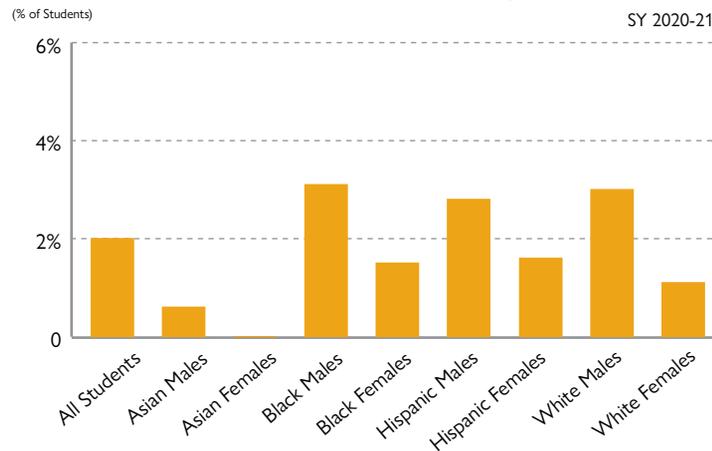
How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

In 2020–2021, the dropout rate in Boston Public Schools continued its downward trend and decreased to 2.0%. This is a significant decline of almost 50% from the 3.9% rate a year ago. At the school level, dropout rates vary substantially from a low of zero to a high of 25%. At the student level, the percentage of dropouts varies widely by both racial/ethnic group and gender. Overall, more males than females dropped out. Asian female students had a dropout rate of 0%, drastically lower than the rate of Black male students, who drop out at a rate of 3.1%.

What's Under the Hood:

Annual Dropout Rate

Boston Public Schools Students Only



The dramatic decline in dropout rates from last year may be a sign that BPS dropout prevention efforts are bearing early fruit: BPS introduced a tiered attendance plan that targets students who are chronically absent—a primary driver for many dropouts. In addition to training and technical assistance provided to schools by the central office, school staff are able to use Panorama Student Success to create individual support plans for students.

How are Boston Catholic schools doing?

It is not possible to quantify dropout rates for parochial schools, because once students leave a Catholic school, they often return to a public school or another private school. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Boston continues to work on a solution to this issue as well and is helping identify district and charter students who may have entered Catholic schools but are captured as dropouts in the public data.

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Boston Charter public schools have a remarkably low dropout rate. In 2020–2021, 0.8% of students dropped out of a Charter school. Academy of the Pacific Rim and Boston Preparatory had no dropouts in 2020–2021. Other schools included in the data are Boston Collegiate, Brooke, City on a Hill, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, MATCH High School, Neighborhood House, and Roxbury Preparatory.



Annual Dropout Rate

	Base 2012/2013	Previous 2019/2020	Current 2020/2021	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	4.5%	3.9%	2.0%	290	- 1.9% points
Boston Charter Schools	2.0%	1.0%	0.8%	31	- 0.2% points

Data from DESE

*Please note that there is a large annual fluctuation due to small sample size.

The dramatic decline in dropout rates from last year may be a sign that BPS dropout prevention efforts are bearing early fruit.

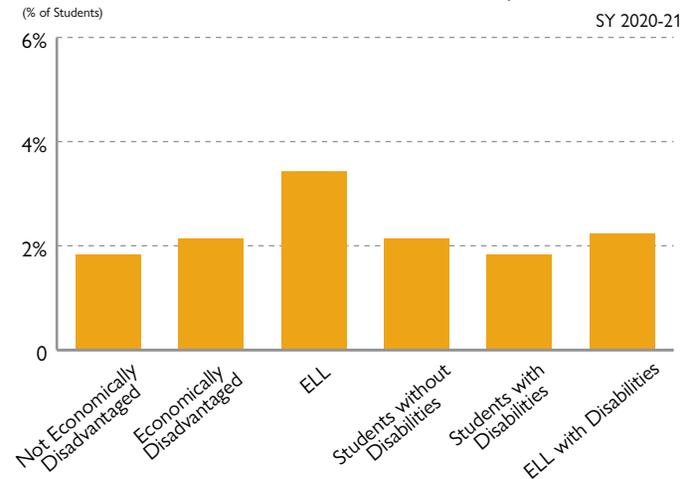
Why does it matter?

Lost lifetime earnings for Massachusetts Class of 2010 dropouts alone will total nearly \$3.7 billion, according to the Alliance for Excellent Education. If the state's male graduation rate grew by just 5%, the Massachusetts economy would see crime-related savings and additional revenue of about \$115 million each year. Further reductions in the number of dropouts each year would multiply these savings. And if all students who graduate were ready for college, as much as \$57.1 million could be saved each year in remediation costs and lost earnings.

Other Drivers

Annual Dropout Rate

Boston Public Schools Students Only



"Why does it matter?" source: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "The Ugly Truth: A State-by-State Snapshot of Education in America."

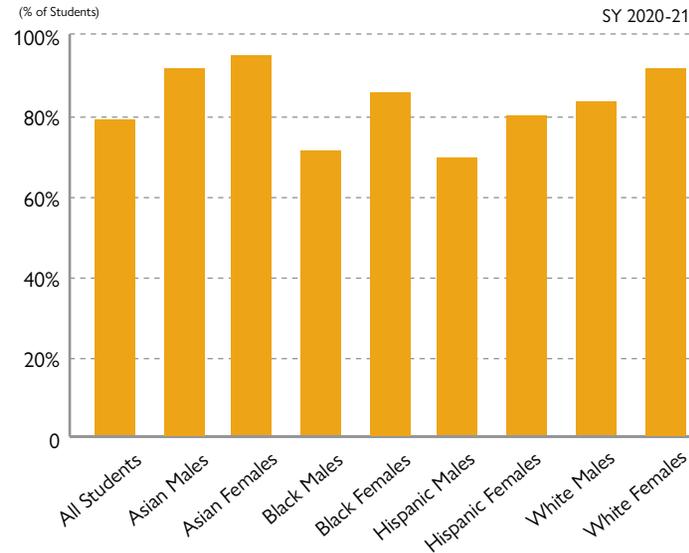
High School Graduation

Who's Graduating?



What's Under the Hood:

4-Year Completion Rates
Boston Public Schools Students Only



How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

Boston continues to have one of the highest urban four-year graduation rates in the nation, at 78.9%. This year the rate increased 3.5 percentage points from last year. This growth continues a 10-year upward trend. While this suggests strong improvement, deep gaps exist across race, ethnicity and gender. As seen in the chart on the left, the smallest gap between male and female students of the same race/ethnicity is 3% for Asian students and grows to 15% between Black male and female students. The gap between the highest performing group of students, Asian females, and the lowest, Hispanic males, is 25.4 percentage points.

4-Year Graduation Rate

	Base 2012/2013	Previous 2019/2020	Current 2020/2021	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	66%	75.4%	78.9%	3049	+ 3.5% points
Boston Charter Schools	74%	88%	89.5%	662	+ 1.5% points

Data from DESE

Boston continues to have one of the highest urban four-year graduation rates in the nation, at 78.9%....But deep gaps remain across race, ethnicity and gender.

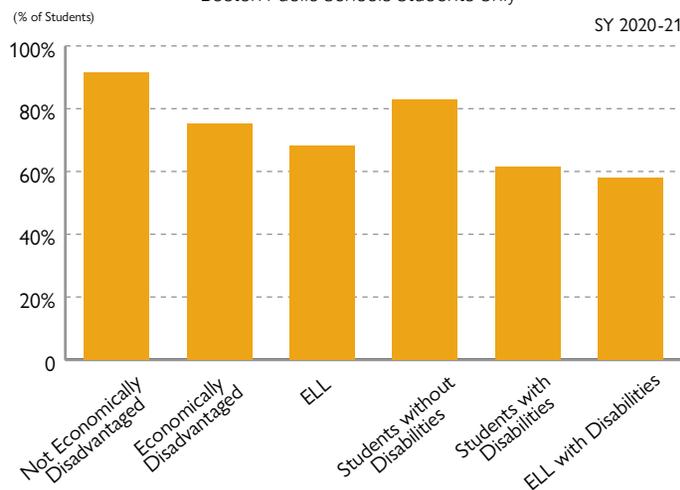
How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Ten Boston Charter public schools have been serving high-school students long enough to have a four-year cohort graduation rate. This year their combined graduation rate rose to 89.5%, more than 15 percentage points higher than their 2013 baseline rate of 74%. Currently these schools include Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, Brooke, City on a Hill, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, MATCH High School, Neighborhood House, and Roxbury Prep. As other schools grow their cohort of students, their completion rates will be added to this group.

Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, Excel Academy, and MATCH High School exceeded the 90% goal set by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

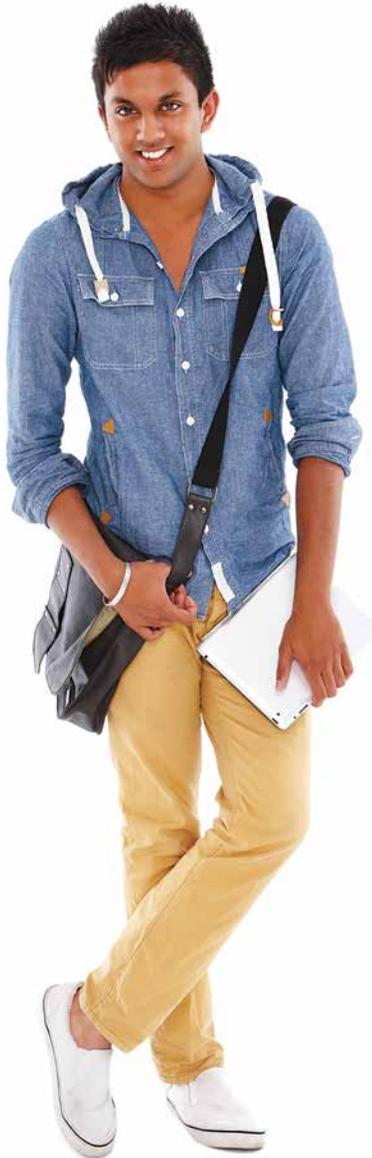
Other Drivers

4-Year Completion Rates
Boston Public Schools Students Only



On Track for College, Career and Life

Measuring Boston Students' Readiness

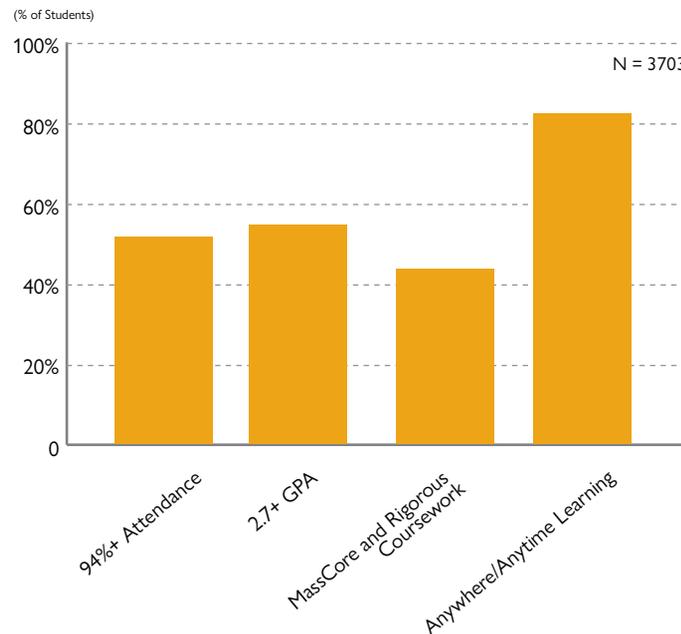


How will we know if students are prepared?

The Boston Opportunity Agenda's goal is for each and every student in Boston to graduate from high school fully prepared to further their education and achieve success as they define it. We will know that students are on a pathway to success when graduates are able to set a vision for their lives, chart a course to that vision, build competence, work with others, and change course as necessary.

What's Under the Hood:

12th Graders Who Graduate Ready
All Charter and BPS graduates



Students will be ready if they:

- achieve and maintain a GPA of 2.7 or higher on a 4.0 cumulative scale, which is an average report card of Bs and Cs throughout high school;
- attend 94% of school days or more;
- complete rigorous courses, defined as Mass Core plus an Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment or International Baccalaureate experience;
- participate in anywhere and anytime learning such as volunteering, internships, workplace learning, credential badging or credits earned outside of the classroom; and
- complete and begin to implement an individual student learning plan beginning in the ninth grade.

How are Boston's students doing?

For the class of 2021, 47% of the students who graduated achieved our readiness standard. This was an increase of 3 percentage points from the class of 2020 and almost at the baseline of 48% that was set with the class of 2017. A couple of years ago, 51% of graduates from the class of 2019 achieved this marker, but subsequent progress was cut short by COVID. Many students who would have participated in end-of-year internships and workplace learning were denied those opportunities because of largely remote schooling and work. Still, with the return of in-person learning and time to adapt internships to virtual settings, the percentage of graduates achieving the readiness standard is rebounding.

Currently all our school partners are able to report on the first four metrics and have agreed to track the implementation of individual

12th Graders Who Graduate Ready

	Base Class 2017	Previous Class of 2020	Current Class of 2021	Number of Students Ready	Annual Change	Goal 2025
Boston Graduates	48%	44%	47%	1726	+ 2.6% points	66%

Data from Boston Public Schools and Boston's Charter Schools only

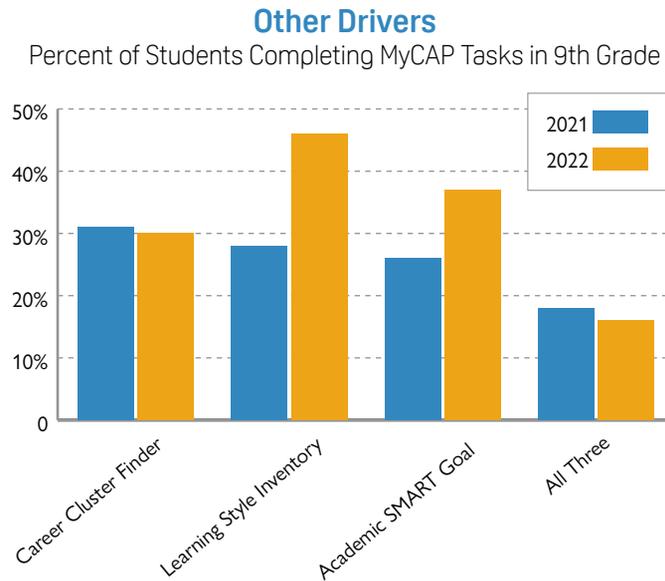
student learning plans. In the bar chart on the previous page, we report on each individual metric for all of Boston's high school graduates. On the right, we report on the implementation of individualized learning plans. (Over the 2021–22 school year, a specific focus in the ninth grade was placed on the career cluster finder and learning style inventory MyCAP tasks.)

The number of high schools in Boston is growing. Over the next several years, three high schools will graduate their first cohort of students. As they do, the students will be added to our reporting. The schools currently included in our data set are: Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Public Schools High Schools, Boston College High School, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, Brooke, City on a Hill, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, MATCH High School, Neighborhood House, and Roxbury Preparatory.

Why does it matter?

The Boston Opportunity Agenda has, since its inception, been focused on building a strong and seamless pipeline that will prepare students to participate in Boston's highly competitive economy and active civic life. Over the past 10 years, it has become clear that in order to achieve our ambitious goals for high school graduation, college completion,

and connection to Boston's workforce, we need to rethink the ways in which we engage students and prepare them for life and work in the 21st century. This will ensure that students do not get lost in developmental (remedial) classes in college or fail to connect to work or college immediately following high school.



In order to achieve our ambitious goals for high school graduation, college completion, and connection to Boston's workforce, we need to rethink the ways in which we engage students and prepare them for life and work in the 21st century.

Postsecondary Attainment

College Enrollment



How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

Boston Public Schools sent 61% of the class of 2019 to postsecondary education. This figure is 7 percentage points lower than 2018 and reflects all students who enroll in a postsecondary institution within 16 months of graduating from high school. The college-going rate for BPS increases if you look at enrollment beyond the first 16 months following graduation. However, we know from higher education research that one predictor of college completion is enrollment immediately following graduation. We also know that the majority of careers in the 21st century will require some form of postsecondary education. Our economy demands that larger numbers of BPS graduates enroll in postsecondary institutions and complete a credential.

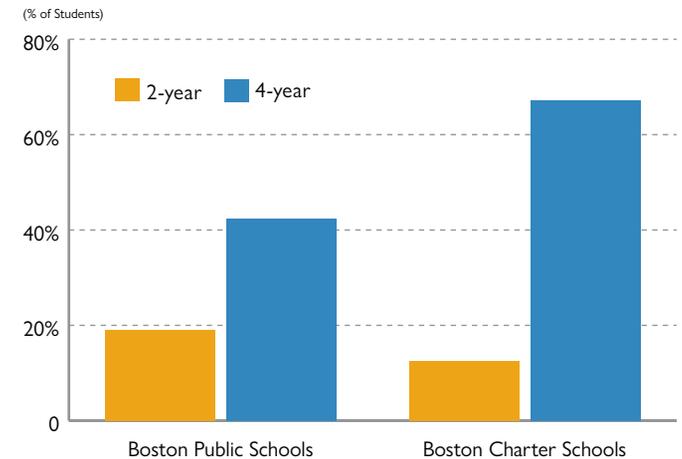
With the launch of our College, Career and Life Readiness metrics, a renewed Vision of a Graduate for all Boston graduates, and a strong citywide focus on the importance of a postsecondary plan, we hope this metric will dramatically increase over the next several years.

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Boston Charter public schools graduates also have a strong college-going culture and enroll in college immediately following high school at a rate of 80%. This is a decrease of 5 percentage points, relative to last year. Seven Boston Charter public schools have graduates enrolling in college from the class of 2019. They include Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, City on a Hill, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, and MATCH High School..

What's Under the Hood

Class of 2019 2-year and 4-year College Enrollment Rate



Data from Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

“What is College Today?” source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS).

College Enrollment* Rates for High School Graduates

	Base Class of 2013	Previous Class of 2018	Current Class of 2019	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	71%	68%	61%	2267	- 6.6% points
Boston Charter Schools	90%	85%	80%	354	- 5.3% points

*Enrolling within 16 months of high school graduation

What is college today?

Over the past 30 years, the composition of the postsecondary student population in the United States has changed. Today in the U.S., “going to college” includes a wide variety of student experiences ranging from residential living at four-year colleges and universities to commuting from home to a nearby community college or for-profit institution.

The reality is that more than one third of undergraduate students are enrolled in two-year institutions or institutions that do not grant bachelor’s degrees. The students enrolled at these types of institutions are working toward postsecondary certificates or associate’s degrees, which comprised 50% of the credentials awarded in 2018–19—down from 77% in 1970.

We know that the majority of careers in the 21st century will require some form of postsecondary education. Our economy demands that larger numbers of BPS graduates enroll in postsecondary institutions and complete a credential.

Postsecondary Attainment

College Completion

How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

The percentage of BPS students who graduate from high school, enroll in and complete a postsecondary credential within six years of high school graduation was 52% for the class of 2014. While the rate dipped slightly from the class of 2012 (54%), it reflects a fairly steady trend over the last several years of a rising completion rate with percentages in the high 40s or low 50s. As the district rolls out a renewed Vision of a Graduate and the work of Success Boston and New Skills Boston continues, the renewed emphasis on all students graduating ready for postsecondary pursuits and succeeding in them will increase the percentage of students who complete their credentials. Graduates of Boston Public Schools seek a wide variety of postsecondary credentials. These range from non-degree certificates that allow students to enter the workforce quickly, to associate's and bachelor's degrees.

How are Boston Catholic schools doing?

Boston Catholic schools have completed a data agreement with the National Student Clearing House. This agreement will allow them to track Catholic school graduates to and through college. We anticipate being able to establish a baseline for this metric in the near future.

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Class of 2014 graduates from Boston's Charter public schools who enroll in college are completing a postsecondary credential at a rate of 59% within six years of graduation from high school. This represents a slight decrease from last year's rate of 63%, though it is still a sizeable 17 percentage-point increase over the baseline class of 2006. It should be noted that the 10-year span from entrance into high school and potential graduation from a postsecondary institution—coupled with the relatively short time that Charter public schools have been in operation—means that the total number of students who have completed high school and are six years from graduation is quite small. As a result, increases or decreases in college completion of as few as five or six students can have a significant impact on completion percentages. The figures on the next page include students who graduated from Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, City on a Hill, Codman Academy, and MATCH High School.



College Completion Rates for High School Graduates Who Enrolled in College

	Base 2012/2013	Previous	Current 2020	Number of Graduates	Annual Change	Goal
Boston Public Schools	50% (Class of 2006)	54% (Class of 2012)	52.2% (Class of 2014)	1234	- 1.8% points	70%
Boston Charter Schools	42% (Class of 2006)	63% (Class of 2012)	59.3% (Class of 2014)	108	- 3.7% points	

Data from EDWIN

A typical bachelor's degree holder will earn \$1 million more than a high-school dropout over the course of a lifetime.

Why does it matter?

A postsecondary degree is essential for success in Greater Boston's knowledge economy, where more than half of all job vacancies require at least an associate's degree—a percentage that is expected only to grow. In addition, a typical bachelor's degree holder will earn \$1 million more than a high-school dropout over the course of a lifetime.

"Why does it matter" source: Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University, "The College Payoff."

Adult Learners

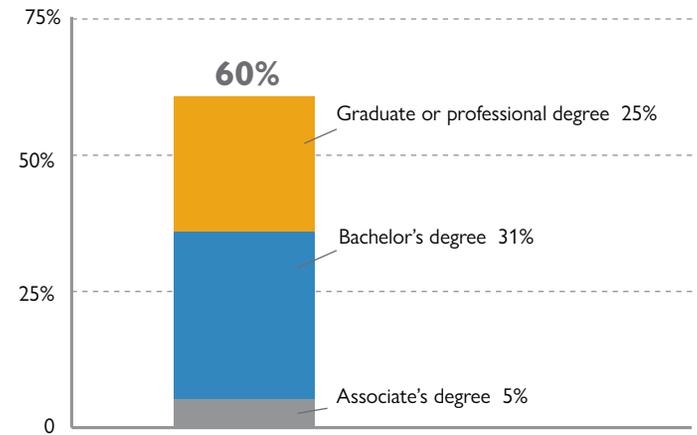
Credentialed for Success

How are we doing?

The Boston Opportunity Agenda reports on the percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds with postsecondary credentials because this demographic best represents the city's workforce. This year the percentage held fairly steady at 60%, compared to 61% last year. This puts Boston right at our goal of 60% by 2025. The breakdown of degrees remained nearly identical to last year's, with 31% of Bostonians obtaining a bachelor's degree, 25% a graduate or professional degree, and 5% an associate's degree.

We are learning more about how to move this metric in meaningful ways that will meet the demands of our regional economy and support every individual's ability to thrive, but we still have a long way to go. A great deal of interesting and potentially game-changing work is taking place in a variety of locations throughout Boston that will ultimately have an impact on the adult population and adult-serving organizations. While each initiative is at a different stage of implementation, all are connected to national or statewide networks that include other cities and communities. These networks, detailed below, will allow Boston to share our challenges, learn from other cities and celebrate our successes.

What's Under the Hood: 25- to 64-year olds with College Credentials



Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

Opportunity Youth Collaborative

Described more fully later in this report card, the Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) is composed of 80 different partners, including local community-based organizations, the Boston Public Schools, philanthropy, city and state agencies, and postsecondary institutions. While the Collaborative is focused on building pathways for young people between the ages of 16 and 24 to postsecondary education and a career, it influences the number of credentialed adults in two ways. First, young people who are connected to postsecondary courses of study will ultimately increase the percentage of Boston adults

Percentage of 25- to 64-Year Olds with Postsecondary Credentials

Base 2011	Previous	Current 2020	Annual Change	Goal 2025
51%	61%	60%	- 1% point	60%

Source: 2020 American Community Survey

with a credential. Second, the OY Collaborative is working closely with Bunker Hill Community College, so that the lessons learned from building pathways to market-based careers can have a powerful impact on the larger community college landscape.

Lumina Talent Hub

In 2017, the Lumina Foundation designated Boston one of 17 Talent Hub communities across the country. Boston earned this designation through the cumulative efforts of Success Boston by meeting rigorous standards for creating environments that attract, retain, and cultivate talent, particularly among students of color, the first in their families to go to college, or those from low-income households. Boston's Talent Hub work focused on developing guided pathways between Bunker Hill Community College and University of Massachusetts Boston, so that recent high school graduates can shorten their time to degree and complete at higher rates. The Talent Hub also strengthened advising for transfer students between the two institutions and devised strategies to re-engage students who enrolled in postsecondary education but then stopped out. Like the other Talent Hub cities across the nation,

Boston is committed to eliminating deep disparities in educational outcomes among Black and Latino students, who persist and complete college at lower rates compared with White and Asian students.

Why does it matter?

Our rapidly evolving, complex economy is causing a surge in demand for skilled employees. Two-thirds of all jobs created in this decade will require some form of postsecondary education, according to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce. Today, only some 40% of adults in the U.S. have achieved that level of education. Americans with a high school diploma or less accounted for four out every five jobs lost in the recent recession.

"Why does it matter?" source: Luminafoundation.org
Goal 2025, *Why is the Goal so Urgent?*

Americans with a high school diploma or less accounted for four out every five jobs lost in the recent recession.



Birth to Eight Collaborative

A Strong Educational Foundation

Convened by the Boston Opportunity Agenda, the Birth to Eight Collaborative includes parents and more than 200 representatives from early education centers, family childcare, nonprofit organizations, schools, public health, philanthropy, and medical institutions. Together we are working to ensure all young children are ready for sustained success in kindergarten and beyond.

In the run-up to Boston's 2021 election, the Collaborative released **early childhood mayoral recommendations**. These included a call to establish a cabinet-level Early Childhood Office and were endorsed by all four major candidates. Michelle Wu is now the Mayor of Boston and recently created the **Office of Early Childhood (OEC)**, an important achievement for the Birth to Eight Collaborative. Kristin McSwain, Boston Opportunity Agenda's former Executive Director, leads that office. The Birth to Eight Collaborative will work closely with the OEC to ensure all Boston children are ready for sustained success in school, career and life. Our current strategies to reach this goal are to:

- expand access to high quality early education and care;
- ensure all infants, toddlers and young children are screened and connected to services;
- increase culturally relevant family engagement strategies that build strong relationships, empower parents/caregivers, and incorporate family voice to improve program quality and child outcomes;
- develop the infrastructure for aligning and assessing early education and care and K–12 systems; and
- raise the visibility of and investment in early education and care for policy makers, funders and the business community.



The Birth to Eight Collaborative has multiple committees working to align resources and activities and identify new ideas for increasing the pace of change in early childhood; our shared values are foundational in the pursuit of our goals. A few of the Collaborative's contributions over the past year are highlighted below.

The Collaborative's **data committee** met regularly over the past year to continue to gather and analyze data necessary to answer critical questions in early education and care. We published an updated analysis on the impact of the pandemic on childcare. Coming later this spring, a new publication will assess the post-pandemic impact on the supply of childcare programs in Boston. Finally, a much needed landscape report of the early childhood workforce will be released later this year, using results from a new survey designed to improve understanding of the field—including career pathways, current challenges, and opportunities—and inform critical decisions about early education and care practice, policy, and funding.

The **family engagement committee** has identified four principles for strong family engagement practices: relationship quality between families and service providers, empowering families, increasing parenting knowledge, and family leadership and decision-making roles. Currently available online in eight languages, a new survey allows families to give anonymous feedback on the family engagement practices of organizations they engage with. Ten organizations have piloted the survey, and we are using preliminary results to support these organizations in identifying areas for improvement and offering professional development for staff. By fielding this survey once or twice a year, agencies will be able to monitor organizational scores and assess their efforts to provide culturally relevant family engagement practices. This family engagement survey project was featured in a 2021



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREW EBRAHIM

StriveTogether publication, *A guide to racial and ethnic equity system indicators*, as an example of systems-level work to achieve equitable outcomes for historically marginalized groups.

Over the past year, the Birth to Eight Collaborative also actively engaged Parent Leaders to learn more about who they are, what opportunities they are seeking and how we can better support them. Led by Families First/Boston Opportunity Agenda Parent Leader fellows, the committee designed and offered four virtual events as part of a Parent Leaders Learning Series. One product of this series is a survey to gather information on opportunities available for Parent Leaders across Greater Boston; a comprehensive list of these opportunities will be shared on BOA's website in the fall.

Screening helps to identify where youngsters are thriving and where they may need additional support.

The **kindergarten readiness committee** continues to work across BPS, Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK), and center-based programs to create a shared framework for what it means to be ready for kindergarten. The committee is also working to select a shared set of metrics that can be piloted across different settings.

Finally, a key strategy of the Boston Opportunity Agenda has been the **developmental screening** of young children. Screening helps to identify where youngsters are thriving and where they may need additional support. Over the past year, we launched the Screen Every Child (SEC) initiative, funded by Boston Children's Hospital, to build an early developmental screening and referral system to ensure every young child in the City of Boston is screened. SEC targets structural inequities that result in disparities in children's developmental outcomes through four goals: (1) sustainability through combined public and private funding, (2) alignment of best practices and policy across early education and care centers, (3) standardization of processes for screening, data entry, referral, and follow-up across all sectors, (4) a continuous improvement framework to identify challenges, evaluate data, and collaboratively problem-solve in real time. The SEC steering committee includes representatives from the United Way's DRIVE initiative, Shared Services, Universal Pre-K, the Boston Family Engagement Network, and the Boston Opportunity Agenda. These partners conduct communities of practice and provide technical training, data tracking, coaching, ASQ screening and referral, and family engagement. As of Spring 2022, SEC includes approximately 70 family childcare providers, 52 childcare centers, six external partner organizations, nine coaches, and 25 parent partners across nine Boston neighborhoods.

Community partners

Action for Boston Community Development • American Academy of Pediatrics • Archdiocese of Boston • Boston Children's Hospital • Boston Children's Museum • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center • Boston Community Capital • Boston Family Engagement Network • The Boston Foundation • Boston Medical Center • Boston Public Health Commission • Boston Public Schools • Boston University • Boston's Higher Ground • Boys and Girls Clubs of Dorchester • Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Boston's Brazelton Center • Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition • Catholic Charities • Center for the Study of Social Policy • Center on the Developing Child at Harvard • Charlestown Nursery School • Children's HealthWatch • City of Boston • City of Cambridge Dept. of Human Service Program • CitySprouts • Countdown to Kindergarten • Cradles to Crayons • Crispus-Attucks Children's Center • Department of Early Education and Care • Department of Public Health • East Boston Social Center • Efficacy Institute • Epiphany School • Families First • Family Nurturing Center of Massachusetts • Financial Empowerment Center-Dudley • First Teacher • Generations Incorporated • Girl Scouts • Head Start ABCD • Health Resources in Action • Hestia Fund • Horizons • Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción • Jumpstart for Young Children • Kennedy Center • KeySteps, Inc • Mass Department of Public Health • NAMI Massachusetts • Neighborhood Villages • Nurtury • Paige Academy • Phenomenal Moms • PPAL • Raising A Reader MA • ReadBoston • Room to Grow • Ropes & Gray • School Effectiveness and Inequality Initiative • Smarter Give • Smart From the Start, Inc. (Smart) • Social Venture Partners Boston • South Boston Neighborhood House • Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center • Strategies for Children, Inc. • Tartt's Day Care Center • The Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust • The Home for Little Wanderers • Tufts Medical Center • Union Capital Boston • United South End Settlements • United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley • University of Massachusetts Boston • Vital Villages • Wellesley Centers for Women and Children • West End House • YMCA of Greater Boston.

Summer Learning Academies

On Track for High School Graduation

In the summer of 2010, the Boston Opportunity Agenda, Boston After School & Beyond, and Boston Public Schools launched a pilot summer learning project. What began as 232 young people in five schools has grown to a citywide initiative of 212 sites serving close to 15,000 students. The Boston After School & Beyond Summer Learning network is a mix of diverse programs that implement an evidence-based approach to summer learning, with many programs integrating rigorous academics led by BPS teachers coupled with highly engaging enrichment activities. Dubbed the “5th Quarter of Summer Learning,” this program mobilizes partnerships between schools and community-based organizations. Boston After School & Beyond (Boston Beyond) also has an expansive and growing network of programs with a focus on high-quality, enrichment programs designed to provide Boston youth with fun and engaging activities throughout the summer months. All Boston Beyond partners leverage the natural, cultural, and historical resources of Boston, turning the city into a classroom.

Over 12 years of summer learning engagement, Boston Beyond and the Boston Opportunity Agenda have achieved major milestones not only in the number of students served and partners engaged but also in impact through rigorously measured results, in implementation of new enrollment and family communication systems, and in reach, as we have gained city and statewide commitments to embed summer learning academies in funding structures and programming. For more than a decade, Boston has been a national leader in high-quality summer learning experiences at a large scale, strong partnerships with a large and diverse school district, and partnerships focused on youth skill



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTON AFTER SCHOOL & BEYOND



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOSTON AFTER SCHOOL & BEYOND



development and program measurement to understand the impact these experiences have on Boston youth during the summer months. We've learned a lot about what it takes to sustain an engaging, high-impact summer learning model to scale across a city.

Sustain and grow promising practices developed in Boston After School & Beyond's network

The COVID-19 pandemic created several constraints for our partners and the youth and families they support. A strong and supportive network has been needed more than ever, and our partners met the challenge by providing resources to young people who have lost a considerable amount of time learning with their peers and educators. Despite the increased costs and complexity of their programs as they incorporated new public health measures, the Boston Beyond Summer Learning Community continued to grow each year, serving more of Boston than ever. The City of Boston mobilized during the pandemic to provide youth with engaging and fun activities like overnight programming on the Harbor Islands, sailing in Boston Harbor, and service-learning projects throughout several Boston neighborhoods.

Deepen the use of common metrics to change program practice

It takes a large and diverse community to provide Boston youth with the opportunities they need to thrive and develop a pathway to college and career opportunities. In Summer 2022, Boston Beyond introduced 20 new organization into our network, continuing to build a strong foundation of programs focused on student skill development. We engage in comprehensive program measurement and student support with new programs throughout the city. By using common measurement tools across the network to improve practice, maximizing the distribution of resources, and increasing collaboration, we continue to add to the power of our collective impact on youth.

Strengthen collaboration among the Boston Public Schools, the City of Boston, leading funders, and program providers in pursuing common goals and innovative approaches to close the opportunity gap

There was no shortage of community organizations, schools, and philanthropic organizations that wanted to find a way to support Boston youth in 2022. The outpouring of support allowed Boston Beyond and our partner network to respond to the ongoing pandemic-driven uncertainty in new ways. Boston Public Schools provided more funding and educator support than ever, with over \$1.5 million in direct funding for community-based organizations to address the lost learning opportunities for BPS students during the school year. Boston Beyond raised over \$3 million in new funding to help organizations find new spaces. We adapted our measurement models to support virtual learning and convened as a network each week to address challenges and celebrate our successes.

With strong results and a robust roster of 170 sites (and growing), our summer learning approach has produced the largest network of Boston Public School summer learning sites to date. Boston Public School's commitment to expanding summer learning has helped the Boston Beyond network connect with more students and provide them with meaningful learning experiences. Our story in Boston is one of continued collaboration, resilience, and forward-thinking creativity to provide Boston youth and their families with the highest quality and most diverse suite of experiences our city has to offer.

Summer learning partners

ACEDONE • Achieve • Alighieri Dante Montessori School • All Dorchester Sports & Leadership • Another Course to College • Apprentice Learning • Asian Community Development Corporation • Authentic Caribbean Foundation Inc. • Bethel Institute for Community Development • Boston Adult Technical Academy • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center • Boston Community Leadership Academy • Boston Day and Evening Academy • Boston Debate League • Boston Green Academy • Boston HBCU Alumni Network • Boston HERC • Boston International Newcomers Academy • Boston Latin School • Boston Lions Track Club • Boston Police Activities League • Boston Public Health Commission • Boston Public Schools, STEM Department • Boston Public Schools, Summer Early Focus • Boston Scores • Boston University • Boston's Bridge to Excellence • Boston's Higher Ground • Boxing Power and Fitness • Boys & Girls Club of South Boston • Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston • Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester • Bradley Elementary School • Breakthrough Greater Boston • Brigham and Women's Hospital • Brighton High School • Camp Harbor View • Catholic Charities of Boston • Charlestown High School • Children's Services of Roxbury • CitySprouts • Community Academy • Community Academy of Science and Health • Community Rowing, Inc. • Courageous Sailing • Crossroads • Discovering Justice • Donald McKay K-8 School • DotHouse Health • Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School • East Boston High School • East Boston Social Centers • Edison K-8 School •

Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers • Elevate Youth • English High School • Excel High School • FableVision • Frederick Pilot Middle School • Freedom House • Generation Teach, Inc. • Girls' LEAP • Greater Egleston Community High School • Greatest MINDS • Sarah Greenwood K-8 School • Grew Elementary School • Hale Reservation • Harlem Lacrosse • Harvard-Kent Elementary School • Haynes Early Education Center • Health Resources in Action • Horizons @ Dedham Country Day • Horizons Greater Boston • Hurley K-8 School • Immigrant Family Services Institute (IFSI-USA) • Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción • Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston • Jeremiah E. Burke High School • Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center • Josiah Quincy Elementary School • Josiah Quincy Upper School • Level Ground Mixed Martial Arts • Little Voices Early Care • Madison Park Technical Vocational High School • Margarita Muniz Academy • Mass Audubon • Massachusetts Institute of Technology • MassArt • Mildred Avenue K-8 School • National Park Service • Neighborhood Network Center Inc. • New Mission High School • Northeastern University • Nxt Era Panthers • O'Bryant School of Math and Science • OneLove Sports Academy • Patrick J. Kennedy • Phillips Brooks House Association • Piers Park Sailing Center • Richard J. Murphy K-8 School • Roxbury Youth Program • Shaw Elementary School • Snowden International School • Sociedad Latina • South Boston Neighborhood House • Speak for the Trees • Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center • St. Stephen's Youth Programs • Sumner Elementary School • Taylor Made Mentoring • Team New England Youth Academy • TechBoston Academy • Tenacity • The 3 Point Foundation • The Calculus Project • The HYPPE • The PIM Project • The Possible Zone • The Steppingstone Foundation • Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center • Timilty Middle School • Trinity Boston Foundation • Trotter K-8 School • UMass Boston • UMass Boston – Gastón Institute • United South End Settlements • Veronica Robles Cultural Center • Warren Prescott K-8 School • West End House • World Ocean School • WriteBoston Teens in Print • YMCA of Greater Boston • Youth in Crisis • Zoo New England

It takes a large and diverse community to provide Boston youth with the opportunities they need to thrive and develop a pathway to college and career opportunities.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOSTON AFTER SCHOOL & BEYOND

Generation Success

Ensuring Every High School Graduate Is Ready for Postsecondary Pursuits

Generation Success works with Boston-area schools, out-of-school programs, parents, nonprofits, and industry groups across the city to prepare students and help them discover and explore the universe of opportunities throughout Boston and our region.

In October 2020, the Boston Opportunity Agenda launched Generation Success—a citywide campaign to help all Boston students graduate from high school fully prepared to further their education and achieve success in life as they define it. In these uncertain times, we know how important it is for our students to craft a plan for college, career, and life after high school. We also know from our own research that fewer than half of Boston Public School (BPS) graduates are ready to do so. That's why Generation Success works with Boston-area schools, out-of-school programs, parents, nonprofits, and industry groups across the city to prepare students and help them discover and explore the universe of opportunities throughout Boston and our region.

In 2021, we created the BPS Class of 2024 Challenge to better engage ninth graders as they began their My Career and Academic Plan (MyCAP) journey. The Challenge consisted of completing the first three activities in MyCAP: Career Cluster Finder, Learning Styles Inventory, and Creating an Academic SMART Goal. Together, we provided training to school leaders and counselors, worked with schools to create individual implementation plans, and tracked systemwide implementation of the Challenge.

Following last year's success of more than doubling ninth grade MyCAP completion of all tasks, we launched the next iteration of the Challenge to engage ninth and tenth graders in 2022. This year, the BPS Class of 2024 and 2025 Challenge ran through April 15, 2022, and 20% of ninth graders and 18% of tenth graders completed critical tasks. Special

mention goes to the Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (EMK) where 99% of students completed all three.

This year, we also worked with numerous BPS school leaders, students, educators, and community organizations to update the college, career, and life readiness framework into a new Vision of a Boston Graduate. The Vision outlines key knowledge and skills that students need in order to be fully prepared for life after high school. In the coming months, high schools will work to develop individual school-based plans to implement the Vision with concrete strategies that work for their students. We will collaborate with district and school leaders on a public rollout of the Vision of a Boston Graduate in the early fall.

Finally, throughout the summer, Generation Success will work with BPS and Boston After School & Beyond to finalize our annual list of Generation Success–aligned programs for students to apply to this year and create student badges that reflect college, career, and life readiness skills gained during summer programming. Students can upload their badges to Naviance and the Common App and add them to resumes for future employment.

Community Partners

ACEDONE • Autodesk • Boston After School & Beyond • Boston Asian YES • The Boston Foundation • Boston Public Schools • EdVestors • Elkus-Manfredi • FableVision • Fontbonne • Freedom House • Hale • Private Industry Council • Sociedad Latina • Sportsman's Tennis • United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley • West End House • XR Terra



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLYANNE MAHONEY, AUTODESK

Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative

Building Career Pathways for Opportunity Youth



Convened by the Boston Opportunity Agenda and the Boston Private Industry Council, the Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) works to reduce disconnection among youth ages 16–24, with a particular focus on young adults ages 18–24. The OYC promotes systems change strategies and implementation of programs that address gaps in postsecondary and training pathways to high-quality careers. Building strong, durable partnerships through a shared vision and joint activities is at the core of our strategy to improve career outcomes for opportunity youth. We convene the OYC Steering Committee on a monthly basis to share best practices, coordinate on shared projects, and develop systems change priorities. The OYC Steering Committee includes a stable of collective impact networks and institutional partners, such as Angell Foundation, Boston Public Schools, Bunker Hill Community College, City of Boston Office of Workforce Development, CollegeBound Dorchester, DUET, Hyams Foundation, Launch, Success Boston, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, X-Cel Education, and Year Up.

One of the Collaborative's newest initiatives is HOPE Forward. Funded by the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, HOPE Forward is a partnership between the OYC and Success Boston to expand coaching among four groups of young people attending Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC): young men of color, alumni of the Boston Public Schools who never enrolled in college, BPS students who graduated during the pandemic, and students who started their college journey but then stopped out. These groups are all at higher risk of leaving college before graduation, especially during the intensely

uncertain times throughout the pandemic. Two HOPE Forward coaches now support students at BHCC, working closely with the Halting Oppressive Pathways in Education (HOPE) initiative at the college. HOPE itself was launched by BHCC to examine and eliminate the social, institutional, and academic barriers that prevent males of color from achieving their full potential. The initiative creates learning communities to support and empower students, conducts research on student experience, and adapts early intervention programs to scale up pathways for academic success. The HOPE Forward coaches are working with HOPE student leaders to advise Success Boston coaches on how to best support and empower young male students of color as part of the initiative.

In 2021, in partnership with the OYC, the BPS and BHCC also started the third year of the Data for Impact (D4I) initiative. This multi-sector collaboration focuses on improving data capacity and utilization as a continuous improvement tool for interventions that keep young people connected to educational institutions. Using data in an equity-minded way to identify policies and practices that need to change is an important institutional priority for BHCC; despite being understaffed and slowed down by the pandemic, their teams are enthusiastic about continuing the D4I work. The HOPE initiative is collecting feedback from male students of color on barriers to their success at the college to share with the administration. In its data governance project, BHCC has also been working on overall data integrity and taking steps to improve how data is entered and reviewed in each department; the college's Institutional Research team is collaborating with other departments to develop common data definitions. Meanwhile, decreasing chronic absenteeism and removing barriers for students of color are high priorities for the BPS, where the D4I project has also continued to bear fruit. For example, BPS's Attendance Committee

used data in adapting the attendance policies to show the value of a supportive (rather than punitive) attendance policy. In addition, the Tiered Attendance System is designed around continuous improvement. Through intensive consultations, school leaders come to understand their data and adopt interventions that suit a school's needs. Twenty-six schools have now gone through a detailed assessment and consultation process to develop whole-school, culture-shift interventions as well as interventions for students with attendance challenges. The BPS team is well on its way to reaching its goal of 30 partner schools by the end of the school year.

Finally, since the inception of the OYC, the leadership of young people has been key to creating and implementing successful initiatives. As we move out of the pandemic and return to a "new normal," the OYC will continue to engage and elevate the profile of opportunity youth of Boston. Over the past year, the OYC, under the leadership of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, launched a youth-led healing-centered organizing initiative called Launch. This initiative seeks to create more welcoming spaces for people of different generations to increase shared decision making and power, to invest in young leaders to organize and develop a mental health campaign, and to create an ecosystem of opportunity youth—serving providers that recognize and center mental wellness as an essential piece of serving young people. Current and former opportunity youth will lead trainings, workshops, and group exercises to ensure adults are prepared to bring in and authentically engage a cohort of young adults. The Launch team will hire a part-time youth leader as a Coordinator and other young people to develop a mental health and wellness campaign, implement actions, and create recommendations for the OYC. The cohort of young leaders will determine specific focus areas and create a strategy most effective for their focus;

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As we move out of the pandemic and return to a “new normal,” the OYC will continue to engage and elevate the profile of opportunity youth of Boston.

they will be supported by the Launch team and the OYC members. The recommendations and vision of these young leaders will inform Launch, the OYC, and partner organizations on strategies to address the wellness needs of opportunity youth, embed healing into pathway programming and policy, and make youth voice a constant rather than an occasional, project-based part of decision making.

Community partners

Action for Boston Community Development • Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation • American Student Assistance • America’s Promise Alliance • Angell Foundation • Asian American Civic Association • Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology • Bird Street Community Center • Black Ministerial Alliance • Boston After School and Beyond • Boston Asian Youth Essential Service • Boston Cares • Boston Centers for Youth and Families • Boston Day and Evening • The Boston Foundation • Boston Link • Boston Mayor’s Office • Boston Public Schools • Boston STRIVE • Boston Youth Service Network • Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston • B-PEACE for Jorge • Bridge over Troubled Waters • Brigham & Women’s Hospital • Bunker Hill Community College • City of Boston • City Year • College Bound Dorchester • College & Career Readiness Massachusetts • Committee for Public Counsel Services • Commonwealth Corporation • Community Call • Community Work Services • Diamond Educators Mentoring Inc. • Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corporation • Dorchester Youth Collaborative • Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative • East Boston Neighborhood Health Center • ESAC-GED Plus • Executive Office of Health and Human Services • Freedom House • Future Chefs • Health Resources in Action • Higher Ground •

Hull Lifesaving Museum • The Hyams Foundation • Hyde Square Task Force • Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción • Inncity Weightlifting • Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) • JFYNetWorks • Justice Resource Institute • KeySteps • Liberty Mutual Foundation • The Lloyd G. Balfour Foundation • Madison Park Development Corporation • Massachusetts Business Alliance for Education • Massachusetts Communities Action Network (MCAN) • Massachusetts Department of Youth Services • Mayor’s Office of Workforce Development • More Than Words • Multicultural Dropout Outreach Collaborative • New England Center for Arts and Technology (NECAT) • New England Community Services • New Horizons Boston CLC • New Profit • Northeastern University • NorthStar Learning Centers • Notre Dame Education Center, Inc. • OneGoal Massachusetts • Ostiguy High School • Partnerships Advancing Communities Together (PACT) • Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation • Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps • Roca Inc. • Roxbury Community College • Roxbury Youthworks, Inc. • RoxMAPP • SkillWorks • Sociedad Latina • State Street Corporation • Teen Empowerment • Trinity Boston Foundation • United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley • Urban College of Boston • Whole Foods • X-Cel Education • Year Up • Youth Hub • Youth on Board • Youth Options Unlimited • Youth Voice Project • YouthBuild Boston • YouthBuild Just-A-Start and Youth Options Unlimited Boston.

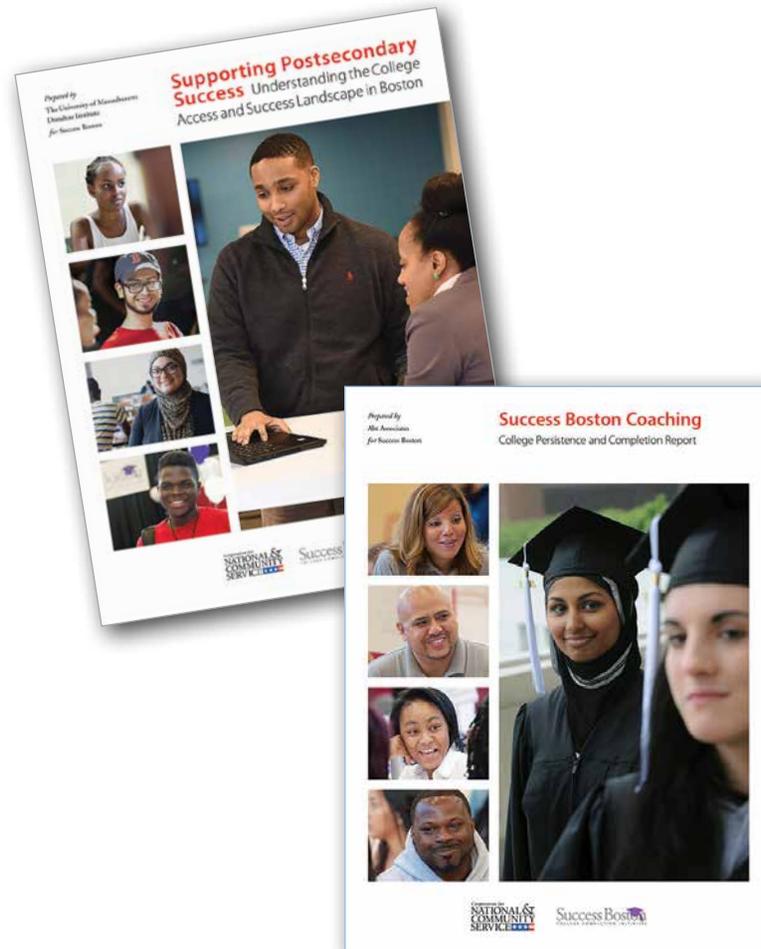
Success Boston: Boston's Citywide College Completion Initiative

Getting Ready, Getting In, Getting Through, Getting Connected

Success Boston is Boston's citywide college completion initiative, dedicated to increasing the number of Boston Public Schools graduates who earn postsecondary credentials. This cross-sector collaboration between the Boston Foundation, the City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), nonprofit organizations, and numerous local higher education institutions led by UMass Boston and Bunker Hill Community College, focuses on low-income, first-generation students of color. Success Boston was convened by Mayor Thomas Menino in 2008 in response to a study by the PIC and Northeastern University, which showed that only 35% of Boston graduates who enrolled in college completed a degree or credential. Success Boston launched with an ambitious goal to double the six-year college completion rate to 70% of college enrollees.

Our theory of change is that cross-sector partnerships, guided by data and mutual accountability, will significantly change the postsecondary trajectory of BPS graduates. The initiative is guided by a four-part strategy to ensure that students are "Getting Ready, Getting In, Getting Through, and Getting Connected." Sequentially, these four parts seek to improve students' academic preparation; provide transition coaching as they enroll in college; offer as-needed supports through higher education institutions until they successfully attain a degree; and provide career advising, exposure, and experiences to prepare them to enter the workforce upon graduation. A key component of Success Boston is its transition coaching model. Nonprofit coaches are paired with students in the senior year of high school and support them through the second year of college. Coaches assist students in navigating

challenges in transitioning to and through college, connect them to resources on and off campus, and help them develop problem-solving skills and self-efficacy. Since Success Boston launched in 2009, more than 7,000 students have worked with a coach.



Our theory of change is that cross-sector partnerships, guided by data and mutual accountability, will significantly change the postsecondary trajectory of BPS graduates.

Success Boston
COLLEGE COMPLETION INITIATIVE

A Shared Commitment to
a New Equity Framework

The Boston Foundation IBI CITY of BOSTON PIC BOSTON Public Schools



What have we learned?

A rigorous impact evaluation by Abt Associates finds that, compared with a carefully matched comparison group of non-coached peers, students coached through Success Boston persist at greater rates, achieve higher academic progress, and are more likely to complete financial aid applications. At the same time, the evaluation finds that the persistence impacts of coaching wane in later years of college, after coaching wraps up. This is consistent with other studies documenting continued positive impacts mostly for programs that support students throughout college and pair the support with financial assistance. It is also consistent with Success Boston findings that it is the frequency of coaching that drives the results: Students checking in with their coach at least twice a month do better than those with less frequent interactions.

Zooming out to citywide analyses, we find that gains made over the last decade extend beyond coached students. College enrollment rates for BPS graduates have steadily increased, as have college completion rates. Overall, 52% of students from the BPS Class of 2014 who enrolled in college in the first year after high school completed a degree or credential within six years. Over the past few years, this citywide college completion rate has been consistently in the lower 50% range, an impressive climb over the original 35% documented by the PIC and Northeastern University. Furthermore, 735 students from the baseline Class of 2000 earned a college degree within seven years. By comparison, 1,234 students from the Class of 2014 earned a college credential within six years. While a slight dip from the Class of 2012, this number still represents an increase of more than two thirds over the original number from the Class of 2000. This translates into hundreds of millions of additional dollars in lifetime earnings by Boston residents who are now college graduates but who may not have been without recent interventions and offerings.

A new chapter: Focus on equity

From the beginning, Success Boston has sought to increase college completion across the city and eliminate racial disparities. Nearly 90% of BPS students are people of color; eight in 10 are Black or Latinx. Almost two thirds come from low-income families, and many are first-generation college students. While completion rates have increased across the board, there is more to do. The typical demographic gaps persist: Black and Latinx students graduate at lower rates than their White or Asian peers; young Black and Latino men complete college at the lowest rates. In retrospect, this should not be unexpected: Students of color and low-income students are navigating a system that was not designed with their experience and success in mind. Coaching supports for the first two years of college may be invaluable in strengthening the transition, but expecting students to learn how to navigate a postsecondary system that is ill-suited for them—after only two years of support—is a tall order.

A true equity imperative means doing whatever it takes to position all of our students for successful completion, including—and especially—tackling structural barriers and building systems that are asset-based, deliver equitable outcomes, serve students effectively, and value their cultural wealth. With this lesson to heart, Success Boston is recommitting to its original goal of 70% college completion and extending this goal to all student groups, including those most marginalized historically and currently. We are proud that 15 local higher education institutions have joined Success Boston in this commitment and we look forward to working, both institutionally and as a coalition, to improve policy, build better programs, and redesign the system into one that prioritizes the success of Black and Latinx students.

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About Us

The Boston Opportunity Agenda (BOA) is a public/private partnership that works urgently and strategically to transform the Boston education landscape. Our focus is on removing the systemic barriers that create unacceptable outcomes and lack of opportunity for historically oppressed and economically disadvantaged populations and creating a just, equitable education system—from cradle to career.

Our vision: All of Boston's children and youth are prepared to succeed in college, career and life. We fervently believe that by combining our resources, expertise and influence around a single agenda, we will have a greater impact on Boston's cradle-to-career educational pipeline.

While Boston has many exciting programs and organizations that focus on providing opportunities for individuals, the Boston Opportunity Agenda is a long-term partnership focused on achieving systemic change that will ultimately affect all Boston residents. Entering its 12th year, the partnership is governed by the CEOs of each member organization; together they identify strategic issues facing our education pipeline in whole or in part, formulate the Boston Opportunity Agenda priorities and strategies, and provide a call to action for community stakeholders.

Our strategies for driving change

Data and Public Accountability: Accurate and timely data is both a call to action and an accountability mechanism. We are committed to regularly reporting progress on key metrics and encouraging the use of common definitions, metrics, and benchmarks across the pipeline to track how Boston is doing toward achieving its education goals.

Collective Action: We convene diverse stakeholders to establish and tackle big goals, forming networks that share data and best practices and engage in continuous improvement. We also source and invest in catalytic solutions to increase the pace and scale of change..

Aligned Efforts: Consistent with our shared commitments, we align, leverage, and increase the overall philanthropic, public, and corporate investments in educational excellence and equitable access to educational opportunity. We prioritize investments that can address the systemic and institutional dysfunctions harming our students of color and limiting their ability to achieve at the highest levels. We have created multiple ways for others to join us:

- **Investing Partners** contribute financial and human resources to BOA priority initiatives.
- **Philanthropic Partners** align their education investments to support BOA priority initiatives or advance BOA goals. They share common data collection, tools and analysis..
- **Community Partners** join one of the priority investment networks and align one or more of their education programs in support of BOA goals. They share common data collection tools and analysis as well as participate in continuous improvement work.

Our current partners are identified in the programmatic updates section of the report card. To learn more about becoming a Boston Opportunity Agenda partner at any level please contact Antoniya Marinova at Antoniya.Marinova@bostonopportunityagenda.org.



Dedication

This report card is dedicated to Kristin McSwain. As the founding Executive Director of the Boston Opportunity Agenda, Kristin established the organization into the focal cradle-to-career public-private initiative in the city as well as a critical player, partner, and collaborator on many fronts. With her entrepreneurial spirit, intensely collaborative mindset, and characteristically upbeat attitude, Kristin shaped the Boston Opportunity Agenda's mission, vision, values, activities, and partnerships into what they are today. The CEOs of the Boston Opportunity Agenda are profoundly grateful for her years of service and leadership, and wish her well in leading the City of Boston's new Office of Early Childhood. Without her dedicated leadership, Boston would not have gone nearly as far in its efforts to improve educational opportunities for all of its learners.



www.bostonopportunityagenda.org