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## **Boston public charter school graduates now completing college at slightly higher rate than traditional district school counterparts, according to new Boston Opportunity Agenda Report Card**

BOSTON – College completion rates held steady at 50 percent for students who graduated from traditional BPS schools between the 2012-2013 school year and 2013-2014. But, while college completion data was not readily available for Boston Catholic schools, those rates noticeably increased for public charter schools from 42 percent to 51 percent in the same period, for the classes of 2006 and 2007, respectively.

That data and more were released Tuesday in the fifth annual Boston Opportunity Agenda Report Card.

Since 2010, the Boston Opportunity Agenda, a historic education alliance between the public and private sectors, has tracked and measured academic performance in traditional public, public charter, and private Catholic schools in Boston.

More than 77,000 school-age children live in Boston, and “the vast majority, 93 percent, attend a school in the Boston Public Schools system, a Boston Charter public school, or a Boston Catholic school,” said Kristin McSwain, Executive Director of the Boston Opportunity Agenda. “Our goal with this report card is to identify points at which we are meeting our obligations to the children of our city and areas in which we are falling short.”

The report card also showed that nearly 67 percent of Boston Public Schools students are graduating high school, up from roughly 62 percent five years ago. And the annual high school dropout rate in Boston is just 3.8 percent, down from 7.3 percent.

Among other findings in this year’s report card, in the 2014-2015 school year, 63 percent of incoming kindergarten students were determined to have the necessary early learning skills to succeed and progress. Further, 70 percent of kindergarten students met academic benchmarks by the end of last

school year, the report card said.

And while Boston's youngest students showed improved school readiness, the report card found that reading levels among third-grade students remained stagnant.

Among high school students, the dropout rate lowered for BPS students from 4.5 percent in 2012-2013 to 3.8 percent in 2013-2014. In the same period, the public charter school dropout rate in Boston fell slightly from 2 percent to 1.8 percent.

"The bottom line," McSwain said, "is that regardless of which school system they're in students across the board in Boston are showing marked improvement."

"In this city, where public education was invented, it is imperative that all of our children can have access to a world-class education, graduate from high school college- and career-ready and contribute to our highly competitive economy and our way of life," McSwain added.

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[The Boston Opportunity Agenda](#) is a public/private partnership among the City of Boston, the Boston Public Schools, the city's leading public charities and many local foundations to ensure that all Boston residents have access to the education necessary for upward economic mobility, civic engagement, and lifelong learning for themselves and their families. 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.

[The Boston Foundation](#), Greater Boston's community foundation, is one of the largest community foundations in the nation, with net assets of some \$1 billion. In FY 2015, the Foundation and its donors made \$110 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and received gifts of approximately \$122 million. In celebration of its centennial in 2015, the Boston Foundation launched the Campaign for Boston to strengthen the **Permanent Fund for Boston**, Greater Boston's only endowment fund supporting organizations focused on the most pressing needs of Greater Boston. The Foundation is proud to be a partner in philanthropy, with nearly 1,000 separate charitable funds established by donors either for the general benefit of the community or for special purposes.

The Boston Foundation also serves as a major civic leader, provider of information, convener and sponsor of special initiatives that address the region's most serious challenges. [The Philanthropic Initiative \(TPI\)](#), an operating unit of the Foundation, designs and implements customized philanthropic strategies for families, foundations and corporations around the globe. For more information about the Boston Foundation and TPI, visit [www.tbf.org](http://www.tbf.org) or call 617-338-1700.