



The Boston Opportunity Agenda

Ninth Annual Report Card

May 2021

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

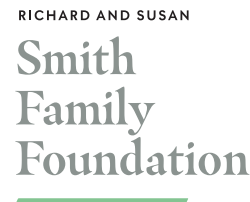


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Introduction

While devastating, the chaos of the year has also optimistically renewed the focus on racial justice in our institutions and systems and has strengthened a collective resolve to make our communities just and equitable for all.

Dear Friends,

To describe the past year as incredibly difficult is an understatement. Children, families and the educational institutions that serve them have dealt with once-in-a-century challenges to schooling as we know it. In addition to the pandemic, the murder of George Floyd and others captured on video and highlighted in protests, and the increase in racial violence against those of Asian descent have laid bare the vast inequalities in our country rooted in White supremacy, race, ethnicity and class. While devastating, the chaos of the year has also optimistically renewed the focus on racial justice in our institutions and systems and has strengthened a collective resolve to make our communities just and equitable for all.

Like other organizations, the Boston Opportunity Agenda has spent the year responding to immediate needs in our community while also reflecting on our purpose and vision. We revised our mission statement and adopted a set of values (see next page) that better reflect our 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.

Our annual report card is a key vehicle for reporting on our success and challenges at the system and student level across the educational pipeline, and we are pleased to share with you this Ninth Annual Report Card. Due to the pandemic, we did not issue a report card last year in 2020 and many of the indicators that we traditionally track,

including MCAS, are not available this year. As students return to school and our systems work to close the learning gaps created by more than a year of disrupted learning, it is critical that all stakeholders understand previous trends and baselines for each of our measures of success. It is equally critical that we report on measures that focus on where the systemic shortfalls are as, together, we seek to create the necessary prerequisites for students to experience success. This year's report card is designed to do just that.

As Boston students return to in-person learning across all settings, it is more important than ever to ensure we highlight the gaps that need to be addressed so that all students regardless of their race, ethnicity or socio-economic status are able to participate fully in our world-class city and economy.

We hope that this report card spurs conversation and action. We thank you for the work that you do daily to make the Boston Opportunity Agenda vision a reality.



Deborah Kincade Rambo
Chair



Kristin McSwain
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.

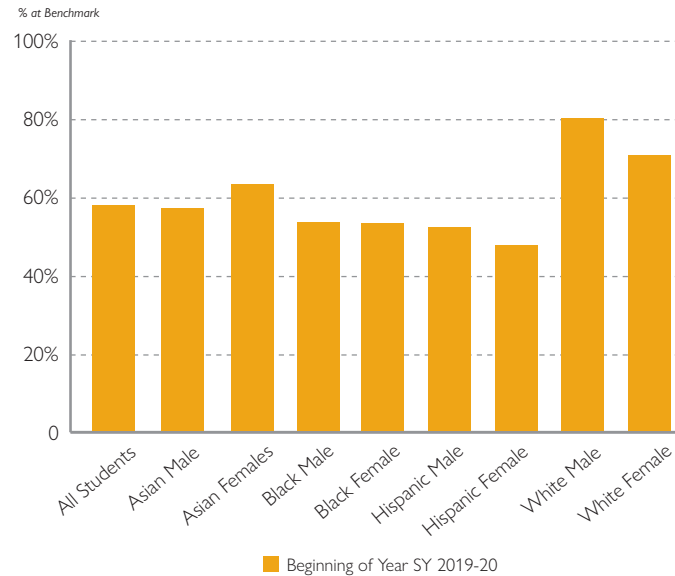
Act with Humility: We acknowledge the limitations of our perspectives and approach our work with humility. We actively seek diverse perspectives and historical contexts.

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

A Strong Educational Foundation

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

What's Under the Hood: MAP Fluency in Kindergarten



*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 2019, 57.6% of incoming kindergarteners were assessed as having the necessary early learning skills. This is a new baseline. Unfortunately, the pandemic impacted the implementation of MAP Fluency for students entering kindergarten in 2020. The next year that comparison data will be collected for students is in Fall of 2021.

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 Kindergarteners Achieving the MAP Fluency Benchmark

	Base Fall 2019	Previous Year	Current Fall 2019	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	58%	n/a	57.6	1419	new baseline

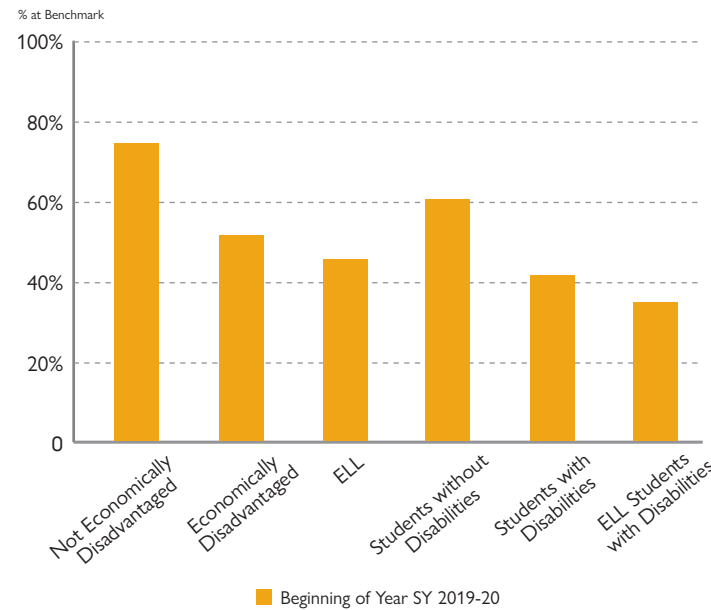
The Boston Opportunity Agenda is working with childcare providers and the Boston Public Schools to develop a common measure of kindergarten readiness across settings so that all children can successfully transition from pre-kindergarten into the K–12 system.

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



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

A Strong Educational Foundation

Third-Grade Reading Proficiency

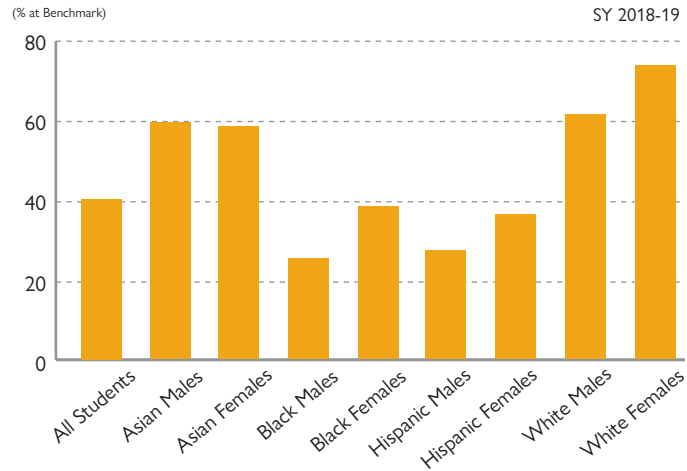
How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

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 COVID. Due to the pandemic, the MCAS was not administered in 2020. While on track to be administered in 2021, it remains to be seen whether most of the student population will participate.



What's Under the Hood:

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



The most current data available for analysis is school year 2018–2019. For that test administration, the percentage of students scoring Exceeding or Meeting Expectations rose six percentage points to 40%. The charts on the left and right show how this aggregate breaks down across different Boston Public Schools (BPS) populations. The percent Exceeding or Meeting Expectations ranges from a low of 9% for ELLs with Disabilities, a one–percentage point increase over the previous year, to 73% for White females, a five–percentage point increase.

Over the past eight years, 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. The 10–percentage point increase achieved in a two–year period by BPS third graders gives us reason to be optimistic despite the setbacks that are certain to occur due to the pandemic.

How are Boston Catholic schools doing?

Boston Catholic schools administer the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Growth Assessment (MAP Growth) in Reading. This national assessment measures student progress and growth for each individual child. Based on the spring 2019 MAP Growth administration, 66% of third graders scored at or above their grade level in reading. This is a drop of one percentage point from Spring 2018.

It is important to note that a new linking study by NWEA compares MAP Growth scores and Next Generation scores (see NWEA.org).

Percentage of 3rd-Graders Reading Proficiently

	Base 2016/2017	Previous 2017/2018	Current 2018/2019	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	30%	34%	40%	1438	↑
Boston Catholic Schools (MAP Growth)	73%	67%	66%	351	↓
Boston Charter Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	41%	46%	52%	335	↑

Data from Archdiocese of Boston and DESE and the Boston Public Schools

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Some 52% of Boston Charter public school third-grade students scored Exceeding or Meeting Expectations on the Next Generation MCAS in 2018–2019. This is an increase of six percentage points. 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.

Why does it matter?

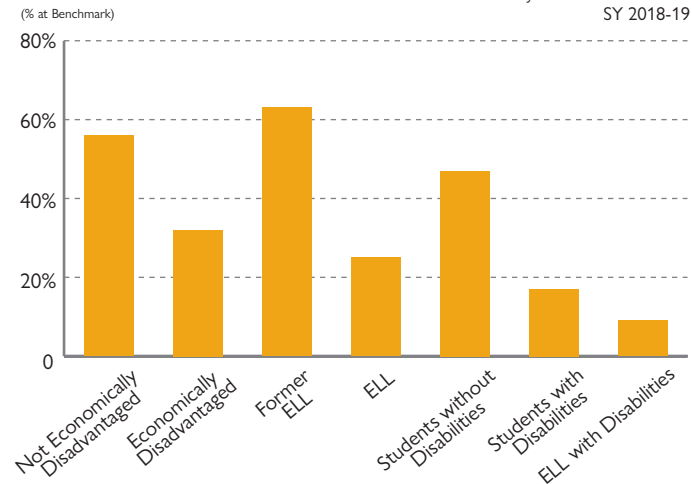
Over the past year, students have been engaged in a wide variety of ways of learning: total remote, hybrid, in-person learning pods, in-person classrooms. For our younger students these different learning venues exacerbate the challenges of reading acquisition. Therefore, as we return to fully in-person teaching, 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.

In the first three grades, students are learning to read and 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.

Other Drivers

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



As we return to fully in-person teaching, special attention must be paid to ensure that our youngest learners are acquiring the skills that they need for success throughout their academic careers.

On Track for High School Graduation

Sixth-Grade Mathematics Proficiency

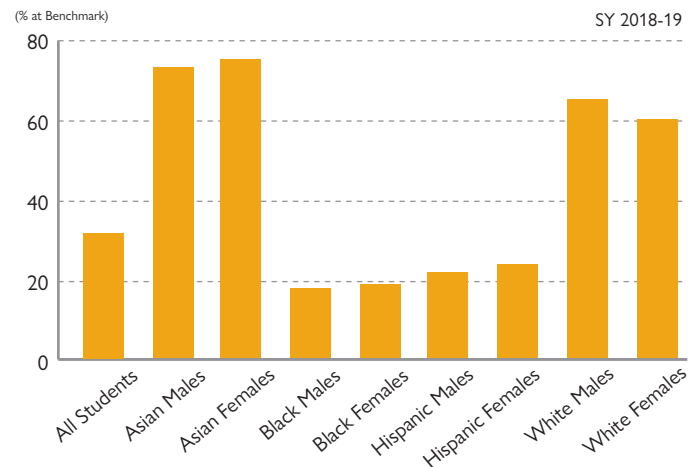


How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

Public school sixth graders in Boston also took the Next Generation MCAS in 2019 for the third time. Some 32% of sixth graders were proficient on the 2018–2019 Mathematics MCAS, an increase of four percentage points. The charts to the below and right show how different subpopulations performed. The share of high scores ranges from a low of 4% for ELLs with Disabilities to 75% for Asian females.

What's Under the Hood:

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



How are Boston Catholic schools doing?

Boston Catholic schools administer the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress Growth Assessment (MAP Growth) in Mathematics. A total of 50% of sixth-grade students performed at or above their grade level in spring 2019. This is a two–percentage point decrease from 2017.

As with the ELA assessment, this data is important to show progress among Catholic school students, but it is not comparable to the Next Generation MCAS.

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Sixth-grade Math scores in the aggregate were 55% Meeting or Exceeding Expectations for Boston's Public charter schools. This is a 13–percentage point increase from 2017–2018. 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.

Percentage of Sixth-Graders Proficient in Math

	Base 2016/2017	Previous 2017/2018	Current 2018/2019	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	30%	28%	32%	1008	↑
Boston Catholic Schools (MAP Growth)	57%	52%	50%	325	↓
Boston Charter Schools (Next Gen MCAS)	46%	42%	55%	732	↑

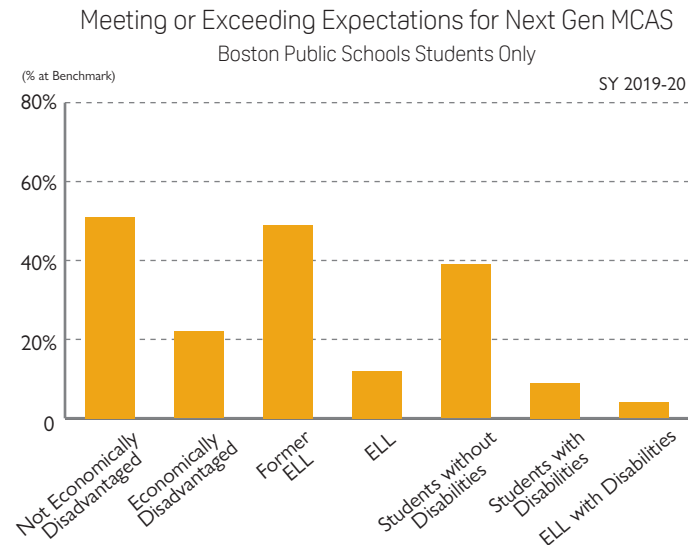
Data from Archdiocese of Boston and DESE and the Boston Public Schools

Why does it matter?

Here again, the impacts of COVID on learning acquisition are unknown. As a city, we will need to pay special attention to the trends in sixth-grade math as we return to full in person learning.

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. Finally, middle grade math is a metric that all three education systems are paying attention to as they look to improve rigor for every student in Boston.

Other Drivers



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?

The dropout rate in Boston Public Schools decreased in 2019–2020 to 3.9%. This is a .3–percentage point drop from 2019. At the school level, dropout rates vary substantially from a low of zero to a high of 50%. 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 females drop out at a rate of .4%, drastically lower than the rate of Hispanic males, who drop out at a rate of 6%.

BPS is working to address these issues through 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?

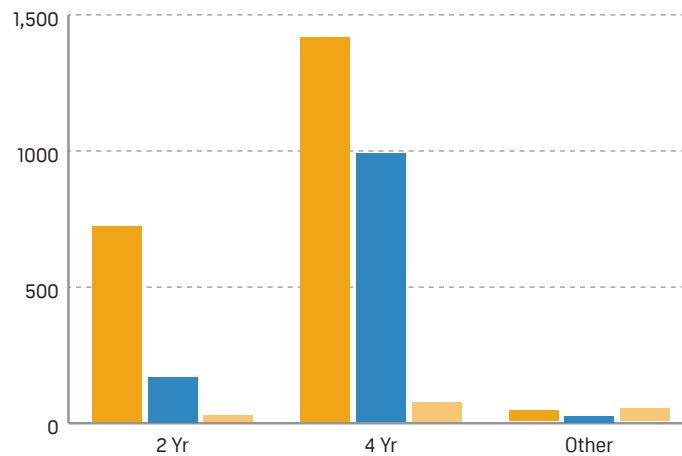
It is not possible to quantify dropout rates for parochial schools, because once students leave a Catholic school, they often return to a public school or another private school. The Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Boston continues to work on a solution to this issue as well 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 an remarkably low dropout rate. In 2019–2020 less than 1% of students dropped out of a charter school. Academy of the Pacific Rim and Brooke had no dropouts in 2019–2020. Other schools included in the data are Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, City on a Hill Circuit Street, City on a Hill Dudley, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, MATCH High School, Neighborhood House and Roxbury Preparatory.

Obtained a First Degree by Initial Institution Type

Class of 2012 (data as of Dec 2019)
Boston Public Schools Students Only



Annual Dropout Rate

	Base 2012/2013	Previous 2018/2019	Current 2019/2020	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	4.5%	4.2%	3.9%	573	↓
Boston Catholic Schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Boston Charter Schools	2.0%	1.0%	1.0%	31	↔

Data from Archdiocese of Boston and DESE

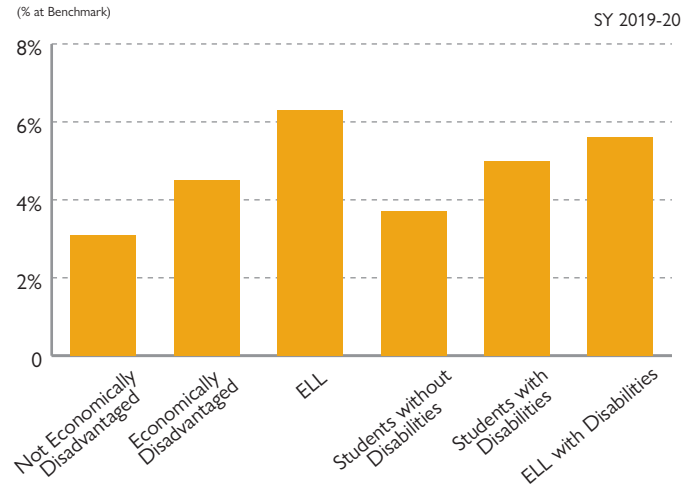
*Please note that there is a large annual fluctuation due to small sample size.

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 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. 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.

Other Drivers

Annual Dropout Rate
Boston Public Schools Students Only



**In 2019–2020,
less than 1%
of students
dropped out of a
charter school.**

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

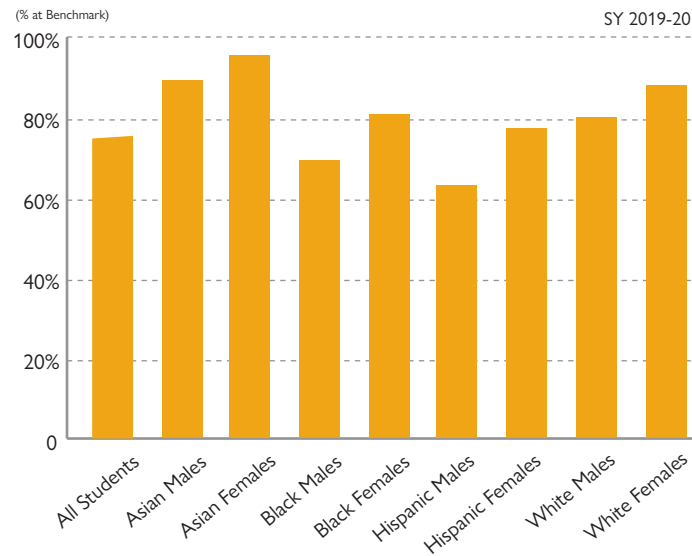
High School Graduation

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 75.4%. This year the rate increased 2.4 percentage points. 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 males and females of the same race/ethnicity is 6% for Asian students and grows to 14% between Hispanic males and females. The gap between the highest performing group of students, Asian females, and the lowest, Hispanic males, is 32.4 percentage points.

How are Boston Catholic schools doing?

For the graduating class of 2014, 97% of those who enrolled as freshmen graduated in four years from Catholic secondary schools in the city of Boston. The other 3% reverted back to the Boston Public Schools, Boston Charter public schools or chose another private school.

4-Year Graduation Rate

	Base 2016/2017	Previous 2018/2019	Current 2019/2020	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	66%	73%	75.4%	2958	↑
Boston Catholic Schools	84%	97%	n/a	n/a	
Boston Charter Schools	74%	86%	88%	593	↑

Data from Archdiocese of Boston and DESE

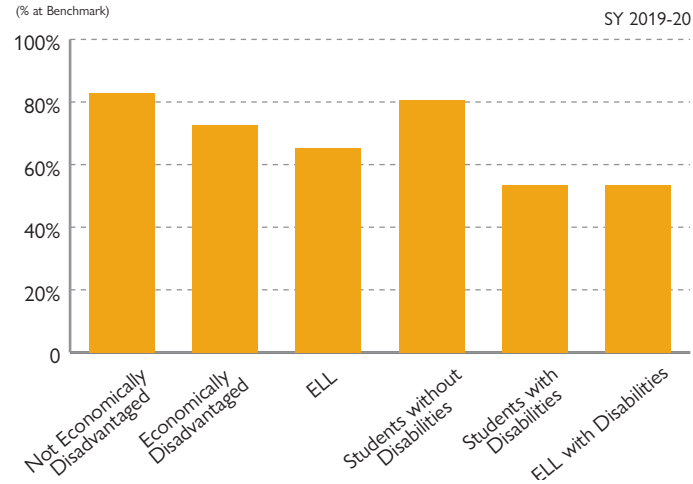
How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

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 88%. Currently the schools include Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, Brooke, City on a Hill Circuit and Dudley, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, MATCH High School 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 Prep, City on a Hill Dudley, Codman and Excel Academy exceeded the 90% goal set by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

Other Drivers

4-Year Completion Rates
Boston Public Schools Students Only



Boston continues to have one of the highest urban four-year graduation rates in the nation, at 75.4%. The combined Charter graduation rate is 88%.

On Track for College, Career and Life

Measuring Boston Students' Readiness

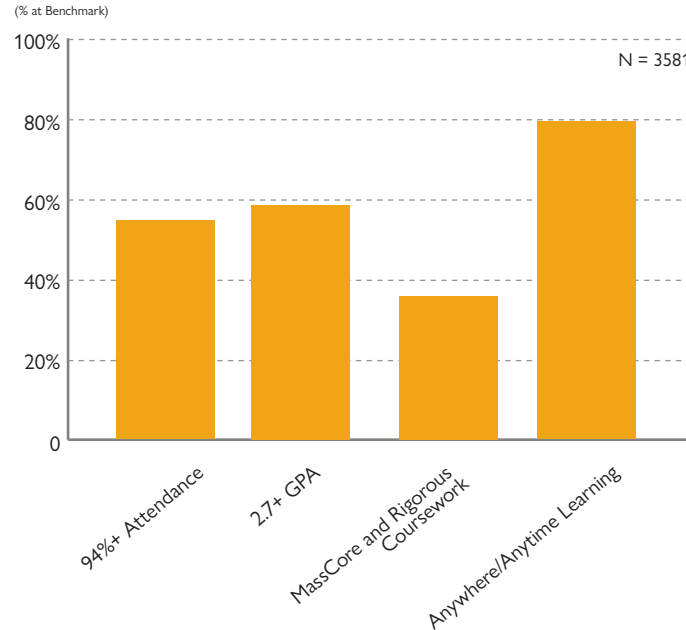


How will we know if students are prepared?

The Boston Opportunity Agenda's goal is for each and every student in Boston to graduate 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 Catholic, 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
- 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 2019, 51% of the students who graduated achieved our readiness standard. This was an increase of 3 percentage points from the baseline that was set with the class of 2017. Any progress that would have been made in 2020 was cut short by COVID. Due to the closure of schools in March, many students who would have participated in end-of-year internships and workplace learning were denied those opportunities. As a result, our CCLR percentage fell by 5 percentage points to 45%. With the return of in-person learning and time to adapt internships to virtual settings, we anticipate that this number will rebound in 2021.

12th Graders Who Graduate Ready

	Base Class 2017	Previous Class of 2019	Current Class of 2020	Number of Students	Annual Change	Goal 2025
Boston Graduates	48%	51%	45%	1625	↓	66%

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

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

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, Cathedral High School, City on a Hill Circuit, City on a Hill Dudley, Codman Academy, Excel Academy, MATCH High School, Roxbury Preparatory and St. Joseph Preparatory.

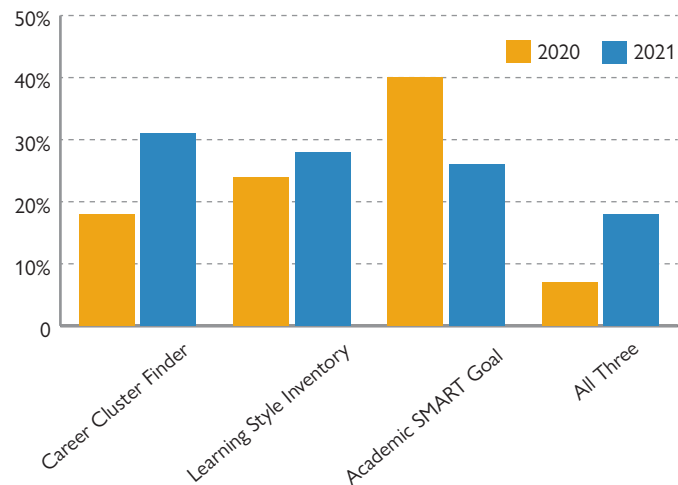
Why does it matter?

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.

Other Drivers

Percent of Students Completing MyCAP Tasks in 9th Grade



Any progress that would have been made in 2020 was cut short by COVID.

Postsecondary Attainment

College Enrollment



How are the Boston Public Schools doing?

Boston Public Schools sent 69% of the class of 2018 to postsecondary education. This figure is 2 percentage points lower than 2017 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 metric 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 Catholic schools doing?

Graduates of Boston's Catholic schools have an extremely robust college-going culture and enroll in college at a rate of 97%. This very high rate has held steady over the last 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 85%. This is a decrease of 2 percentage points. Eight Boston Charter public schools have graduates enrolling in college from the class of 2018. They include Academy of the Pacific Rim, Boston Collegiate, Boston Preparatory, City on a Hill Circuit Street and Dudley, Codman Academy, Excel Academy and MATCH High School.

"What is College Today?" source: College Board, "How College Shapes Lives: Understanding the Issues."

College Enrollment* Rates for High School Graduates

	Base Class of 2013	Previous Class of 2017	Current Class of 2018	Number of Students	Annual Change
Boston Public Schools	71%	71%	69%	2541	↓
Boston Catholic Schools	96%	97%	97%	601	↔
Boston Charter Schools	90%	87%	85%	282	↓

*Enrolling within 16 months of high school graduation
Data from Archdiocese of Boston and DESE

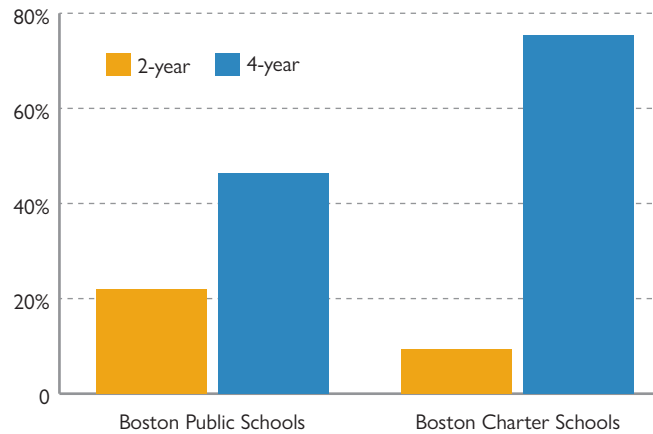
What is college today?

Over the past 30 years, the composition of the postsecondary student population in the United States has fundamentally changed. In 1970, 73% of all students were enrolled in public and private nonprofit four-year colleges and universities. By 2010 that number had fallen to 56%. 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 43% 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 44% of the credentials awarded in 2010-11.

Other Drivers

Class of 2018 2-year and 4-year College Enrollment Rate



Data from Mass Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Graduates of Boston’s Catholic schools have an extremely robust college-going culture and enroll in college at a rate of 97%.

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 increased to 54% for the class of 2012. This reflects a steady trend over the last several years of a rising completion rate in the high 40s or low 50s. BPS is hoping that a renewed emphasis on all students graduating ready for postsecondary pursuits 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. The chart below shows the number and percentage of BPS graduates who successfully completed a postsecondary credential, by credential type.

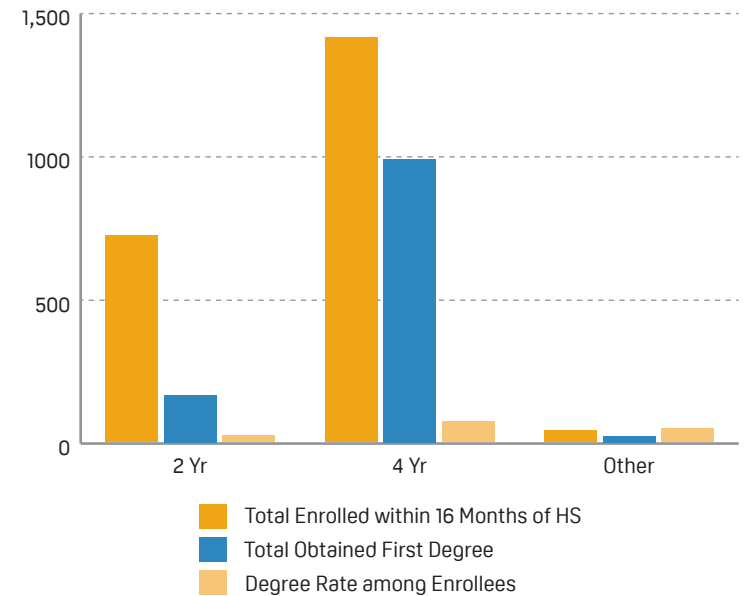
How are Boston Catholic schools doing?

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.

Obtained a First Degree by Initial Institution Type

Class of 2012 (data as of Dec 2019)

Boston Public Schools Students Only



College Completion Rates for High School Graduates Who Enrolled in College

	Base 2012/2013	Previous	Current 2018	Number of Graduates	Annual Change	Goal
Boston Public Schools	50% (Class of 2006)	52% (Class of 2011)	54% (Class of 2012)	1174	↑	70%
Boston Catholic Schools	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Boston Charter Schools	42% (Class of 2006)	53% (Class of 2011)	63% (Class of 2012)	99	↑	

Data from EDWIN

How are Boston Charter public schools doing?

Graduates of Boston's Charter public schools who enroll in college are completing a postsecondary credential at a rate of 63% within six years of graduation from high school. This is an increase of 10 percentage points from last year. 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.

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.

The percentage of BPS students who graduate from high school, enroll in and complete a postsecondary credential within six years of high-school graduation increased to 54%...

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

Adult Learners

Credentialed for Success

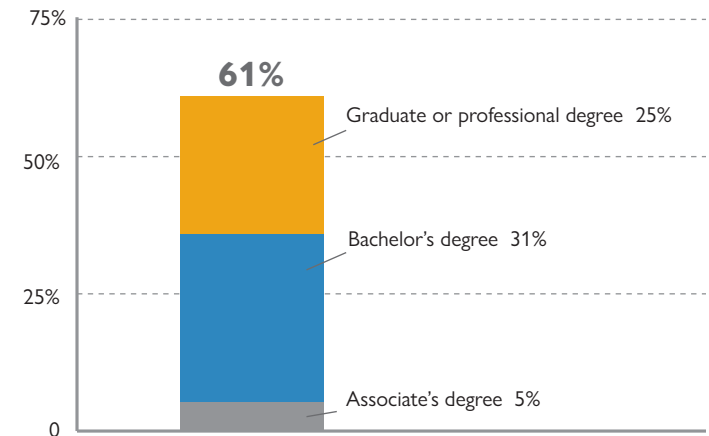
How are we doing?

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 increased one percentage point to 61%. The proportion of degrees has changed with a slight increase in bachelor's degrees and a dip in graduate or professional degrees. This puts Boston just beyond our goal of 60% by 2025.

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



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

Base 2011	Previous	Current 2019	Annual Change	Goal 2025
51%	60%	61%	↑	60%

Data from the American Community Survey

Opportunity Youth Collaborative

Described more fully later in this report card, the Boston Opportunity Youth (OY) Collaborative 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 impacts 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 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 focuses on developing “meta majors” so that recent high school graduates, primarily 18- to 22-year-olds, shorten their time to college completion and complete at higher rates. Like the other Talent Hub cities across the nation, Boston is committed to eliminating deep disparities in educational outcomes among African American and Hispanic students, who fare poorly in contrast 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?*

Boston is committed to eliminating deep disparities in educational outcomes.

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. 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:
 - 1) build strong relationships;
 - 2) empower parents/caregivers; and
 - 3) incorporate family voice to improve program quality and child outcomes;
- Develop the infrastructure for aligning and assessing early education and care & K–12 systems; and
- Raise the visibility of and investment in early education and care for policy makers, funders and the business community.

Birth to Eight has multiple committees working to align current resources and activities as well as to identify new ideas for increasing the rate and pace of change in early childhood. A brief description of each committee and its current work follows.

Data: The data committee is working with the Boston Opportunity Agenda to gather data necessary to answer critical questions in the field of early education and care. To date, the committee has published *The*

State of Early Education and Care in Boston: Supply, Demand, Affordability and Quality as well as a brief on the initial impact of COVID on childcare. A second brief on the impact of COVID on childcare will be released early this summer and a second *State of Early Education and Care* report focused on the early education workforce will be released in November.

Family Engagement: The family engagement committee has identified four principles for strong family engagement practices. In April, the committee piloted two tools that will collect data on the first two principles. The tools are available online in seven languages and are designed to allow families to give feedback on the family engagement practices of the organizations they engage with. Data from the initial collection will be available in June and if the implementation is successful will be reported in this report card moving forward.

Maximizing Health: The members of this committee are focused on identifying ways that community health centers, hospitals and early education and care providers can partner at a systems level to improve outcomes for low-income families. They are currently working to address vaccine hesitation among childcare providers and to develop system solutions for ensuring health-care consultants are available in all childcare settings.

Quality Education Birth to Five: This committee is working to identify ways to increase the number and quality of early education and care seats available for our community's most marginalized young people. Members have begun by cataloging programs available for

infants and toddlers with a particular focus on identifying those that can grow in scale. Additionally, Shared Services is providing business classes and supports to family child care providers so that this flexible form of childcare can strengthen and grow.

Universal Pre-Kindergarten: Boston's UPK program is focused on expanding access to quality pre-kindergarten through a mixed delivery program. In addition to recruiting new community childcare partners, UPK is also focused on ensuring a smooth enrollment and transition process into Boston Public Schools.

In addition to the activities outlined above, each committee is working to identify new pilot programs that could be implemented by the Collaborative to expedite movement on the goals they have articulated and—when applied at the system level—will increase positive outcomes for all young children.

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 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 Center • Department of Public Health • Department of Early Education and Care • 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 • South End Settlements • 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 Center for Women and Children • West End House • YMCA of Greater Boston.

Together we are
working to ensure
all young children
are ready for
sustained success
in kindergarten
and beyond.

Summer Learning Academies

On Track for High School Graduation

Over 10 years,
together we have
achieved major
milestones not only
in the number of
students served and
partners engaged
but also in impact
through rigorously
measured results...

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 160 sites serving more than 14,000 students. An evidence-based approach, this summer learning model integrates rigorous academics with engaging enrichment activities, mobilizing partnerships between schools and community organizations and leveraging the natural, cultural and historic resources of Boston.

Over 10 years, together we have achieved major milestones not only in the number of students served and partners engaged but also in impact through rigorously measured results and reach as we have gained city and statewide commitments to imbed summer learning academies in funding structures and programming. We've learned a lot about what it takes to bring an engaging, impactful summer learning model to scale across a city. Here are excerpts of our four big lessons. To access the entire report, go to **Summer for All: Lessons from 10 Years of Boston Summer Learning**.

Lesson One: Think Beyond Boundaries Achieving quality summer learning at scale requires an expanded notion of how and where learning happens. In Boston, we've mobilized the whole city as a classroom, proving that students can make big strides in academic and life skills while engaged in fun, meaningful projects on boats, college campuses, the harbor islands and more.

Lesson Two: Cultivate a Diverse Network It takes a community to provide youth with the opportunities they need to navigate life's challenges and become thriving adults. Working together with city and philanthropic leadership, partnered institutions can maximize their resources and have a bigger impact on student outcomes than they can working in isolation.

Lesson Three: Focus on Crosscutting Skills Summer is a great time to develop skills for navigating college, work and life. We've identified a core set of skills that every adult needs, every sector values, and that can be learned in a range of settings. These Achieve, Connect, Thrive (ACT) skills guide our summer learning partnership and provide a common framework for every site.

Lesson Four: Measure and Learn A central tenet of Boston Summer Learning—and a requirement for joining—is the commitment to continually assess student progress and program quality. Shared measures solidify our network's common focus, inform continuous program improvement, and keep everyone intent on what matters: better outcomes for kids.

With strong results and a robust network of 160 sites (and counting), this summer learning approach has now replaced summer school for the Boston Public Schools and is being adapted in communities across the state through a state line item specifically for summer learning expansion. 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.

Photos courtesy of
Boston After School & Beyond

Ours is a story of bold thinking, collaboration and persistence that not only served students during the summer and school year, but also laid the groundwork for out-of-school-time partners to play critical education roles standing up and staffing learning pods in COVID response.

Summer learning partners

ACEDONE • Achieve • Alliance for Inclusion and Prevention • Another Course to College • Apprentice Learning • BATA • BellXcel • Bethel Math and Science Scholars • BGA Summer Academy • Boston Centers for Youth and Families • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center • Boston Day & Evening Academy • Boston Green Academy • Boston Latin School • Boston Public Health Commission • Boston Scores • Boston University • Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston • Boston Public Schools • Breakthrough Greater Boston • Brigham and Women's Hospital • Brighton High School • Burke High School • Camp Harbor View • Charlestown High School • CitySprouts • Community Academy • Community Music Center of Boston • Courageous Sailing • Crossroads for Kids • Dearborn STEM Academy • Donald McKay K-8 School • DotHouse Health • East Boston High School • Edwards Middle School • Elevate Youth • English High School • Excel High School • Freedom House • Generation Teach • Girls LEAP • Grove Hall Alliance • Hale Reservation • Harlem Lacrosse • Harvard-Kent Elementary School • Haynes Early Education Center • Health Resources in Action • Horace Mann School • Horizons • Immigrant Family Services Institute

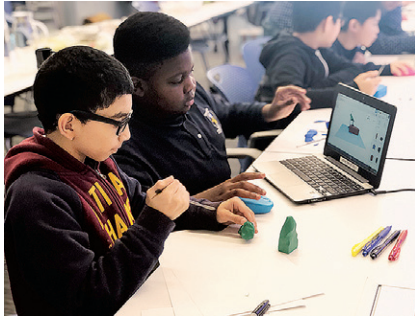


• Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción • Jackson Mann K-8 School • Joseph M. Tierney Learning Center • Josiah Quincy Elementary School • Madison Park Technical Vocational High School • Mario Umana Academy • Mass Audubon • MassArt • National Park Service • Neighborhood Network Center Inc. • New England Aquarium • Northeastern University • O'Bryant School of Math and Science • Phillips Brooks House Association • Piers Park Sailing Center • Snowden International School • Sociedad Latina • Sportsmen's Tennis and Enrichment Center • St. Stephen's Youth Programs • STEAM Ahead • TechBoston Academy • The 3 Point Foundation • The Calculus Project • The Steppingstone Foundation • Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center • Trinity Boston Foundation • UMass Boston • Warren-Prescott K-8 School • Wentworth Institute of Technology • West End House • World Ocean School • WriteBoston • YMCA of Greater Boston • Zoo New England



Generation Success

Ensuring Every High School Graduate Is Ready for Postsecondary Pursuits



The BPS Class of 2024 Challenge is designed to engage all ninth graders in starting their MyCap plans.

In October of 2020, the Boston Opportunity Agenda launched its newest campaign: Generation Success. 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 Schools graduates are ready to do so.

Generation Success wants each and every student in Boston to graduate from high school fully prepared to further their education and achieve success in life as they define it. That's why we're working 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.

The campaign is designed to include a rolling series of smaller campaigns that raise the visibility and importance of readiness while increasing the number of opportunities that students have to participate in programs, internships, projects and coursework that help them become ready.

Thus far we have launched two challenges: the Industry Challenge and the BPS Class of 2024 Challenge. For the Industry Challenge, we asked industry partners to design and be ready to implement high quality learning opportunities in collaboration with students and schools. FableVision, XR Terra and Fontbonne each received a \$10,000 mini grant to implement programming this summer that brings the tech industry to life for students and teachers.

The BPS Class of 2024 Challenge is designed to engage all ninth graders in starting their MyCap plans. The challenge consists of completing the first three activities in the plan: Career Cluster Finder, Learning Styles Inventory, and Creating an Academic SMART Goal. Together we have provided training to school leaders and counselors, worked with schools to create individual implementation plans, and tracked the systemwide implementation of the Challenge. Last year, 7% of ninth graders started their MyCap plans. The Challenge ran through May 1 and 14% of ninth graders have completed all three tasks. Special mention goes to the O'Bryant where 100% of students have completed all three.

Community partners

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

Photos by Kellyanne Mahoney, courtesy of Autodesk



Collaborative pick-and-place
Collision avoidance



Boston Opportunity Youth Collaborative

Building Career Pathways for Opportunity Youth

Building strong, durable partnerships through a shared vision and shared activities is at the core of our strategy to improve career outcomes for opportunity youth.

Convened by the Boston Opportunity Agenda and the Boston Private Industry Council, the Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) works to reduce the rate of youth disconnection in the city through systems change strategies and targeted implementation of programs that address gaps in postsecondary and training pathways to high-quality careers. Initially a convening of more than 80 stakeholders working directly with opportunity youth, the OYC has evolved to a table of collective impact networks and institutional partners including 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.

Building strong, durable partnerships through a shared vision and shared activities is at the core of our strategy to improve career outcomes for opportunity youth. We currently convene the OYC Steering Committee on a monthly basis to share best practices, coordinate on shared projects and develop systems change priorities.

A major focus of the OYC Steering Committee over the past year has been a multi-sector collaboration with the Boston Public Schools and Bunker Hill Community College called Data 4 Impact (D4I). D4I uses data dashboards as a continuous improvement tool for interventions designed to keep young people connected to school. In collaboration with the Boston Public Schools Office of Data & Accountability and the Office of Opportunity Youth, the OYC is building a set of

data dashboards that track the effectiveness of chronic absentee interventions. Initially, the work was centered on providing training and technical assistance to individual schools as they implemented attendance strategies and other changes designed to shift school culture. With the onset of the pandemic, the work has pivoted to providing tools that allow schools to identify students who are off track and to build individual student support plans. The Office of Data & Accountability has implemented a new data platform called Panorama which allows schools to coordinate multiple support services and track their implementation at the student level. The dashboards provide aggregate data and allow for continuous improvement.

The same data strategies are being applied at Bunker Hill Community College to track the effectiveness of the HOPE (Halting Oppressive Pathways in Education) Ambassadors Initiative. The Ambassadors are male students of color who provide feedback to the college on policy and practice and implement pilot interventions. Their work to address incomplete grades received by students of color during the pandemic is currently being evaluated using the dashboards created as a part of D4I.

As we move out of the pandemic and return to the “new normal” the OYC will continue to engage and elevate the profile of opportunity youth of Boston and scale pathways through data collection, convening activities and research.

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 • Barr Foundation • Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology • Boston Asian Youth Essential Service • Bunker Hill Community College • Bird Street Community Center • Black Ministerial Alliance • Boston After School and Beyond • Boston Link • Boston Cares • Boston Centers for Youth and Families • Boston Day and Evening • The Boston Foundation • 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 • 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 • Justice Resource Institute • Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) • JFYNetWorks • 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 Options Unlimited • Youth on Board • Youth Voice Project • YouthBuild Boston • YouthBuild Just-A-Start and Youth Options Unlimited Boston.

BRANDON SIAH,
a Re-Engagement Center graduate
currently in training with X-Cel Education
to get a Waste Water Operator License

Photo by Joel Haskell.



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 37 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 6,500 students have worked with a coach.

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. Coached students from the Classes of 2013 through 2016 were 5–13% more likely to persist in their first two years and 8–9% percent more likely to renew their FAFSA applications; they also accumulated more academic credits. At the same time, a preview of upcoming research suggests that persistence impacts of coaching wane in later years in 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.

Citywide results

Zooming out, 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, 54% of students

from the BPS Class of 2012 who enrolled in college in the first year after high school completed a degree or credential within six years—a record-high completion rate for the district. Furthermore, 735 students from the baseline Class of 2000 earned a college degree within seven years. By comparison, 1,347 students from the Class of 2012 earned a college credential within six years—up 83%. In other words, since 2000, the city has nearly doubled the number of students from each graduating class obtaining a postsecondary degree or credential. 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.

Looking ahead: A 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. Completion rates have increased across the board, for all of these groups. But there is more to do. The typical 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 in mind. Coaching supports for the first two years of college may be invaluable in strengthening the transition to college, 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 success throughout their college tenure and until they complete. As Success Boston undergoes strategic planning for the next decade, we are taking this lesson to heart. We are making an intentional and explicit commitment to keep equity as the driving force in the initiative's new strategic framework and to use that to guide our choices as we seek to improve policy, build better programs and redesign the system into one that prioritizes the experience of Black and Latinx students.

**A true equity
imperative means
doing whatever it
takes to position all
of our students for
success throughout
their college tenure
and until they
complete.**

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.

The partnership entering its 11th year 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 Kristin McSwain at Kristin.

McSwain@bostonopportunityagenda.org



Dedication

This report card is dedicated to Paul Grogan. Under Paul's leadership, the Boston Foundation played a pivotal role in the launch of the Boston Opportunity Agenda and has provided critical support over the past 10 years. The CEOs of the Boston Opportunity Agenda are grateful for your years of service and leadership as a member of the leadership table. Without your commitment, we would not have gone as far or as fast in our efforts to improve educational opportunities for all of the residents of Boston.



www.bostonopportunityagenda.org