

BOSTON COMPACT PROFILE

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Originally formed in 1982 at the urging of the business community, the Boston Compact joined Boston business leaders, the Mayor of Boston, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and local higher education institutions in an effort to improve student achievement in the city's public schools. The Compact developed a unique shared accountability agreement wherein contributions from each stakeholder were contingent upon each other. The corporate sector contributed summer jobs, internships, and priority hiring, the higher education community provided scholarships and preferred admissions, and Boston Public Schools was expected to produce increased test scores, higher classroom attendance, and a reduced drop out rate.

PARTNERS

EDUCATION	BUSINESS	GOVERNMENT/ COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Public Schools (BPS) • Boston Teachers Union • University of Massachusetts • Boston Higher Education Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) • Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce • Bank Boston • New England Mutual Life • John Hancock Mutual Life and the Boston • Goodwin, Procter & Hoar LLP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor's Office • Boston Human Services Coalition • Boston Cultural Partnership

SELECT PROGRAMMATIC COMPONENTS

Boston Plan for Excellence: The Boston Compact led to the subsequent formation of the Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE), a local education fund (LEF), in 1984. Its role has been to secure and manage significant funding from individuals, corporations, and foundations, and align this philanthropy directly with the district reform efforts. BPE and BPS together secured over \$100 million in private corporate foundation and individual contributions over the past decade. Together they implemented a comprehensive district-wide reform plan and a variety of innovative initiatives including:

- **The Boston Teacher Residency (BTR):** The Boston Teacher Residency (BTR) is an alternative urban teacher preparation and certification initiative developed as part of the Boston Public Schools' commitment to improving instruction in every classroom. Modeled on a medical residency, the BTR places Teacher Residents in a Boston public school for one full year and tailors their training to the specific instructional priorities of the district. In addition, Residents complete coursework with faculty at local institutions of higher education.
- **Effective Practice Schools:** This network of schools works with BPE to serve as a testing ground for innovative practices and programs. Successful pilot projects are applied throughout the district to accelerate progress. One example of a model piloted and then scaled up district-wide is BPS' Collaborative Coaching and Learning (CCL) wherein teams of teachers gather to study, observe, and analyze effective classroom instruction and workshop lesson plans and curriculum.

ACCESS Boston: ACCESS works to ensure that all young people in Boston have the financial information and resources necessary to achieve a higher education degree. Since its founding in 1985, ACCESS has provided financial aid advising and scholarships to thousands of Boston students. ACCESS operations are funded, in part, through an endowment established by the original group of founders and added to by corporations, foundations, and individuals in subsequent years. The endowment now stands at more than \$13 million. Leading contributors included: New England Mutual Life, The Boston Foundation, and the Massachusetts Higher Education Assistance Corporation.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

<p>Boston Public School District: 56,190 students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 74% qualify for free and reduced lunch • 35% Hispanic • 14% White • 41% African American • 9% Asian & Southeast Asian, Pacific Islander • 2% other
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IMPACT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past five years, the improvement in BPS student's SAT scores was more than six times the national average gain in verbal and almost three times the national average gain in math. • On the 2004 state assessment, BPS students improved at a faster rate than the state average in nearly every grade tested. • The Broad Foundation has recognized BPS as one of the top five urban school systems in the United States for three years in a row. • 69% of BPS graduates go directly to college, compared with the national average of 56%. • Since the first graduating class of the Boston Teacher Residency entered the Boston Public Schools classrooms in 2003, 96% of BTR teachers have continued teaching in the system compared with 53% of first, second, and third year teachers, district-wide. Additionally, BTR is currently working with the Harvard Graduate School of Education to evaluate the achievement of students in BTR graduates' classes.
