

Subject: News from the Full-service Schools Roundtable!

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2010 10:40 PM

From: Abby Weiss <aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us>

Reply-To: aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us

To: Abby Weiss aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us

Conversation: News from the Full-service Schools Roundtable!



Fall 2010

Dear Colleagues,

This is an exciting time for our work.

Both Massachusetts and Boston have had great success in securing federal funding to support the hard, but critical, work of connecting children and families to the supports they need.

Massachusetts received [Race to the Top](#) funds, of course, but our state also received three [Promise Neighborhood](#) planning grants - one of which is based at the Dudley Street Neighborhood initiative in Boston. Promise Neighborhoods are President Obama's answer to replicating the Harlem Children's Zone. We are thrilled the Boston is among the grantees and are watching their work with great interest.

Boston Public Schools - led by their DELTAS office - recently received word that they had won one of 11 [Full-service Community Schools](#) grants nationwide. This very competitive grant provides five years of federal funding for three schools in Boston (Young Achievers, the Higgenson-Lewis, and the Burke) to develop as full-service community schools. The Roundtable is a partner on this grant and will help think through scaling up the best practices from these three schools as well as convene an Advisory Board.

On the national front, many of you may have read Joel Klein and Michelle Rhee's [manifesto](#) about the importance of teacher quality in the school reform debate. Perhaps a few of you also saw former New York Times reporter Richard Rothstein's [response](#). Rothstein agrees that teacher quality is critical for improving schools but argues that we must also address the factors associated with our difficult economic times and the ravages of poverty. Rothstein urges superintendents to "consider what

IN THIS ISSUE

[For Your Information](#)

[Upcoming Funding Opportunities](#)

[Conference/Training Announcements](#)

The mission of the Full-service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and success of students in Boston through integrated school/community partnerships.

The Full-service Schools Roundtable is grateful for generous support from The Boston Foundation, Children's Hospital Boston and an anonymous foundation.

**JOIN OUR
MAILING LIST**

initiatives they can take, either themselves or in partnership with other community organizations, to improve children's opportunities to come to school in good health and with enriched experiences in early childhood and out-of-school time." Rothstein's message is at the core of our work as well, and we hope school leaders across the country will heed his call to action.

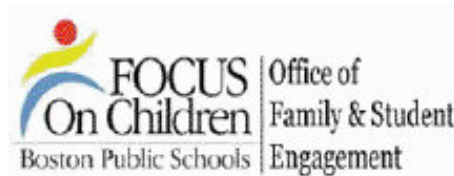
Finally, the Roundtable continues its district- and state-level policy work. In partnership with BPS, we conducted a survey of all BPS principals to learn about their building-level partnerships. We were delighted that 93% of the schools responded to the survey. We are currently analyzing the data, and will have a report to share early in 2011. Please stay tuned as we will be hosting a Roundtable meeting to release the report.

In other Roundtable news, we are delighted to welcome a new Steering Committee member - Mandy Savitz-Romer, Director of the Prevention Science and Practice Program at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In addition, we welcome John Verre, Boston Public Schools' Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, who has joined our Advisory Board.

On behalf of all of my colleagues on the Roundtable's Steering Committee and Advisory Board, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and all the best for 2011!

Best regards,
Abby R. Weiss
Executive Director
Full-service Schools Roundtable

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



BPS Office of Family & Student Engagement has a new website!

Michele P. Brooks, Assistant Superintendent for Family & Student Engagement, announces a new website that will be an important resource not only for parents, family members, students, and community members, but also for teachers and school staff. OFSE will be adding links and information about the latest BPS information and resources for engaging families and students in academic achievement and school improvement.

Among the new features, there are links to download new grade-level learning guides, Parent University updates and more. Check out the [OFSE website](#) today!



Building a Grad Nation

A new report by America's Promise Alliance shows some of the first signs that America is reducing the number of

students who drop out of high school. Nationwide, "dropout factory" high schools -- where 40 percent or more of the students fail to graduate -- fell by 13 percent, from 2,007 in 2002 to 1,746 in 2008. Most of the reduction in these schools occurred in the South, with Texas reducing its number of these high schools by 77. Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee eliminated or improved by 20 or more. Tennessee and Texas saw fewer failing high schools across cities, suburbs, towns, and rural areas, indicating improvement is possible in any type of community. Tennessee and New York led the nation by boosting graduation rates 15 and 10 percentage points, respectively. More than half of all states -- 29 in total -- increased statewide graduation rates substantially from 2002 to 2008. Only three states lost ground: Arizona, Utah, and Nevada. The report highlights four case studies of success: Tennessee; Alabama; New York City; and Richmond, Indiana. Common elements to this success include strong leadership with clear graduation-rate goals; multi-sector collaboration guided by data; commitment to innovation and continuous improvement; technical assistance for evidence-based solutions; and raising expectations, improving policies, and increasing student supports. Read the [full report](#).



Collaborative for Academic,
Social, and Emotional Learning



The Benefits of School-Based Social and Emotional Learning Programs: Highlights from a Major New Report

A new study reveals that students who participate in school-based programs focused on social and emotional learning (SEL) profit in multiple ways. This study is an interesting meta-analysis of social/emotional learning programs and shows an 11 percentile average gain measured across hundreds of studies. Compared to students who are not exposed to SEL programming, students in these programs improve significantly with respect to:

1. Social and emotional skills
2. Attitudes about themselves, others, and school
3. Social and classroom behavior
4. Conduct problems such as classroom misbehavior and aggression
5. Emotional distress such as stress and depression
6. Achievement test scores and school grades, including an 11-percentile-point gain in academic achievement

These positive results do not come at the expense of performance in core academic skills, but rather enhance academic achievement. Moreover, the results are maintained among those studies that collect follow-up data in each of the above categories. To read more highlights, visit [The Benefits of School-Based Social and Emotional Learning Programs](#).



How to Fix Our Schools

The recent resignation of Washington D.C.'s controversial Schools Chancellor, Michelle Rhee, along with significant media attention of school and teacher quality has spurred a national discussion of the factors that contribute to a quality education. EPI has been a leader in this discussion, and their research about the dangers of using student test scores to evaluate teachers has been widely cited in the media. EPI Research Associate, Richard Rothstein, published an [Issue Brief](#) on October 14 responding to a [manifesto](#) that Rhee and Joel Klein, chancellor of the New York City public school system, published in The Washington Post. While Klein and Rhee identified teacher quality as a leading issue in public education, Rothstein outlined many of the problems with the increasingly popular strategy of focusing education reform exclusively on teacher quality and measuring teacher quality by student test score results. While acknowledging the importance of recruiting quality teachers

and removing ineffective ones, Rothstein also said that real education reform has to address all of the broader social and economic factors—from unemployment and poverty, to hunger, malnutrition, and poor health—that impact student performance. Read the [Issue Brief](#).



Census Reports More Children Living in Poverty: Implications for Well-being

Both the number of children in poverty and the child poverty rate increased between 2008 and 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, which has just released new national estimates of poverty. The number of children in poverty rose from 14.1 million to 15.5 million in 2009 and the child poverty rate increased from 19 percent to nearly 21 percent. In addition, the number and percentage of children living in "deep" poverty (households with incomes below 50 percent of the federal poverty level) also increased (from 6.3 million to 6.9 million and from 8.5 percent to 9.3 percent in 2009, respectively.) Children made up more than a third (35.5 percent) of all people in poverty in 2009. These numbers represent an increase again over 2007 data, which reported 13.3 million children, or 18 percent, living in poverty in the United States. A substantial body of research links poverty with multiple negative outcomes for children. When compared with children from more affluent families, poor children are more likely to have low academic achievement, to drop out of school, and to have health, behavioral, and emotional challenges. These linkages are particularly strong for children whose families experience deep poverty, who are poor during early childhood, and who are trapped in poverty for a long time. In 2009, a family of four including two children was considered to be living in poverty if their income was below \$21,756. Despite the widespread use of the standard federal poverty level, many experts believe 200 percent of the federal poverty threshold is a better measure of economic hardship. Under this criterion, 42.2 percent of U.S. children lived in "low income" households in 2009.

Related Research from Child Trends

[Children in Poverty: Trends, Consequences, and Policy Options](#)
[The Strengths of Poor Families](#)

[What Works for Increasing Family Income and Parental Employment: Lessons from Experimental Evaluations of Programs and Interventions](#)



50 State Report on Public Education and Black Male

A new study from the Schott Foundation documents the widespread failure of the American public education system to educate black males. The 2010 Schott 50 State Report on Black Males in Public Education indicates that the overall 2007-2008 graduation rate for black males in the U.S. was 47 percent, with half of states having rates below this. The report highlights New Jersey's Abbott plan, whose targeted resources yielded significant results: New Jersey is now the only state with a high black population and a greater-than-65-percent graduation rate for black males. Currently, the five worst-performing districts with large black male student enrollment are New York City (28 percent); Philadelphia (28 percent); Broward County, Fla. (39 percent); Chicago (44 percent); and Nashville, Tenn. (47 percent). Districts with black male student enrollment exceeding 10,000 that have the highest graduation rates are Newark, N.J. (76 percent); Fort Bend, Tex. (68 percent); Baltimore County, Md. (67 percent); and Montgomery County, Md. (65 percent). The districts with the lowest graduation rates for black males are Pinellas County, Fla. (21 percent); Palm Beach County, Fla. (22 percent); Duval County, Fla. (23 percent); Charleston County, S.C. (24 percent); and Buffalo, N.Y. (25 percent). Dade County, Fla.; Cleveland, Ohio; and Detroit, Mich. all have graduation rates at 27 percent. The report outlines potential solutions to the

crisis, as well as describing "Conditions for Failure." Read the [full report](#).



Our Children Need Afterschool Programs

Support Federal 21st CCLC Funding for Afterschool & Summer Programs

This month Congress will pass one or more spending bills to fund the federal government for Fiscal Year 2011. These bills will include funding that supports afterschool, before-school and summer programs through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers initiative. A proposal under serious consideration would allow those funds to be used for other purposes. As Members deliberate, 15 million children - more than a quarter of our children - will be alone and unsupervised after school. We can't afford to let that number grow. Take action today by [clicking here](#) to contact your Senators and Representatives about the value of 21st CCLC. Programs funded by 21st CCLC keep children safe, inspire them to learn and help working families.

UPCOMING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Department of Education's Talent Search

The Department of Education will provide funding for a wide variety of activities to encourage at-risk middle and high school age students to complete high school and enter a college or university. Four hundred sixty-four grants are available of up to \$702,000 each.

For more information, visit [Talent Search](#).

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 28, 2010

ConAgra Foods Foundation: Community Impact Grants

The ConAgra Foods Foundation seeks to support leading nonprofits in the following areas:

- Teaching children and families about good nutrition, healthy habits, and ways to prevent diseases or problems related to malnutrition, food insecurity and obesity.
- Encouraging physical activity for children.
- Fostering collaboration among service providers to minimize duplication, streamline service offerings, and increase the number of children served.
- Strengthening an organization's ability to collect, analyze, and demonstrate the impact of its programs and services in the community.

Mobilizing resources to heighten public awareness and understanding of the interrelated issues, root causes, and effects of poor child nutrition.

Grants range in size from \$10,000 to \$100,000, with the average grant of \$25,000. For more information, visit [ConAgra Foods](#).

DEADLINE: LETTERS OF INTEREST WILL BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING IN JANUARY

American Dental Association: Samuel D. Harris Fund for Children's Dental Health Grants Program

The ADA Foundation Samuel D. Harris Fund for Children's Dental Health is a permanent endowment fund dedicated to the prevention of childhood tooth decay and oral health promotion and education. The Harris Fund awards competitive grants to support programs that are designed to improve and maintain children's oral health through primary prevention and education. For the 2009 program year, the program will award to organizations that sponsor prenatal and postnatal oral health instruction for mothers and caregivers to help reduce the incidence of early childhood tooth decay, encouraging collaboration among dentistry, health professionals, and the social service communities.

Eight to ten awards will be given of up to \$5,000 each. For more information, visit [Children's Dental Health Grants](#).

DEADLINE: JANUARY 8, 2010

Bank of America is looking for tomorrow's community leaders today.

Opportunities are available to eligible high school juniors and seniors through this unique program. To be considered as a Student Leader, the applicant must be:

- Currently be a junior or senior in high school
- Be able to participate in a week-long Student Leadership Summit in Washington, DC (July)
- Be able to participate in an 8-week paid internship at a local nonprofit/charitable organization
- Be legally authorized to work in the US without sponsorship
- Be a student in good standing at his/her school

The Bank of America Charitable Foundation Student Leaders is an exciting component of Bank of America's philanthropic program, the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative. Selected student leaders participate in a paid summer internship with a designated local non-profit organization where they experience first hand how they can help shape their communities - now and in the future. To enhance their leadership experience, awardees also participate in a six-day, all expenses paid Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. provided by Bank of America, The nonprofit internship and Student Leadership Summit expose students to leadership in civic, nonprofit and business institutions. The goal is to nurture and develop our country's next generation of community leaders - for our neighborhoods, our cities, and beyond.

For more information, visit [Bank of America's community leaders](#).

The 2011-2012 U.S. Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellowship Application is Now Available!

The application for the 2011-2012 Teaching Ambassador Fellowship is now available on USAJobs and will close on January 17, 2011. High-quality applicants are needed who represent the diversity of our school populations and the different settings and subjects in which students receive instruction across our country.

Much more information about the application and program is available on the [Fellowship website](#).

Applications for the US Department of Education's Teaching Ambassador Fellowship are now available online. Teaching Ambassadors are outstanding teachers who have a record of leadership, strong communication skills, and policy insight who work for one year for the US Department of Education, either full-time in Washington, DC or part-time in their home states. The Teaching Ambassador Fellowship supports the Department's mission by enabling a cadre of teachers from across the country to contribute their classroom expertise to the national dialogue and in turn facilitate discussion with educators across the country.

DEADLINE: JANUARY 17, 2011

National Endowment for the Arts: 2011-12 Big Read Program

The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with Arts Midwest, is designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The Big Read provides participating U.S. communities with grants and comprehensive resources that support their efforts to read and discuss a single book or the work of a poet. The program will select 75 organizations in communities of varying sizes across the United States to conduct month-long, community-wide reads from September 2011 through June 2012. Organizations must match grant funds at least 1:1 with nonfederal funds, and may use the funding for such expenses as book purchases, speaker fees and travel, salaries, advertising, and venue rental. Applicant organizations that are not libraries must partner with one. Elementary and secondary schools and school districts, whether public or private, may not be lead applicants but are strongly encouraged to partner with libraries, literary centers, museums, and other eligible applicants.

75 grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000 will be awarded. For more information, visit [National Endowment for the Arts](#).

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Kresge Foundation's Education Program: Pathways for Students, Strengthening Institutions, and Higher Education Productivity

The Kresge Foundation's new Education Program is a three-part effort to increase the number of low-income and underserved individuals entering and completing two- and four-year college and university degrees so that they may overcome poverty, improve their life prospects, and contribute to overall national competitiveness. The Education Program is focused on expanding student access to higher education and avenues for their academic success. The foundation seeks to accomplish this by supporting pathways to and through college, building the capacity of postsecondary institutions whose primary mission is to educate low-income and underrepresented students, and promoting systems and technology that increase productivity and foster innovation in higher education. The Education Program focuses its work on supporting postsecondary access and success in the following three areas:

- *Pathways for Students*
- *Strengthening Institutions*
- *Higher Education Productivity*

Grants range in size from \$100,000 to \$200,000. For more information, visit [Kresge Foundation's Education Program](#).

DEADLINE: ROLLING

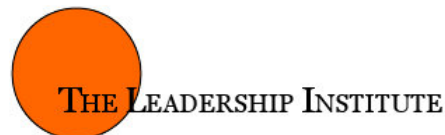
Up2Us and Good Sports

Up2Us has announced a partnership with Good Sports, a Massachusetts-based organization that aims to increase youth participation in sports, fitness, and recreational programs by targeting one of the major obstacles limiting participation - access to sports equipment. Since 2003, Good Sports has provided more than \$4 million worth of equipment, impacted more than 220,000 kids, and served nearly 700 youth programs.

For more information, visit [Up2Us and Good Sports](#).

DEADLINE: ROLLING

CONFERENCE/TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENTS



Math Games: Fun Ways to Help Students Build Math Skills

Improve your math skills & your understanding of the TERC Investigations and CMP2 curricula
FREE math games for you & your students
Time to play games and identify key concepts and strategies

4 sections of the workshop broken down by grade level:

Math Games Dates

Grades 2-3: January 7, 21

Grades 4-5: February 4, 18; March 4, 18; April 1

Grades 6-8: April 29; May 13, 27; June 3

Participants must register in advance.
Contact Morgan Randall at mrandall@boston.k12.ma.us or call 617.635.1578 Ext. 74129.



Get your child fit with Physi-Kids!

Physi-Kids is a fitness program open to boys and girls ages 5-12. In addition to fitness development, your child will also learn about healthy eating and lifestyle choices in a fun and supportive environment.

Program runs:

Monday-Thursday from 5-6pm for youth ages 5-8 and 6-7pm for youth ages 9-12
Saturday from 9:30-10:30am for youth ages 5-8 and 10:30-11:30am for youth ages 9-12

Sign your child up for one class per week or all four! \$5 refundable deposit per course per program session.
Dates are not yet confirmed, please call for details.

Contact Lauren at 617.825.2800 or by [e-mail](#). Program is run by Healthworks at Codman located at 450 Washington Street in Dorchester.



School Safety Advocacy Council
www.schoolsafety911.com

National Conference on Bullying

Deputy Secretary of Education Mr. Kevin Jennings to keynote

February 14-16, 2011 at Doubletree Hotel International Drive in Orlando, Florida

The School Safety Advocacy Council, in partnership with the Florida Association of School Resource Officers (FASRO) and SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) are pleased to announce the **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BULLYING.**

REGISTRATION FEES

Prior to Jan 31, 2011 - \$300.00
After Jan 31, 2011 - \$350.00

5 of more from same agency - \$250.00
5 or more from same agency (1/31/11) \$300.00

Member of FASRO - \$250.00
Member of SAVE - \$250.00

Student (18 and under) \$150.00

EXHIBITORS

Take part and exhibit at what will be the largest gathering of professionals meeting on the topic of bullying.

8x10 Booth, 2 Chairs, 6' table and signage

\$450.00 (\$500.00 after Jan 31, 2011)

For more information, visit [National Conference on Bullying](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

MAP's Annual State House Afterschool and Out-of-School Time Advocacy Day will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2011. Please mark your calendars and plan to bring everyone who cares about and understands the importance of afterschool and out-of-school time programming in your community. Your voices are important to us.

ROUNDTABLE STEERING COMMITTEE & ADVISORY BOARD

Steering Committee	Advisory Board
Joy Dryfoos (Emeritus)	Michele Brooks
Matt LiPuma (Chair)	Lou Casagrande
Bob Kilkenny	Hardin Coleman
Dishon Mills	Bob Gittens
Catalina Montes	Representative Elizabeth Malia
Marchelle Raynor	Wanda McClain
Mandy Savitz-Romer	Michele Norman
Dina Siegal	Jill Norton
Bob Wadsworth	Ana Ortiz
Mary Walsh	John Riordan
	Harry Spence
	Peg Sprague
	Mike Tooke
	John Verre
	Jonathan Zaff

Contact Us:

Abby R. Weiss
Executive Director
Full-service Schools Roundtable
443 Warren Street, Dorchester, MA 02121

email: aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us

P: (617) 635-6537
F: (617) 635-8027

www.fssroundtable.org

Forward email

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us by aweiss@boston.k12.ma.us.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Full-service Schools Roundtable | 443 Warren Street | Dorchester | MA | 02121