



# Full-service Schools Roundtable

February 2005

*"partnering for Boston students' success"*

443 Warren Street Dorchester MA 02121 617 635 6537

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## Roundtable Report: Assessing Needs as the Building Block for Technical Assistance

The Technical Assistance workgroup meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> focused on how to conduct an assessment of a school as a first step in providing technical assistance to address barriers to students' success. Workgroup members present identified a series of critical questions to explore during a series of initial meetings with a school, including the following:

- What is your concern?
- What are the systems of support in the building?
- What partners are active in the building and what are they doing?
- What programs are in place?
- How are parents engaged, supported, and involved in decision making?
- Is the school involved in system wide initiatives?
- How does the school address school climate issues?
- What other BPS funding and resources are received by the school?

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities

### For Your Information

Save the Date!  
Our next full meeting of the Roundtable membership is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30th from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. Location TBA.

-What is their vision/hope for the school?

The group also discussed the importance of early on establishing trust in the relationship, providing concrete resources and suggestions to address an immediate concern, and discussing who should be involved in future meetings.

This workgroup meets monthly to help articulate policies, protocols, and best practices in making technical assistance available to schools and community partners as a part of our efforts to foster full-service schools in Boston. The next meeting will take place on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11:00 am at Boston Latin Academy, 443 Warren Street, Dorchester. For more information or to join the workgroup, please contact Anne Greenbaum at [annetruro@comcast.net](mailto:annetruro@comcast.net) or [mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:mgredler@boston.k12.ma.us).

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## What's Happening in Boston Public Schools: A Look at School Climate

Boston Public Schools (BPS) recognizes the crucial role that school climate plays in student learning and is committed to creating an ethos of caring and safety during school and out of school time. BPS believes that positive school climate is created through the use of supportive, preventive and corrective strategies during the school and after school programs. This year, BPS is working to improve school climate through four main initiatives that utilize these strategies—Whole School Improvement, Second Step, Cooperative Discipline, and Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI).

BPS is working to addressing school climate systematically through its Six Essentials for Whole School Change—a collaborative process that requires schools to analyze their challenges and opportunities. Through this initiative, every school in BPS is required to create a Whole School Improvement plan (WSIP). As a part of their plan, each school must identify school issues, explain the root causes to these problems, and develop strategies to improve school climate as well as the other essentials deemed important to student learning.

BPS is also working to create a positive, safe environment during school and after school programs through its use of Second Step, a violence prevention curriculum. Recommended by the Federal Department of Education, Second Step is a violence prevention curriculum for students in K-8 classrooms. Unified Student Services trains teachers in Second Step so that they can utilize it during school. The Second Step

“The mission of the Full-service Schools Roundtable is to advance the healthy development and academic success of students in Boston through integrated school/community partnerships. In alignment with BPS goals, the Roundtable increases Boston’s capacity to provide comprehensive, school-based supports for children, youth and families.”

“Welcome to the Sumner School—  
Bienvenidos a la Sumner School”

curriculum also has a parent curriculum that encourages families to reinforce violence prevention techniques at home. The Boston Public Health Commission offers ten Family Second Step trainings over the course of the school year.

Lastly, BPS is working to improve school climate through its use of Cooperative Discipline and CPI in schools. Cooperative Discipline is a behavior management strategy aimed at reducing disruptive classroom behavior. CPI is a program that trains school personnel in the use of safe restraints. BPS violence prevention and behavior specialists are available to train teachers in cooperative discipline and crisis prevention techniques.

BPS is also working to address other issues that effect school climate including alcohol and drug use, bullying and tolerance. This year, BPS is teaching students about substance abuse during school and after school programs as a result of the Safe and Drug Free Schools grant. BPS is also offering trainings to students and teachers on bullying and sexual harassment. A BPS GLBT Coordinator is working with schools to develop alliances to address homophobia in schools.

For more information, please contact BPS Violence Prevention Specialist, Nicole Collette at [ncollette@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:ncollette@boston.k12.ma.us).

## Profile of a Community Learning Center: The Charles Sumner School

Walk into the Charles Sumner School and the first thing that will catch your eye is a bright colored banner declaring, “Welcome to the Sumner School—Bienvenidos a la Sumner School.” After a tour of the school it becomes clear that the sign is just a small part of a much larger effort running throughout the school—an effort to positively influence learning by developing and strengthening relationships between students, families, school staff and the larger community.

Efforts to reach and connect students, families, and school staff with one another led to the creation of a wide range of school-based services at the Sumner. Strong before school, after school, family engagement, mental health and professional development programs have enabled students, families and school staff to build trusting relationships with one another, creating a warm environment at the school. Weekend school-sponsored family field trips have had a particularly positive effect on school climate. Each season, the Sumner School invites families to participate in a field trip to a community site in Boston. For example, this month, school staff, students and families visited the Museum of Science.

The Sumner’s success in expanding school-based services can be attributed to strong

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Many thanks to designer  
Cathy Moylan, Moylan  
Design  
(www.moylandesign.com)  
for our new logo.

relationships it has built with the larger community. For example, the school offers it's before school and after school programs through a partnership with the Hyde Park YMCA. The Sumner School offers an African Dance and Drumming program during its after school program through a collaboration with Very Special Arts (VSA). In addition, partnerships with Children's Hospital and the Home for Little Wanderers have enabled the school to offer increased mental health services to children and families. With support from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center grant, the Director of the school's Community Learning Center, Ruth Bodian, coordinates the wide range of partnerships at the Sumner School.

In addition to building relationships with community organizations, the Sumner School is improving school climate through developing relationships with community members. Last week, the Sumner School held its annual "Community Reading Day," inviting local community residents, city officials, and religious leaders to the school to share their favorite stories with students. Through a RIF grant, the school was able to distribute one book to each student. In April, the Sumner will hold another community event, its annual "Read-a-thon."

For more information about the Charles Sumner School, please contact Ruth Bodian, Director of the Community Learning Center at the Sumner School at [rabodian@netzero.com](mailto:rabodian@netzero.com).

## Upcoming Funding Opportunities

**Babson Foundation**: supports programs geared at promoting economic development; culture, education and leadership development; community building; and health and social services. Visit <http://www.babsonfoundation.org> for more information  
**DEADLINE FOR CONCEPT PAPER: FEBRUARY 28**

**Blossom Fund**: provides funding to community based educational and cultural projects in Boston, Cambridge & Brookline. Call (617) 523 6561 for more information.  
**DEADLINE: MARCH 15**

**Foley Hoag Foundation**: supports programs geared at eliminating racism among youth in Boston. Visit <http://www.fhe.com> for more information.  
**DEADLINE: APRIL 1**

**Home Depot Foundation**: provides support for programs geared at affordable housing and at risk youth. Visit <http://www.homedepotfoundation.org> for more information.  
**DEADLINE: APRIL 15**

The Full-service Schools Roundtable appreciates support for its work from: The Boston Foundation, Herman and Freida L. Miller Foundation, Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust, and an anonymous foundation.

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**Southern Poverty Law Center**: offers "Teaching Tolerance" grants to classroom teachers for projects supporting diversity and peacemaking. Visit <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/expand/gra/guide.isp> for more information.  
**ACCEPTING YEAR ROUND**

## For Your Information: Strengthening High-Risk Youth Service Systems in Boston

The Boston Capacity Tank and its Partners, United Way of Massachusetts Bay, Emmanuel Gospel Center, and Boston TenPoint Coalition, are convening public agencies and private providers which serve high-risk youth between the ages of 17 and 21, to engage in a series of nine monthly public meetings (beginning Friday, February 18th). In these meetings, participants will identify and address priority needs to strengthen the system of services. Invited participants include:

- Community-based providers
- Faith-based providers
- Public youth service providers
- Church groups and ministries
- Community businesses, libraries, other services

To register, visit the weblink below.

[http://www.bmaboston.org/CC\\_Content\\_Page/0,,PTID323166|CHID664624|CIID,00.html](http://www.bmaboston.org/CC_Content_Page/0,,PTID323166|CHID664624|CIID,00.html)

## MA Medicaid Policy Analysis

The Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute (MMPI) has produced an analysis of the Medicaid components of Governor Romney's budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2006. This Budget Bulletin is now available on the MMPI website, <http://www.massmedicaid.org>. As the budget process continues over the coming months, we will update this information to keep you informed of the implications for MassHealth.

The MMPI website includes other information you may find useful, including a fact sheet explaining the basics of MassHealth, and full-length policy reports on Mass Health members with disabilities and the implications for the state of the new Medicare drug benefit. New publications and website features will be coming soon; we will notify you when they are available. Your feedback is welcome.

## March Bridging the Gap Trainings

**March 2, 2005, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Elementary ELA**



Workshop Presenter: A. Deveney  
Location: Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot School

**March 8, 2005, 10 a.m.- 12 p.m.: Elementary Math, Training I**

Workshop Presenter: Janan Hamm & Nancy Belkov  
Location: TBA

**March 16, 2005, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.: MCAS**

Workshop Presenter: Karen Hall-Redcross  
Location: TBA

**March 22, 2005, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.: Social Studies**

Workshop Presenter: Sid Smith  
Location: TBA

**March 16, 2005, 10 a.m. -12 p.m.: Elementary Math, Training II**

Workshop Presenter: Janan Hamm & Nancy Belkov  
Location: TBA

Space limited to 25 people per workshop. Registration forms must be filled out and returned in advance. Please contact Rachel Green for more information or to register at (617) 635-6609 or rgreen2@boston.k12.ma.us.