

# Birth → School Entry

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT & SCHOOL READINESS

**VISION** Learning begins at birth. In the first years of life, a child's brain develops at a faster pace than during any other time. That growth depends on nurturing caregiving, and is the foundation for all the learning and development that follows. Boston is committed to supporting all parents as their child's first teacher – and to connecting them to the city's early childhood assets and resources.

**GOALS AND TARGETS** Ready for school: Children enter school ready for kindergarten, as indicated by holistic assessments that measure all domains of a child's growth and development.

Access to early learning opportunities: Boston is expanding its "Play to Learn" groups, free weekly structured playtimes for parents and their children ages 1-3 held in Boston's elementary schools, to all Boston neighborhoods.

**INDICATORS AND MEASURES** Kindergarten school readiness assessments; adequate, consistent prenatal care; healthy birth outcomes; childhood immunizations; accredited early childhood programs.

## INNOVATIONS AND KEY INITIATIVES

**Framework** Thrive in 5 is a citywide, comprehensive approach to school readiness. This movement, co-sponsored by Mayor Menino and United Way, is the result of a year-long planning process that included families, educators, health and human service providers, the private sector, and City departments. Thrive in 5 aligns the work of these sectors to ensure that all children from birth through 5 years old and their families receive the information, support, and services they need to be ready for kindergarten and sustained school success.

### Maternal/ Child Health

Healthy Baby/Healthy Child  
Boston Healthy Start Initiative

### Parents As Teachers

Read Boston/Early Words  
Smart from the Start  
Talk Read Play  
Play to Learn Groups

### School Readiness

Countdown to Kindergarten  
Y/BPS  
Full-Day Pre-Kindergarten  
Boston Public Library (BPL)

Through the Boston Public Health Commission's HEALTHY BABY/HEALTHY CHILD program, families receive prenatal support and welcome baby visits – services for families in their homes and communities.

SMART FROM THE START provides young families in housing developments with play groups focused on early development. The program also offers adult education, financial literacy, and ESOL classes, promoting not only healthy parenting, but also family stability.

COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN and READBOSTON continue to grow their impact city-wide, promoting healthy development and early literacy through Talk, Read, Play and Early Words, as well as successful transitions to kindergarten.

# Kindergarten → High School

EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT

**VISION** Provide a high-quality public education along with enriching experiences outside of the classroom for all Boston youth. The Boston Public Schools has set out a bold "Acceleration Agenda," which promises academic rigor as well as supports to ensure student success.

**GOALS AND TARGETS** Learning to read by grade 1: By 2012, 80% of first graders will read at or above grade level.

Reading to learn by grade 3: 100% of 3rd graders will pass English Language Arts for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test; 85% will be in the proficient or above category by 2012.

Skillful, analytical writing in grades 5 and 7: Develop and implement a district-wide writing assignment in at least 3 content areas.

Mastering Math in middle school: 80% of 8th graders receive a B or better in Math by 2012.

**INDICATORS AND MEASURES** Learn to read by grade 1; read to learn by grade 3; participation in after-school/enrichment programs; participation in summer programs and jobs; school attendance; engage in healthy behaviors/avoid risky behaviors.

## INNOVATIONS AND KEY INITIATIVES

### Schools of Choice

Acceleration Agenda  
In-District Charter Legislation  
Welcome Services & Transition Support

### Year Round /All Day Learning

Community Learning Initiative  
Boston After School & Beyond  
Triumph Collaborative  
Youth Summer Jobs & Programs  
Mayor's Youth Council  
BPL Programs & Tutoring

### Promoting Wellness & School Success

Back on Track: Dropout & Truancy Prevention  
Credit Recovery/Re-engagement Center  
Alternative Education  
Child & Adolescent Health Programs - Youth Development Network  
Boston Food and Fitness Collaborative  
Boston Schoolyard Initiative  
Boston Scholar Athlete Program  
World Cup Boston 2010

BOSTON AFTER SCHOOL & BEYOND is a public-private partnership dedicated to supporting, strengthening and expanding Boston's out-of-school time sector. Boston Beyond, with the Boston Public Schools and area non-profits, is building a system of extended learning and enrichment opportunities. In 10 years, the number of students who participate in afterschool programs has doubled – with a total of 30,000 Boston Public Schools students served today.

The COMMUNITY LEARNING INITIATIVE integrates the work of three large city departments to better support Boston's youth in reaching their full potential. Through aligning the curricula and resources of Boston Centers for Youth & Families, Boston Public Schools and the Boston Public Libraries, the City is able to provide children with coordinated, enriching experiences that enhance their learning.

# High School → College Completion

21ST CENTURY SKILLS

**VISION** Ensure high school graduation for Boston students and increase the success of its graduates in college and beyond. The City of Boston seeks to provide its young people with a path to achievement – in education and the workplace.

**GOALS AND TARGETS** "On-track" to graduate by the end of grade 10: 90% of 10th graders will pass English Language Arts (ELA) and Math state assessments; 75% of 10th graders will pass ELA, Math, and Science state assessments by 2012.

College-ready & success-bound: 3% or lower annual dropout rate; 80% 4-year graduation rate; average combined score of 1650 or better on SAT 1; 100% of students take at least one Advanced Placement, Honors, or Dual Enrollment course in high school by 2012.

College completion: Increase college completion rates by 50% for class of 2009; double rates for class of 2011.

**INDICATORS AND MEASURES** School attendance; passing grades; engage in healthy behaviors/avoid risky behaviors; access to skills training and summer jobs; participation in summer programs; on track to graduate by grade 10; high school graduation; applying to college; college completion; workforce-ready.

## INNOVATIONS AND KEY INITIATIVES

### Getting Ready for College

Advanced Placement Classes  
International Baccalaureate  
Dual Enrollment  
Newcomers Academy  
Career-Track High Schools  
WriteBoston

### Getting Into College

Expanded College Counseling  
Scholarship Fund

### Getting Through College

Financial Aid Counseling  
Mentoring  
Summer Jobs

### Back on Track

Credit Recovery Programs  
Re-engagement Center  
Alternative Education  
Jobs & Community Services  
Youth Options Unlimited/Reentry

SUCCESS BOSTON is a college completion initiative aimed at dramatically increasing the number of Boston Public Schools students achieving college graduation. The initiative is a concerted, collaborative effort by college access and success programs, the public schools, and local higher education institutions to ensure that students are prepared for college success, applying for and gaining access to higher education, and receiving the supports necessary, once enrolled, to earn a degree and enter the workforce.

Every summer, Mayor Menino dedicates public funds and raises private money to provide nearly 10,000 Boston young adults with SUMMER JOBS. Employment at an early age not only provides needed income to Boston's young adults, but also provides them with invaluable experience in the workplace.

“We have created an education pipeline in Boston, because we know that children need programs and support each day, from dawn to dusk, and at each stage of their education, from birth through college.”

– MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO, JUNE 9, 2009

## PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

### CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

#### Invest Early in Lifelong Learning

Children are born ready to learn, and Boston is a national leader in its focus on the earliest years. We can prevent the achievement gap by beginning at birth, building community capacity to support children’s school readiness and sustained school success.

#### Support Achievement In and Out of the Classroom

Research shows that experiences outside of school which enhance learning are critical to academic and life success. The City remains committed to providing both a high-quality public education and enriching experiences outside of the classroom for all Boston youth.

#### Establish a Healthy Environment at Home and In the Community

In order to learn and grow, children and families need a healthy, safe environment in which to thrive. This includes access to quality health care, secure housing, healthy and affordable food, safe streets and communities, jobs, and economic opportunity.

### SYSTEMS

#### Alignment and Collaboration

Reflecting a commitment to the healthy development of Boston’s young people, Mayor Menino created a cabinet-level, cross-agency team – the Education, Health, and Human Services Sub-Cabinet – dedicated to integrated strategies and collaborative policy-making that promote learning and achievement from birth through higher education.

#### Partnerships

The cornerstone of Boston’s approach to family and youth development is strong partnerships with community-based organizations, academic and research institutions, the business community, and foundations – all essential in creating sustainable opportunities and support systems for families.

#### Data-Driven

Whether in partnership with external research institutions or through the City’s own performance management system, Boston About Results (BAR), Boston is constantly evaluating the efficacy of its programming, and moving toward a more integrated data architecture.

## FIND OUT MORE ↓

CITY OF BOSTON: [WWW.CITYOFBOSTON.GOV](http://WWW.CITYOFBOSTON.GOV)

Boston After School & Beyond: [www.bostonbeyond.org](http://www.bostonbeyond.org)

Boston Centers for Youth & Families: [www.cityofboston.gov/BCYF](http://www.cityofboston.gov/BCYF)

Boston EITC Campaign: [www.bostontaxhelp.org](http://www.bostontaxhelp.org)

Boston Public Health Commission: [www.bphc.org](http://www.bphc.org)

Boston Public Library: [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org)

Boston Public Schools: [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org)

Boston Schoolyard Initiative: [www.schoolyards.org](http://www.schoolyards.org)

Boston Youth Fund: [www.bostonyouthzone.com/teenzone/employment/byf](http://www.bostonyouthzone.com/teenzone/employment/byf)

Boston Youth Zone: [www.bostonyouthzone.com](http://www.bostonyouthzone.com)

BOSTONavigator: [www.bostonnavigator.org](http://www.bostonnavigator.org)

BPS Department of Extended Learning Time, Afterschool and Services:

[www.bpsdeltas.org](http://www.bpsdeltas.org)

Camp Harbor View: [www.campharborviewfoundation.com](http://www.campharborviewfoundation.com)

Countdown to Kindergarten: [www.countdowntokindergarten.com](http://www.countdowntokindergarten.com)

Mayor’s Food and Fuel Initiative: [www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/food\\_fuel.asp](http://www.cityofboston.gov/mayor/food_fuel.asp)

Mayor’s Office of New Bostonians: [www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians](http://www.cityofboston.gov/newbostonians)

Mayor’s Youth Council: [www.bostonyouthzone.com/myc](http://www.bostonyouthzone.com/myc)

ReadBoston - Early Words: [www.readboston.org](http://www.readboston.org)

Talk, Read, Play: [www.talkreadplay.org](http://www.talkreadplay.org)

Thrive in 5: [www.thrivein5boston.org](http://www.thrivein5boston.org)

Violence Intervention & Prevention: [www.cityofboston.gov/VIP](http://www.cityofboston.gov/VIP)

World Cup Boston 2010: [www.worldcupboston2010.org](http://www.worldcupboston2010.org)

WriteBoston: [www.writeboston.org](http://www.writeboston.org)

Youth Options Unlimited: [www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org/yoboston](http://www.bostonredevelopmentauthority.org/yoboston)



CITY OF BOSTON  
Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor



# MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO City of Boston Youth & Family Opportunity Agenda

## BOSTON’S PRINCIPLES & PIPELINE FOR SUCCESS

Committed to ensuring that every child reaches his or her fullest potential.



“Let us be clear and focused in our objectives, and let us envision for all children what they can see from Boston’s harbor: unlimited horizons.”

– MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO

