



December 2009

Dear Friend,

This edition highlights opportunities to elevate the role of partnerships in addressing education reform goals.

The Connecting Communities [Policy Symposium](#) brought together political and field leaders to define a stronger, more unified state policy agenda. One theme that surfaced throughout the symposium is that tailored approaches to using time, place and content are essential if we are to engage and motivate young people—and even more powerful when driven by shared goals.

The notion of shared goals is central to Mayor Menino's [Education Pipeline](#), which aims to double the college graduation rate; to the dropout reduction [recommendations](#) of a state commission chaired by Secretary Reville; and to Superintendent Johnson's proposed [five-year strategy](#) for the Boston Public Schools, specifically turning around low-performing schools.

These policy agendas call upon partners to contribute their specific expertise, at all levels of education, in pursuit of measurable results.

We look forward to working with you to make progress on these community-level goals. We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Chris Smith
Executive Director

Connecting Communities Policy Symposium



House Speaker Robert A. DeLeo accepts the Beacon Award

On October 28th, more than 250 education and youth development professionals joined city and state leaders to develop a unified voice on after-school and expanded learning policy. The symposium featured Speaker of the House Robert DeLeo and Mayor Thomas M. Menino, research from Priscilla Little of the Harvard Family Research Project, a panel of field leaders, and working draft of a policy platform.

[Summary of Federal and State funding in MA](#)

(For up-to-date state budget information visit the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership's [Advocacy Center](#))



Boston's Education Pipeline At the symposium, Mayor Menino released the city's Education Pipeline that outlines a "birth through college success" strategy. In urging attendees to track results, Menino advised, "Let's use that data to hold ourselves

IN THE NEWS

➤ [National report names Massachusetts a "state on the move to afterschool for all"](#)

➤ [1,500 Boston Public School students get outdoors and learn](#)

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

➤ [President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities invites nominations for the 2010 Coming Up Taller Awards](#)
Deadline: January 29, 2010

➤ [Nickelodeon's Big Green Grant](#)

Deadline: December 31, 2009

RESEARCH & REPORTS

➤ [Expanded Learning Opportunities - Pathways to Student Success](#)

Prepared by Priscilla Little for the Connecting Communities Policy Symposium

➤ [The Evaluation of Enhanced Academic Instruction in After-School Programs](#)

From the Institute of Education Sciences

➤ [The State of City Leadership for Children and Families](#)

From the National League of Cities, this report highlights several Boston system innovations, including the Mayor's Youthline, BOSTONavigator, and the DELTAS management information system.

JOB OPENINGS

[Director of Youth Services](#)
ABCD, Inc.

[Youth Instructor, Technology Program](#)
Jordan Boys & Girls Club

[Director of Summer Tennis and Reading Program](#)
Tenacity



In the Homework Assistance Program, students in grades 3-12 can get help with their homework after school.

accountable...We can have flexibility in approaches, but we need to shoot for the same goals.” He also announced the formation of a new Partnership Council through Boston After School & Beyond, which will strengthen collaboration among city and school officials, funders, and program providers.

 [Education Pipeline](#)



Research Priscilla Little of the Harvard Family Research Project presented her paper “Expanded Learning Opportunities - Pathways to Student Success,” highlighting research on the promise of expanded learning approaches — including after-school,

summer, extended day, and community networks—for education reform. According to the report, “The research warrant for afterschool and summer learning programs is clear: Children and youth who participate in well-implemented programs and activities outside of school are poised to stay enrolled longer and perform better in school than their peers who do not attend such programs.”

 [ELO – Pathways to Student Success](#)



Policy Platform and Panel A panel of field leaders, including Boston representatives Claudio Martinez of Hyde Square Task Force and Tiffany Cooper-Gueye of BELL, offered

recommendations for stronger state policy. Symposium attendees followed suit, co-drafting a unity statement and policy platform that will serve as shared statewide agenda. To add your suggestions to the draft platform, e-mail kmagrane@massafterschool.org.

 [Draft Unity Statement and Policy Platform](#)



Video Boston After School & Beyond released a video that highlights Boston's expanded learning strategies, highlighting the developmental needs of children and youth at the

elementary, middle and high school levels.

Superintendent Presents 5-Year Strategy, Names “Turnaround Schools”

At the November 18 School Committee meeting, Superintendent Carol Johnson proposed a five-year strategy for the Boston Public Schools. The “[acceleration agenda](#)” includes a 10-point vision, three goals, specific academic targets, and four key strategies. In describing the strategy around deepening partnerships with the community, Dr. Johnson emphasized, “We are going to be asking our partners...to read our five-year plan and tell us how they are going to help us meet our goals.”

Share your feedback at feedback@bostonpublicschools.org or at the next community feedback session, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., just before the December 16 School Committee meeting (Boston Public Schools, 26 Court Street, Edward Winter Chambers).

Dropout Prevention & Recovery

Making the Connection

A Report of the Massachusetts Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Commission

At the State House on October 21, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Secretary of Education Paul Reville, and Representative Marie St. Fleur released a report that calls for cutting the statewide dropout rate in half over five years.

can get free after-school homework help at any library branch. There is also free one-on-one tutoring online with your library card until 10pm each night. 617-859-2212.

www.bpl.org/homework

The report recommends taking full advantage of "structured learning time" to better engage students, to make stronger connections between school and college and career, and to allow for credit attainment beyond traditional high schools.

 [Report Findings and Recommendations](#)

The Teen Perspective



Two Boston Beyond summer interns—Dorchester Academy junior Jasmine Chung and 2009 Boston International High School graduate Jean Carlos Bautista—designed and implemented a survey of their peers to understand what teens and older youth seek in after-school and summer programs. The results: opportunities to learn new skills, prepare for college, make career connections, and earn money.

 [Download the survey report](#)

National reports on after-school and older youth can be found at [Afterschool Alliance](#).

Summer Capacity

Survey finds unmet need for summer programming

Over the past two years, Boston After School & Beyond, in partnership with the AGM Summer Fund, surveyed summer programs listed in BOSTONavigator to learn about their capacity to serve youth. The report, "Unmet Need for Summer Programming in Boston," documents that the vast majority of programs could not serve all youth who sought to participate. The data were shared with Summer Fund donors on November 19.

Survey highlights:

- 84% of the organizations surveyed did not have the capacity to serve every youth that sought summer programming in 2009.
- 50% of these organizations put youth on a waitlist; the other 50% simply turned away youth.
- 85% of organizations reported that no more than half of their wait-listed youth were ultimately served in the summer of 2009.

 [Read the full report](#)

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