BOSTON'S 5TH QUARTER
BY THE NUMBERS
OCTOBER 17, 2018
Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to present Boston’s 5th Quarter by the Numbers, the state of summer learning in 2018. The 5th Quarter of Learning is where young people experience the city and its surroundings as a classroom. It’s when they learn new skills and make friends from different schools. It’s how a city expands horizons and opportunities, ensuring that students return to school ready to learn.

Reflecting on the summer as a community has become a Boston Beyond tradition. Each year since 2009, more and more programs are measuring what matters. The summer of 2018 represents a new record for this commitment with 145 programs serving 12,522 Boston youth.

By embracing a common set of measures, summer programs are demonstrating how to engage young people—and the adults working with them—in learning and skill development. Although there is more to a program than can be measured, standard measures enable us to unearth the practices that help youth learn and grow.

A citywide approach to measurement allows us to capture the stunning variety of summer activities available to Boston’s kids. Whether supporting youth to write a business plan, sail a boat, or create art, programs are asking themselves the same questions. Are we sparking curiosity? Are we helping students work together toward shared goals? Are we helping youth reflect on their learning?

The real insights come not only from the data, but also from our discussion of what the data reveal in the context of our goals as a program, a city, and a field. The Boston Beyond team is honored to play its role in moving these discussions forward.

Chris Smith
Executive Director
BY THE NUMBERS

12,522 students
145 programs
71 organizations

5th Quarter Student Growth

5th Quarter Program Growth
Attendance rates vary by program. Three out of four programs have attendance above the 80% benchmark.

About two out of three students attended 80% or more of their scheduled program days.
According to program staff, students demonstrated statistically significant growth in key skills linked to college and career readiness.

Students reported positive change in key skills, attitudes, and dispositions. The results demonstrate that students felt reflection was their strongest skill by the end of the summer, an area of focus by programs over the last year.
According to youth surveys, programs exceeded the benchmark score on five out of the eight domains. Youth Have Choice and Autonomy, although still an area of growth, improved slightly from Summer 2017.

According to trained observers, programs met benchmark on 14 out of 15 domains.

*The domains marked with an asterisk earned the highest scores since Summer 2013.
When it comes to facilitating reflection during an activity, our network is less consistent. However, 15 programs went from below to above benchmark from 2017 to 2018 (light green).

When comparing 2017 and 2018 observation ratings for program practices related to **Staff Positively Guide Youth Behavior**, most programs scored above benchmark both years (dark green).

To see improvement on other categories, visit the Insight Center: insight.bostonbeyond.org
Governor Charlie Baker and legislative leaders included $500,000 in new funding for a summer learning line item (7061-9814) in the FY19 state budget. The new program, which will be administered by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is modeled on Boston’s approach of providing students with 150 hours of learning and enrichment focused on key college and career readiness skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, and perseverance.
Increasingly, programs are helping each other improve by becoming Certified Observers. Once trained in the research-validated Assessment of Program Practices Tool (APT), observers are able to internally and externally apply this tool to increase program quality. Annual observations allow them to see novel best practices in action and learn directly from peers in the field.

68 Certified Observers
+ 49 Observers in Training

117 Current Observers from 68 Organizations.
Where Students Live: This map depicts where 3,985 students in the network live, based on their Boston zip code.

Where Students Attended Programs: This map depicts where 12,463 students in the network attended summer programs in 2018.
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Apprentice Learning
BELL (Building Educated Leaders for Life)
Bethel Math and Science Scholars
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
Boston Latin School
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Boston Scores
Boston University
Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Breakthrough Greater Boston
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Brighton High School
Burke High School
Camp Harbor View
Charlestown High School
CitySprouts
Community Music Center of Boston
Courageous Sailing
Crossroads
DotHouse Health
East Boston High School
Edwards Middle School
Elevate Youth
English High School
Excel High School
Freedom House
Generation Teach, Inc.
Hale Reservation
Harlem Lacrosse
Harvard-Kent Elementary School
Haynes Early Education Center
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Josiah Quincy Elementary School
Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
Mario Umana Academy
MassArt
Mass Audubon
McKay K-8 School
Neighborhood Network Center, Inc.
Northeastern University
National Park Service
O’Bryant School of Math and Science
Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation
Phillips Brooks House Association
Piers Park Sailing Center
Sociedad Latina
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Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School K-8
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