



## PRESS RELEASE

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# **BOSTON MOBILIZES LARGEST SUMMER LEARNING EFFORT**

*Record Investment of \$5 Million Boosts Enrollment, Attendance*

**BOSTON, Wednesday, August 3rd, 2022** – Mayor Michelle Wu and incoming Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper joined Boston After School & Beyond at the Mildred Avenue K-8 School in Mattapan today to recognize the city’s largest ever citywide summer learning effort.

The 5th Quarter of Summer Learning, a collaboration of the City of Boston, the Boston Public Schools, and Boston After School & Beyond and dozens of community-based organizations, includes 242 programs serving 17,500 students: an increase of 15 percent from summer 2021, and a record for the number of programs and young people participating.

The Boston Public Schools’ historic investment of \$4M helped drive this increase, supporting 108 school and community-based programs to reinvent summer school by blending academics and enrichment.

“The partnership here between the Mildred School and Harlem Lacrosse is just one example of what’s possible when we invest in creative, enriching, personalized learning experiences for our young people,” said Mayor Wu. “Programs like these, blending enrichment and education, are proven to boost student outcomes throughout the year and throughout our young peoples’ lives.”

Summer learning is an evidence-based strategy for closing opportunity and achievement gaps. A national longitudinal study by RAND, which included Boston, shows that high-attending students outperform their peers in math,

English language arts, and social and emotional skills. The average attendance rate five weeks into the program is at a record-high of 87 percent.

“The incredible array of enrichment opportunities offered during the summer helps engage our young people each day,” said Superintendent Skipper. “In addition to developing new skills and making new friends, our students are ready for the next school year. We are grateful to Boston After School and Beyond for this incredible partnership.”

In addition to supporting programs that integrate academics and enrichment, Boston Beyond mobilizes a network of 100 community-based programs, serving nearly 10,000 young people. Boston Beyond distributed nearly \$900,000 to 41 community-based summer programs as part of a \$4.5 million grant it received from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

“Funding a diverse network of community-based organizations has been an effective way to help young people rebound from the pandemic,” said Chris Smith, Executive Director of Boston After School & Beyond, which has raised and distributed \$11 million from private and public funders to after school and summer programs since the pandemic began. “We need to work together to ensure that young people have access to these programs in the future.”

Boston’s model has proved to be an inspiration to other Massachusetts cities. The Springfield Empowerment Zone is replicating Boston’s 5th Quarter of Learning model beginning with 11 programs and financial support from DESE. Boston Beyond is assisting the Springfield Empowerment Zone in developing its grants and program performance management system.

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