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### Urban Partnerships Promoting Academic Excellence

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# Urban Partnerships Promoting Academic Excellence

Urban Science Academy and Tech Boston Academy  
Boston Public Schools and School Counseling Program

Amy L. Cook, Laura A. Hayden, Robert A. Gracia

## Summary/Abstract

BPS and University preparation programs can develop a collaborative partnership that shares a vision for charting bright futures for all students

Incorporating service learning in curricula prepares school counseling students to promote educational excellence and equity among urban youth

Co-creating school counseling interventions between UMass faculty and BPS personnel fosters communication and meets student needs

## Goals and Objectives

Co-created curriculum-based service

School counseling graduate students engage in service learning and participate in organized experiences that meet needs in the schools and are coordinated with graduate learning goals

Students provide to BPS middle school and high school students opportunities to prepare them for post-secondary educational options



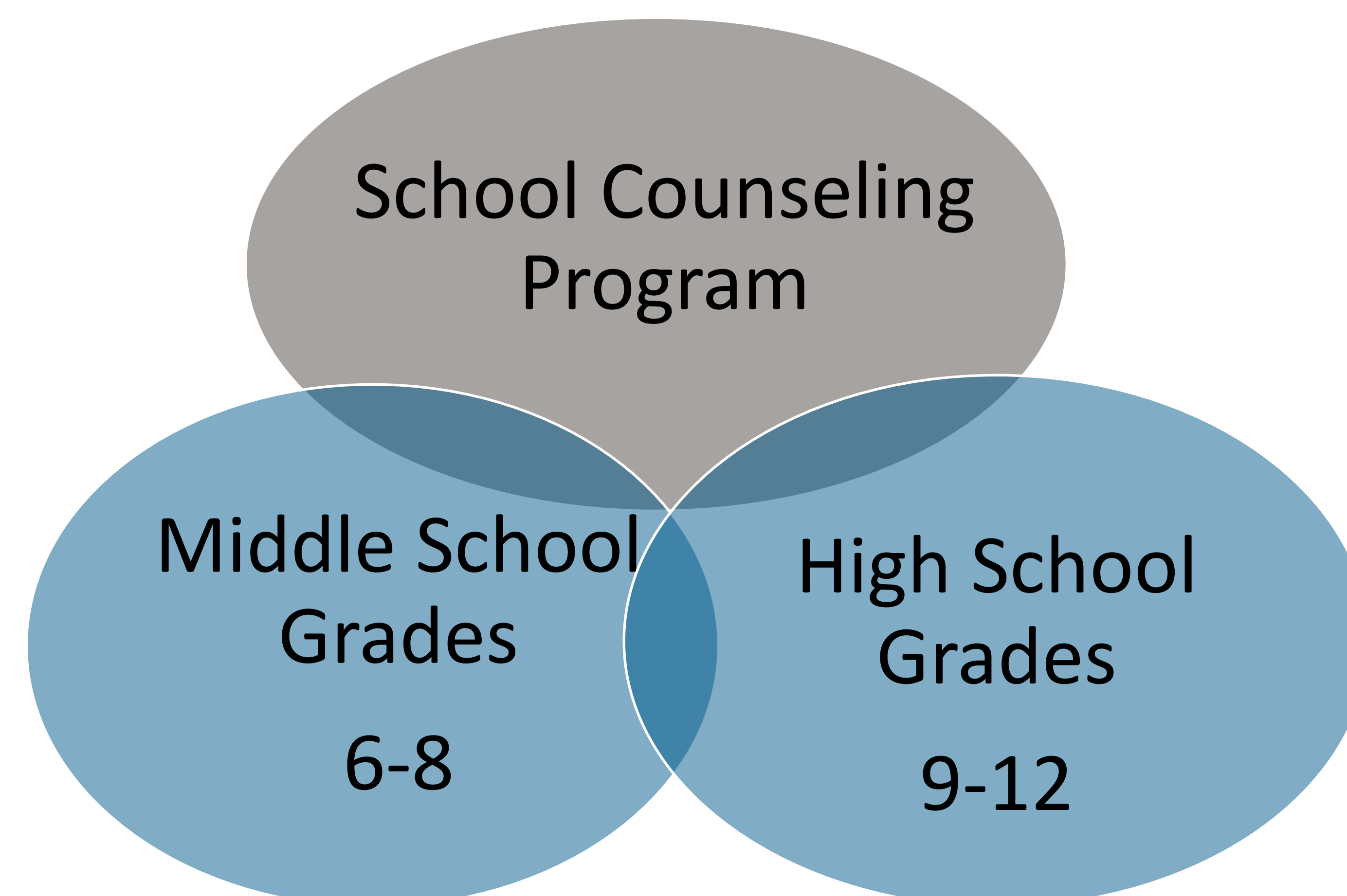
## Approaches and Methods

100-hour school counseling practicum at two BPS schools

Service learning: Mentoring students grades 6-12

Practicum students supervised by University faculty who remain at the schools allowing graduate students frequent access to faculty

University faculty model professional conduct and coordinate implementation of best practices



## Impacts

“The main purpose of a practicum is to provide field experience, hopefully giving the student an opportunity to put into practice what has been taught in the classroom. This experience is complementary to classroom work simply because real life happens in the real world, not within the confines of a lecture hall. I cannot think of any other means by which students can prepare for work in an urban school without participating in an urban practicum. In today’s world, many concerns and issues are universal for young people. However, some are particular to urban school children and dominate much of our time as urban educators.”

Ms. Ollie Osinubi, Counselor, Urban Science Academy, Boston Public Schools



## References and Resources

Wilczenski, F. L., & Schumacher, R. A. (2008). Service learning integrated into urban school counselor preparation. *Journal of School Counseling, 6*(12).

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