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Success Boston: College Completion Initiative

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Success Boston
College Completion Initiative

Summary of Success Boston

2008: Initiative launches in response to Northeastern University study finding – only 35.5% of Boston Public School (BPS) graduates enrolled in college earned an Associate’s or Bachelor’s degree within 7 years (despite BPS having one of the highest college enrollment rates in country).

2010: 38 colleges/universities in MA accepted UMass Boston Chancellor Keith Motley’s invitation to join the initiative (25 submitted specific plans). Chancellor Motley is co-chair of Mayor’s Success Boston Task Force.


Goals and Objectives

- To increase the percentage of Boston Public School graduates who successfully complete college graduation requirements.

City-wide Goals:
- 2009 Cohort Goal: 52%
- 2011 Cohort Goal: 70%

UMass Boston Goals:
- 2011 Cohort Goal: 56.7%

UMass Boston’s data continues to show progress

- Second Year Retention of Fall 2011 First-time Full-Time Freshmen (BPS graduates were significantly more likely to return than others):
  - 84.7% BPS compared to 77.8% non-BPS
- Success Boston participants on track to graduate in six years (had earned at least a 2.5 GPA and 24 credits by the end of their first year):
  - 2008 Cohort: 26%
  - 2009 Cohort: 36%
  - 2010 Cohort: 41%
  - 2011 Cohort: 42%

Results/Impacts

- Implement an initiative to ensure BPS students entering the university have completed financial aid process and necessary documentation to be on track financially.
- Continue to review and introduce best practices based on the needs of participants in Success Boston to keep them on track towards their ultimate goal – a college degree.

Conclusion/Next Steps

Partners

Mayor’s Office, City of Boston
Boston Public Schools
The Boston Foundation
37 Massachusetts Colleges and Universities

Supporters

- UMass Boston
- The Boston Foundation*
- The Ford Foundation*
* Supporters of City-wide Initiative

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