TO PREPARE EACH STUDENT FOR COLLEGE.

At BOSTON COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL, we do not believe that there is a panacea that makes a school work. We work hard and use common sense because elevating student achievement and transforming lives requires constant attention to hundreds of different elements –

Not one, magical 100% solution but rather one hundred, individual 1% solutions.

OUR MISSION

We believe creativity flourishes within a structured academic environment. Good work cannot occur unless there is a safe and orderly environment in and out of the classroom.

We have high academic and behavioral expectations. High expectations demand significant amounts of extra support before, during, and after school and on Saturdays.

We know that without great teachers, nothing else matters. Teachers must have the time, professional tools, resources, and support to do their work effectively.

Our philosophy

As a charter school, BOSTON COLLEGIATE is an independently run public school granted greater flexibility in its operations in return for greater accountability for performance. All charter schools accept students by random, public lottery, and Boston Collegiate currently has a waiting list of over 2,000 students. Our student body shows our commitment to the value of diversity in public education. While Dorchester is our largest feeder neighborhood, we serve students from all of Boston’s neighborhoods. 44% of our students live at or below the poverty line. Our overall student body is 57% White, 25% African-American, 14% Hispanic, and 4% Asian, Native American, and Bi-Racial. 19% of our students qualify as special needs. The majority of our graduates will be the first in their families to earn college degrees.

Our teachers

BOSTON COLLEGIATE teachers are smart, problem-solving, self-reflective, and passionate. They are mission-driven: they want to close the achievement gap by preparing each of our students for college success. They like being a part of a dynamic, hard-working team. They believe that they can truly make a difference and are confident in what they are doing, but they are humble enough to know that they can always improve. 85% of our teachers remain at Boston Collegiate each year; 10% of our teachers have been here for longer than five years, and 79% of our teachers have more than three years of teaching experience.

Key tenets of our approach include:

- Provide structure and order
- Focus on literacy
- Emphasize college
- Assess early and often
- Make more learning time
- Hire and retain exceptional teachers
- Provide unique life experiences

With a 10:1 student to teacher ratio and an average class size of 25 in grades 5 through 8 and 18 in the high school, students and families benefit from close and individualized instruction. Students attend school 190 days each year from 8am until 3pm (first dismissal), 4pm (second dismissal), or 5pm (third dismissal) to attend homework support, tutoring, and enrichment activities. Our curriculum is standards-based and reflects our belief that students must master a core set of basic, academic skills before they can move on to master higher-level, abstract material.

Our program

BOSTON COLLEGIATE is known as one of Massachusetts’ premier public schools:

- 100% of Boston Collegiate’s eight graduating classes have been accepted to college.
- Overall, Boston Collegiate students scored higher on the 2011 MCAS exams than ever before.
- 100% of Boston Collegiate’s 10th grade students scored Advanced or Proficient on the 2011 Math and English MCAS exams, earning us the #1 ranking in the state on both tests and marking a momentous time in our 13-year history.
- Boston Collegiate is the only public, non-exam school in the state in which 100% of students have passed the 10th grade Math MCAS for the past nine years. Furthermore, over 99% of Boston Collegiate students have passed the English MCAS over the past nine years.

Our success

BOSTON COLLEGIATE has always had a deep interest in and commitment to partnering with other schools and districts to collaborate on and share best practices. Now more than ever we are in the process of expanding our efforts to disseminate best practices and collaborate with others working to close the achievement gap. Charter schools were originally created to serve as labs of innovation, developing best practices and then sharing them widely to improve the work of all schools. Focusing on collaboration lets us fulfill our charge as a charter school and have the most significant impact we can, allowing our influence to extend far beyond the walls of our school. Every year, hundreds of visitors come to see Boston Collegiate’s outstanding students and exceptional teachers in action, and Boston Collegiate is engaged in a growing number of strategic collaborative partnerships. Boston Collegiate is an active member of the Boston Charter Compact, a group of leaders from both charter and district schools across the city actively working to develop stronger collaborations and partnerships to help all of our city’s schools further improve.

Our impact

BOSTON COLLEGIATE opened in 1998 to 120 students in grades 5, 6, and 7, and has grown to an enrollment of almost 600 students in grades 5 through 12. Our goal is to instill in our students the expectation of college from the moment they walk through our doors. Boston Collegiate has consistently brought its mission to life: 100% of our graduates have been accepted into college, with the class of 2011 earning an average of four acceptances per student.

Our students

Over the past nine years.

Outside of Boston Collegiate, hundreds of visitors come to see Boston Collegiate’s outstanding students and exceptional teachers in action, and Boston Collegiate is engaged in a growing number of strategic collaborative partnerships. Boston Collegiate is an active member of the Boston Charter Compact, a group of leaders from both charter and district schools across the city actively working to develop stronger collaborations and partnerships to help all of our city’s schools further improve.

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“We want to reimagine what a school can be. We want to hire the most knowledgeable, the most stimulating, and the most enthusiastic instructors. We want to show students the miraculous features of the natural world and the beauty of writing the perfect sentence. We want students to see not the struggle of the challenge but the pleasure of the struggle. We, as parents, educators, and community members, want to transfer and infuse the love we have for learning to the children of Boston. We want to show kids what school and their future can be and not what it has to be. This is the ethos of our school.”

BRETT PEISER AND SUSAN FORTIN
Charter Application to the State Board of Education, November 1997

Where are you going when you leave BOSTON COLLEGIATE?
To College!