



Access Better Learning and Education



ABLE's mission is to help Boston's at-risk youth graduate from high school with the prospect of going on to pursue higher education. ABLE serves this need by pairing students with four-year sponsors who provide one-on-one guidance and financial support for non-public education. ABLE strives to improve the life prospects of all ABLE scholars, making a direct and meaningful impact on their lives and on the Boston community.



Underserved Boston Youth Need ABLE's Services

THERE IS A HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT EPIDEMIC IN BOSTON

- > 9% of Boston's public high school population dropped out in the 2005-2006 school year (a rate 25% higher than 4 years ago)
- > Boston-area dropouts fare worse than dropouts almost anywhere else in the country. By 2008, 65% of new jobs in Boston will require an Associate's Degree or higher. Boston has the 6th worst employment rate for young dropouts in the country

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

- 80% = Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 53%* = Boston Public Schools
- 31% = Struggling** Boston City Students

Source: Parthenon Group 2007 Study

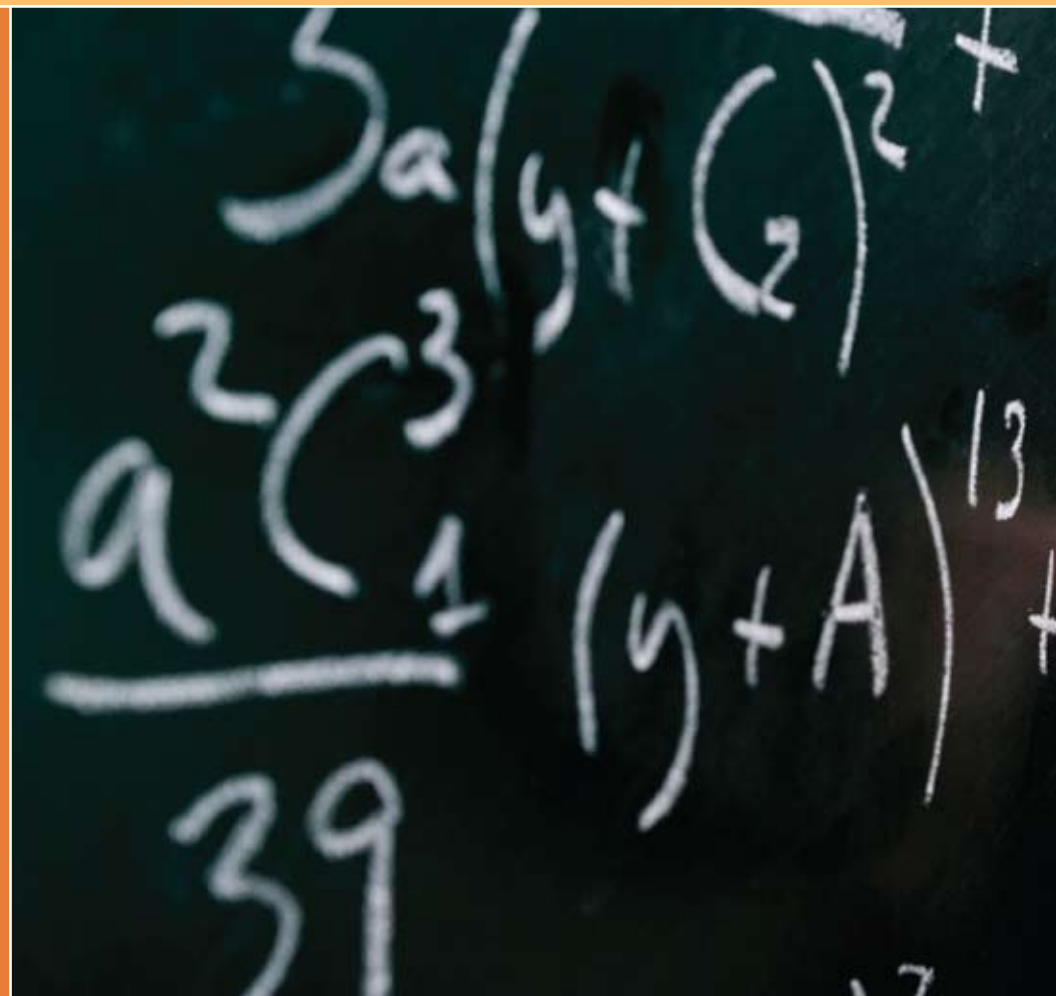
* BPS 53% excludes exam schools

** Boston city students who have failed at least one core subject.

THESE STUDENTS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO SUCCEED:

- > 88% of recent dropouts in a national survey had passing grades.
- > Nearly 7 in 10 said they were not motivated or inspired to work hard, and 2/3 would have worked harder if more was demanded of them.
- > Nearly three quarters would have stayed in school if they had to do it over again.

Source: Civic Enterprises / Gates Foundation
Report, March 2006



Get Involved

ABLE provides at-risk, financially disadvantaged students in Boston with the opportunity of a quality, non-public high school education, through the financial support and one-on-one guidance of a Sponsor. Each ABLE student is paired with a Sponsor, who provides tuition assistance for the student to attend a private high school and serves as a role model and an “academic coach.” The combination of a committed Sponsor and a challenging scholastic environment dramatically improves ABLE students’ prospects, not only for earning diplomas but for achieving real and lasting life-success after high school.

THE STUDENT SPONSORSHIP MODEL

Full Sponsors:

Contribute/raise funds sufficient to meet a student’s full tuition gap and serve as a mentor to the student.

Time Sponsors:

Serve as a mentor to the student and contribute or raise funds to partially fulfill a student’s tuition gap.

Financial Sponsors:

Provide financial support only; Financial Sponsors are paired with Time Sponsors and receive updates on their student’s progress throughout his/her high school career.



PROVEN MODEL: STUDENT SPONSOR PARTNERS NEW YORK

- > In 1986, SSP started with 45 students and 45 sponsors at two schools. Today, the organization works with over 1,700 Sponsors and serves over 1,200 students at 20 schools. SSP’s model has already been replicated in many other communities around the nation and world, including Chicago, Providence, Washington, D.C., and Johannesburg, South Africa.
- > An SSP student is three times more likely to graduate from high school than one who attends his/her local NYC public high school. Graduation rates at the NYC public high schools that SSP students would otherwise attend range between 20% and 30%. SSP’s graduation rate is over 80%.
- > Over the last several years, 95% of SSP graduates go on to college, compared to approximately 50% of NYC’s public high school graduates.

All-volunteer Model



ABLE is a vehicle that offers philanthropic involvement and leadership opportunities for Boston's young professionals. ABLE is made up entirely of volunteers who underwrite all fundraising and administrative expenses, so every cent of every donation directly contributes to the education of Boston's at-risk youth.

“Holding students prisoner in schools that aren’t working for them is not the answer. Boston Public Schools rely on the fragmented efforts of a loosely organized network of alternative programs and schools to educate students who have trouble in regular schools.”

Waltham Daily News Tribune

“It seems to me that we have neglected the most vulnerable students. If after ten years of education reform we have the highest dropout rate in ten years, something is not working well.”

*Anne Wheelock,
Sr. Research Associate – Boston College*

“There is a desperate need for this type of program. We always hope that our students will get aid, but sometimes this does not happen. It’s just another reason why we are so thankful to have ABLE as another option for our students.”

Director of Development from an ABLE partner school

Contact Us

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