

HIGH SCHOOL RENEWAL *in the* BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Partner Organizations

Boston's high school renewal initiative is supported by the Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and has three areas of focus:

- School-based strategies to change relationships and improve instruction – through coaching on workshop instruction, development of small learning communities, and creation of new small schools;
- District-based strategies to redesign support to high schools and revise policies that hamper reform; and
- Initiatives with the community to bring more adults into students' lives through school/business and school/community partnerships.

The Boston Public Schools' Office of High School Renewal (OHSR) is the school district's lead entity for driving high school renewal, including the development of small schools and small learning communities and overall school improvement. The OHSR ensures that new school designs and large school conversions are feasible, and provides extensive technical assistance and on-site coaching to new schools. The OHSR also assists the BPS central office to support high school redesign and ensures that facilities, student and staff assignment, and other cross-cutting issues are addressed quickly and effectively. www.highschoolrenewal.org

Four core partner organizations work alongside the Boston Public Schools' Office of High School Renewal in this effort:

Boston Plan for Excellence (BPE) is a local education foundation that works in close partnership with the Boston Public Schools to support principals-headmasters and teachers as they identify the instructional, organizational, and cultural changes they need to make to ensure all students meet high standards. The nonprofit also works with the central office to identify and address policy issues that present barriers to improvement. Additionally, BPE works with high school headmasters and students to inform the progress of the initiative and promote student voice at both the school and district levels. As part of its high school work, BPE is also the fiscal agent for the Schools for a New Society (SNS) grant from the Carnegie Corporation. www.bpe.org

Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) strengthens Boston's communities and its workforce by connecting youth and adults with education and employment opportunities that prepare them to meet the skill demands of employers in a changing economy. The PIC convenes the Boston Compact, the City's historic school improvement agreement among the BPS, the BTU, the business community, higher education, and others. Through the Compact, the PIC organizes business partnerships and jobs and internships that connect the classroom to the workplace. It also organizes the Teacher Advisory Committee, which includes district high school teachers. www.bostonpic.org

Center for Collaborative Education's mission is to improve student learning in K-12 public schools and districts by creating small, democratic, and equitable schools. The Center (CCE) seeks to influence the larger public's view on education to better support autonomous schools in which students and teachers know each other well, and learning is purposeful and has value beyond school. In Boston, CCE is the coordinating organization for the 19 Boston Pilot Schools. CCE is providing assistance in the design, launch, and implementation of new or developing BPS small high schools, including an annual summer institute on small school design, an annual Critical Friends Group Facilitator institute, structured visits to successful small schools, and substantial on-site coaching to design teams and small schools. www.ccebos.org

Jobs for the Future (JFF) is a national, non-profit research, consulting, and policy organization that works to strengthen our society by creating educational and economic opportunity for those who need it most. In Boston, JFF serves as lead intermediary for the Gates Foundation grant, works closely with the High School Renewal Office in the development of Boston's portfolio of high schools, provides assistance to high schools in strengthening student connections to postsecondary institutions and ensuring that graduates make smooth transitions to further education, and partners with the BPS on expanding the portfolio to include high quality alternative settings for struggling students and out-of-school youth. www.jff.org