

Boston Public Schools

Acceleration Agenda, 2009–2014

O V E R V I E W

Mission

As the birthplace of public education in this nation, the Boston Public Schools is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families and students to develop within every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

Goals

- ▶ Ensure all students achieve **MCAS proficiency**
- ▶ Close **access and achievement gaps**
- ▶ Graduate all students from high school prepared for **college completion and career success**

Academic Targets

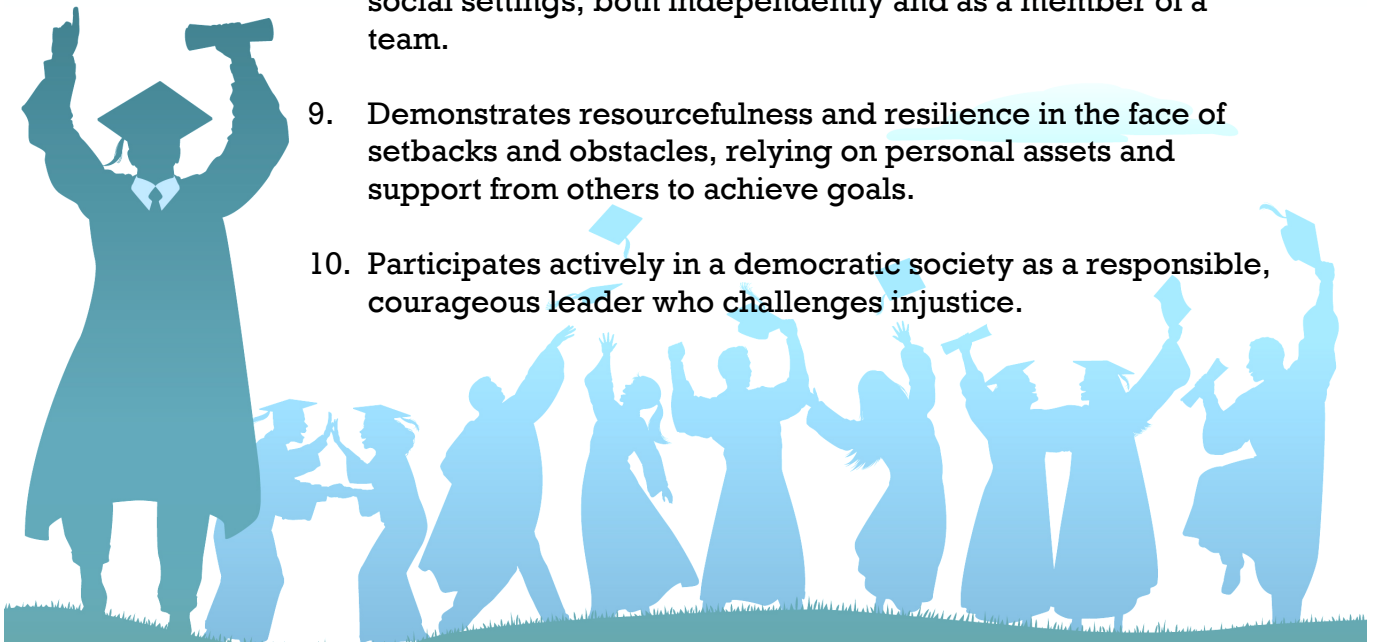
- ▶ Reading by the end of Grade 1
- ▶ Reading to learn in Grade 3
- ▶ Skillful, analytical writing in Grades 4-12
- ▶ Algebra 1 in Grade 8
- ▶ English Language Learners acquire academic language mastery and fluency
- ▶ *Significant* academic growth for students with disabilities
- ▶ “On-track” to graduate by the end of Grade 10
- ▶ High school graduation
- ▶ College-ready and success-bound

Key Strategies

- ▶ Strengthen **teaching** and school **leadership**
- ▶ Replicate **success** and **turn around** low-performing schools
- ▶ Deepen partnerships with **parents, students, and the community**
- ▶ Redesign district services for **effectiveness, efficiency, and equity**

VISION: **The Boston Public Schools Graduate...**

1. Loves to learn, views the world as a classroom without walls, and thinks critically about the issues within it.
2. Succeeds academically in college-level courses across content areas.
3. Masters verbal and written expression in English, with emerging proficiency in a second language.
4. Uses mathematical skill, scientific inquiry, and state-of-the-art technology to invent new solutions to persistent and unanticipated problems.
5. Exhibits growth, self-discipline, and reflection through innovative expression and artistry.
6. Acknowledges and respects people with diverse backgrounds, histories, and perspectives.
7. Assumes personal responsibility for physical and emotional well-being by making healthy choices.
8. Contributes confidently and positively in professional and social settings, both independently and as a member of a team.
9. Demonstrates resourcefulness and resilience in the face of setbacks and obstacles, relying on personal assets and support from others to achieve goals.
10. Participates actively in a democratic society as a responsible, courageous leader who challenges injustice.



Academic Targets

The *Acceleration Agenda* is an ambitious, student-focused plan to measurably improve academic quality, increase graduation rates and close achievement gaps. To keep making progress and achieving our reforms, we need to overcome serious challenges that confront us in several areas. When we do, we will achieve our vision to provide all of Boston's students with high-performing schools and great choices. Our Acceleration Agenda is designed to offer more educational opportunities at more great schools, and turn every school into a place where all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Academic Goal	Target by 2014
Reading by the end of Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of 1st Graders reading at or above grade level on DIBELS assessment
Reading to learn in Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 100% of 3rd Graders pass MCAS English 85% score proficient or advanced Racial achievement gap fewer than 5 percentage points
Skillful, analytic writing in Grades 4-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 point increase (compared to 2009-10 baseline) in the percentage of students scoring Level 3 or 4 across all content areas
Algebra I in Grade 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% of Math 8 students receive a "B" or better on the final exam 40% of non-exam school students take Algebra I in Grade 8
English Language Learners acquire academic language mastery and fluency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of ELLs improve two or more steps on the MEPA within the same grade span, or one or more steps between grade spans
Significant academic growth for students with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of special education students demonstrate "high" or "very high" growth on MCAS English and Math
"On-track" to graduate by the end of Grade 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of 10th graders pass Math and ELA MCAS exams required for graduation 75% of 10th graders also will pass Science MCAS exams required for graduation 100% of students not proficient in ELA or Math fulfill an Educational Proficiency Plan (EPP)
High school graduation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual dropout rate 3% or lower 80% four-year graduation rate 70% four-year graduation rate for ELLs and special education students 85% five-year graduation rate 75% five-year graduation rate for ELLs and special education students
College-ready and success-bound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average combined SAT score of 1650 or better 100% of students take at least one college-level course (Advanced Placement, Honors, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment) during high school