

## Alternative High School Programs (cont.)

► *Ostiguy High, continued*

skills and strengths needed for personal, academic, vocational, and community success. The school aligns with Massachusetts state standards, MCAS testing protocols, and the course requirements of referring school districts to provide students with a comprehensive education. Students also receive counseling and a variety of treatment options.

Students can be referred by schools, parents, court/state agencies, drug and alcohol treatment agencies, other community based youth programs, and residential programs. William J. Ostiguy High School primarily serves students from the Greater Boston area but will also accept referrals from across eastern Massachusetts.

### St. Mary's Alternative School

90 Cushing Avenue ■ Dorchester, MA 02125  
☎ 617-436-8600 ext. 451 or 452

St. Mary's Alternative School is a transitional program for young women who are pregnant. St. Mary's provides students with classroom instruction based on the Boston Public Schools curriculum standards and emphasizes a safe, secure, nurturing, and supportive environment. Students are transitioned back to their previous school upon completion of the program.

### Suffolk County Juvenile Resource Center

3 Pemberton Square, Room 512 ■ Boston, MA 02108  
☎ 617-788-7133

The Juvenile Resource Center offers educational, counseling, and substance abuse services to court-involved students ages 12–22. Students are closely monitored; and a major component of the program is to provide them with support for a successful re-entry into a middle school, high school, or GED program.

## Alternative Middle School Programs

### Dorchester Youth Alternative Academy

18 Samoset Street ■ Dorchester, MA 02124  
☎ 617-822-0198

Dorchester Youth Alternative Academy (DYA) is an innovative human services organization committed to educating children in need of services (CHINS). Students are referred by Boston Juvenile Court or Department of Children and Families (formerly Department of Social Services).

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## Alternative Middle School Programs (cont.)

DYA customizes and adapts its programs to meet individual student needs, offering the following components:

- Core curriculum of academic subjects coupled with practical life skills, including conflict resolution
- Community service partnering with Boston Community Police, Parks & Recreation Department, Kit Clark Senior Center, and City of Boston Fields Corner Main Streets Program
- Counseling and group support
- Educational, cultural, athletic, and social activities, ranging from environmental projects to learning-based field trips.

### The Little House Alternative School

275 East Cottage Street ■ Dorchester, MA 02125  
☎ 617-282-2180

The Little House Alternative School enrolls students ages 11–14 who are at risk because of academic and attendance issues. Little House receives referrals from the Boston Public Schools, the Department of Children and Families, and the Boston Juvenile Courts. The program emphasizes safety and respect for the dignity and diversity of individual students. Little House is also dedicated to providing students with an interdisciplinary, thematic-based curriculum.

In addition to academics, the school provides substance abuse education and treatment, individual counseling, and therapeutic group activities. Teachers work closely with the Boston Public Schools and referring agencies throughout the school year. During the 8th grade year, students are encouraged to explore a variety of educational settings and philosophies in preparation for high school.

### Middle School Academy ★

2 McLellan Street ■ Dorchester, MA 02121  
☎ 617-635-1534

Middle School Academy (MSA) is a one-year transitional program for students who have repeatedly violated the Code of Discipline. MSA is committed to giving students opportunities to achieve all of the expectations and standards of success set by the Boston Public Schools. MSA accomplishes this by providing:

- A safe, structured and supportive learning environment
- Small class size
- Greater accommodations for individual student needs
- Positive staff and student relationships
- Counseling and support services
- Improved student communication skills
- Opportunities for improved social skills
- Opportunities for parental involvement
- Community resources and partnerships.

## THE MISSION OF BOSTON'S ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION NETWORK

is to prepare students for future success by providing a supportive and academically challenging school environment.

Alternative Education sites and programs focus on:

- Increasing academic and pro-social behaviors
- Providing the skills needed for college and career readiness
- Encouraging respect and value of the unique contributions of each student
- Assisting students in becoming responsible, stable, and contributing members of society.

We strive to offer learning environments for middle and high school students for whom more traditional schooling has not provided an optimal educational experience. All of our programs seek to create an intimate setting and utilize alternative strategies and individualized approaches in order to recognize and meet the unique needs and strengths of each student.

Parents/guardians interested in an Alternative Education program for their child should contact their child's guidance counselor or the Alternative Education Department.

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# Boston Public Schools Alternative Education Programs

A guide to

alternative education programs

serving Boston Public Schools students



Boston Public Schools

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## Alternative High School Programs

### ABCD University High School

200 Tremont Street ■ Boston, MA 02111  
☎ 617-357-6000 ext. 520 or 521

ABCD University High School is a Community Based Organization (CBO) school operated by Action for Boston Community Development at its Tremont Street headquarters, in cooperation with the Boston Public Schools. Each year, University High School enables nearly 100 students ages 16-21 to work toward the completion of a high school diploma.

Students work intensively to strengthen basic academic skills and show competency through a combination of teacher-designed evaluations, course projects, student presentations, portfolios, and life skills assessments.

University High School strives to honor students' individuality and unique learning styles in a safe, supportive educational environment. At the same time, the school fosters development of a positive atmosphere and congenial sense of community in which all students and staff enjoy mutual respect.

### Boston Adult Technical Academy ★

75 Malcolm X Boulevard ■ Roxbury, MA 02120  
☎ 617-635-1542

Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA) is a high school diploma program designed for older students, ages 18-22. BATA helps students find part-time work and/or vocational training opportunities. Every student is also assigned a counselor to help address issues in and outside of school.

The two-year program provides challenging instruction in core subject areas – math, English/ESL, science, and social studies. BATA students also have an opportunity to demonstrate that they are ready for college level work through the Diploma Plus competency-based diploma program. Students may take a college course while still in high school, participate in internships, and get involved in special projects.

### Boston Day and Evening Academy ★

20 Kearsarge Avenue ■ Roxbury 02119  
☎ 617-635-6789

Boston Day and Evening Academy (BDEA) is a Horace Mann charter school within the Boston Public Schools. BDEA serves 350 students who have not experienced success in other schools. It has three programs:

- *Day program* for first-time high school students ages 16–18
- *Evening program* for students ages 16–22 who have previously attended high school and are transferring or returning to school

- *Distance learning* for students whose life circumstances prevent them from attending class on a regular basis.

BDEA provides an innovative, competency-based curriculum with individualized attention for all students, with supportive academic and non-academic programming, small student-teacher ratios, health care, and counseling. The school supports strong home-school connections as the key to student success.

### City Roots Alternative High School

Boston Centers for Youth & Families  
1482 Tremont Street ■ Boston, MA 02120  
☎ 617-635-5216

City Roots Alternative High School offers small classes and a comfortable atmosphere where students receive GED preparation and testing, job readiness training, and career exploration. City Roots offers students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma rather than a GED. Students participate in extracurricular activities such as field trips, intramural programs, yearbook production, and a prom.

In addition, job developers and career counselors help City Roots students find full- and part-time employment both during the school year and after graduation. Students learn about options in higher education, financial aid, SAT tests, apprenticeship programs, and more. Each year, students receive their high school diplomas at City Roots commencement exercises held at historic Faneuil Hall.

### Community Academy ★

76 Shirley Street ■ Roxbury, MA 02119  
☎ 617-635-7734 or -7732

Community Academy is a transition program for students in grades 8-12 who have violated the BPS Code of Discipline or are not making progress toward graduation at their assigned high school. Community Academy staff is not only committed to enhancing students' educational experience, but also to developing and maintaining relationships with families based on mutual respect and trust.

Community Academy is committed to providing students with a safe, secure academic environment so they can obtain their high school diploma. The school follows the Boston Public Schools curriculum standards, attendance policies, and Code of Discipline.

Community Academy offers tutoring programs, a family engagement project, and counseling and support services to help students succeed and transition back to a regular high school program.

Students are assigned to Community Academy through the BPS Alternative Education Department.

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★ A program of the Boston Public Schools

## Alternative High School Programs

### Community Transition School ★

7 Palmer Street ■ Roxbury, MA 02120  
☎ 617-635-1295/94

Community Transition School is a competency-driven, project-based educational program for high school students.

The mission of Community Transition School is to provide court-involved students with a positive educational experience based on the Boston Public Schools curriculum; to foster a healthy, positive learning environment for students and their parents; to transition students to their preferred high school; to increase all students' academic competence in reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking; to encourage socially acceptable behaviors; and to prepare students to enter college or a career of their choice.

### Crittenton Women's Union

10 Perthshire Road ■ Brighton, MA 02135  
☎ 857-559-2129

Crittenton Women's Union's CHANCES is an intervention program for pregnant young women enrolled in a Boston public middle school or high school. CHANCES provides academic classes as well as intensive case management, one-on-one academic support, and classes to prepare students to become successful parents. Students receive transportation to and from school, and free breakfast and lunch. While in the program, participants are referred to community organizations that will support them throughout their pregnancy and into their child's first years. Students are expected to return to their original school six weeks after they give birth. However, each student's case manager continues with follow-up services for six months to ensure a successful transition to motherhood and back to school.

### EDCO Youth Alternative

650 Beacon Street ■ Boston, MA 02215  
☎ 617-262-9562

EDCO Youth Alternative is located on the 3rd floor of an office building at 650 Beacon Street in Kenmore Square. EDCO has operated since 1979 in association with the Boston Public Schools (BPS). Students attend EDCO but are enrolled at a home BPS school. All EDCO students are working toward earning a BPS high school diploma and follow the BPS calendar. Students attend classes in the morning and work in the afternoon. The Boston Private Industry Council supplies job preparation and a placement service.

Applicants must be ages 14–21 and must be eligible for one of the five funding sources that support EDCO services. Eligibility is based on age, income, residence, court status, school history, and other criteria.

Students must apply to the program and successfully complete the intake process, which consists of three appointments with testing and interviews.

### El Centro del Cardenal Alternative High School

76 Union Park Street ■ Boston, MA 02118  
☎ 617-542-9292 ext. 630

This program is a collaboration between El Centro del Cardenal and Boston Public Schools. High school students have an opportunity to earn credits toward a BPS high school diploma while attending classes at El Centro. The program also provides high school students with a bilingual alternative educational setting and links school to the "real world" through school-to-work activities, career planning, and community service projects.

El Centro utilizes the Diploma Plus competency-based diploma program to provide academic support for older, high-skilled youth. This component of the school's program gives students the opportunity to earn a BPS diploma by demonstrating competencies in academic skills, career development, and personal responsibility. Based on an evaluation in these areas, students can earn credits toward their high school diploma.

### Greater Egleston Community High School ★

80 School Street ■ Roxbury, MA 02119  
☎ 617-635-6429

Greater Egleston Community High School is a small, alternative pilot school within the Boston Public Schools for young adults ages 16–21 who need a "second chance" to earn their high school diploma. The program focuses on student-centered lessons, leadership, life skills, and collaborative learning. Student achievement is measured using performance-based assessments including portfolios, small collaborative learning projects, exhibitions, individual class assignments, and MCAS. Vocational training, City Year, GEAR UP, and community service internships across Boston are also available.

### William J. Ostiguy High School

19 Temple Place ■ Boston, MA 02111  
☎ 617-348-6070

Ostiguy High School is an alternative program for students recovering from substance abuse, operated by Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD) in collaboration with Cushing House residential treatment center and Boston Public Schools. Its mission is to provide a safe, sober, and supportive school environment in which youth in recovery can develop the