

2009

School on the Move Prize

Winner:

Boston Community Leadership Academy

Brighton

Principal: Nicole Bahnam (2001 – present)

School Improvement Story:

Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA) is a 400-student high school with a commitment to preparing students to be both college ready and community leaders. In 2002, BCLA was the first school to convert from a traditional high school to a pilot school. A strong sense of teacher ownership, a rigorous curriculum, low student to teacher ratios, and extensive supports for students are key components in a strategy designed to increase the college-preparedness and success of the school's graduates.

Student Profile (2008 Data):

- 403 Students in Grades 9-12
- Students are 47% Black, 40% Hispanic, 7% White
- Students with Special Needs: 15% (District Average: 20%)
- Students with Limited English Skills: 15% (District Average: 19%)
- Students from Economically-Disadvantaged Families: 71%

School Improvement 2004-2008 (all students):

From 2004 to 2008 (the Prize review period), BCLA's improvement was 24.5% better in ELA and twice as fast in Math as the average improvement of district high schools during that period.

Change in CPI Score (2004-2008)	English Language Arts (ELA)	Math
BCLA	19.3	23.9
District*	15.5	11.1

*Compared to district high schools

Evidence of Improvement:

Between 2004 and 2008, BCLA consistently to **outperformed the district average in both English Language Arts and Math:**

- Students scoring at Proficient or Advanced levels on the 10th grade English Language Arts (ELA) MCAS increased from 27% to 63%.
- Students scoring at Proficient or Advanced levels on the 10th grade Math MCAS increased from 33% to 78%.
- BCLA has been eligible for the *School on the Move* Prize every year since the Prize's inception, highlighting the fact that BCLA's improvement has been both consistent and significant over the past eight years.
- As of 2009, BCLA has a Composite Performance Index (CPI) of over 90 in both math & ELA.

ABOUT THE PRIZE: The *School on the Move* Prize, a \$100,000 citywide award to one of the most-improving Boston Public Schools, is awarded annually by EdVestors, a nonprofit organization that drives change in urban schools through smart, strategic private investment. The Prize highlights the challenging and less publicized achievements of schools that are making progress toward closing the achievement gaps for all students. Following a rigorous quantitative and qualitative review process, the 2009 Prize will be awarded at EdVestors 4th Annual School on the Move Prize Presentation on October 22, 2009. Previous *School on the Move* Prize winners include the Sarah Greenwood K-8 School in Dorchester (2006), Excel High School in South Boston (2007), and the Samuel W. Mason Elementary School in Roxbury (2008).