



BOSTON STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (BSAC)

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Presentation to Boston School Committee
June 8, 2016

BSAC in the Office of Engagement

Office of Engagement's Mission

The Office of Engagement promotes welcoming environments in BPS, builds capacity for authentic engagement and supports effective partnerships among **students**, families, schools and the community to ensure student readiness and achievement from birth to graduation.

BPS and Youth on Board Partnership

- 2001 BPS-YOB Partnership launched
- YOB provides additional support through staffing and access to national organizations
- Shared responsibility for development of BSAC representatives
- Nationally recognized partnership model

Piloting Extended Learning Opportunities

- Partnered with the Academic Team to pilot BSAC as an extended learning opportunity (ELO) credit bearing course.
- Based on:
 - Vision of a BPS High School graduate
 - BSAC Unit in 12 grade civics curriculum
 - Work done with Boston After School & Beyond on Civics curriculum
- 7 Working Group members opted in to the course for Spring semester 2016
- Final Projects: June 6th Showcase and June 8th School Committee Presentation

What is BSAC?

Our Mission:

BSAC advocates for and protects the voices of students in BPS by empowering the student body to express their opinions regarding education reform and ensuring that students are included in decision and policy making that impacts their lives and educational experiences.

Our job:

- Represent our schools at BSAC meetings
- Keep schools informed of relevant city-wide issues
- Work on policies/issues that BSAC develops throughout the year
- Advise the School Committee

Student Voice in District Efforts

- Facilities Master Plan Committees
- Opportunity and Achievement Gap Task Force
- Superintendent's 100-Day Plan
- Unified Enrollment Meetings
- Student Budget Meetings

BSAC Campaigns

- School Discipline
- School Equity : Opportunity and Achievement Gap, and Budget
- Social Emotional Learning
- Climate Justice
- Student Right's App

School Discipline Campaign

Purpose:

To interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline (STPP) by educating students and other educational stakeholders on the impacts and causes of the STPP

What BSAC is Doing:

- Working with COCAC
- Upgraded Boston Student Rights App
- Developing toolkit with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Justice
- Annual Listening Project as part of Dignity in School's Campaign National Week of Action Against School Pushout

Next Steps and FY17 Goals:

- Finalize toolkit
- Analyze Boston Student Rights App grievance form data

Opportunity & Achievement Gap Task Force

Purpose:

To revise the existing Opportunity and Achievement gap policies for implementation in black and brown communities insuring student throughout BPS receive a quality and equitable education.

What BSAC is Doing:

- BSAC appointed two student representatives to provide youth voice on the task force

Next Steps and FY17 Goals:

- Maintain representation and youth voice in all aspects of the Opportunity and Achievement Gap policy implementation.
- Collaborate with Dr. Rose on the development of a BPS anti-racism statement

BPS Budget

Purpose:

Inform students about the next year's budget and how it will affect them

What BSAC is Doing:

- Budget Forum with BPS Finance Department and Dr. Chang
- Public Testimony at BPS Budget Cuts and Open Enrollment Meetings, City Council Hearings, and other forums
- Meetings with State Legislators, City Councilors, and Mayor
- BPS June 7th Student Forum on Budget

Next Steps and FY17 Goals:

- Ensure adequate funding for schools and programs

SEL & Restorative Justice Circle Practice

Purpose:

SEL practices help students express their feelings and understand what others are going through so we can build strong relationships and work as a team.

What BSAC Has Done:

- Co-wrote Preparing Youth to Thrive SEL Book through Susan Crowne Foundation
- Peer Mentoring and Support Groups
- BSAC Retreat
- RJ Circle Training with BSAC Members
- Code of Conduct Advisory Council (COCAC) Restorative Practices in BPS

Next Steps and FY17 Goals:

- Conduct RJ Circle on Racism with BPS Executive Cabinet
- Work towards acceptance of SEL and Restorative Practices by all BPS schools.
- To have more students, staff, and administrators trained in these practices.

Climate Justice: Energy Audits

Purpose:

- To help BPS consider how it can save energy and therefore money and our planet. We must take action today – it's too easy not to.

BSAC Has Done:

- 16 BSAC students conducted unofficial energy audits of several school buildings – including the Bruce Bolling. These audits bring awareness to a ominous problem and provide practical solutions.
- Identified critical information:
 - 70% of Boston's CO2 emissions come from buildings, of which 40% is from schools.
 - Schools are huge sources of energy waste, have great potential to save money and help mitigate the effect of climate change.

Next Steps and FY17 Goals:

- Have findings included in the facilities master plan process

Climate Justice: Science Curriculum Integration

Purpose:

- To support students with understanding the implications of climate change, as well as their role and ability to mitigate climate change.

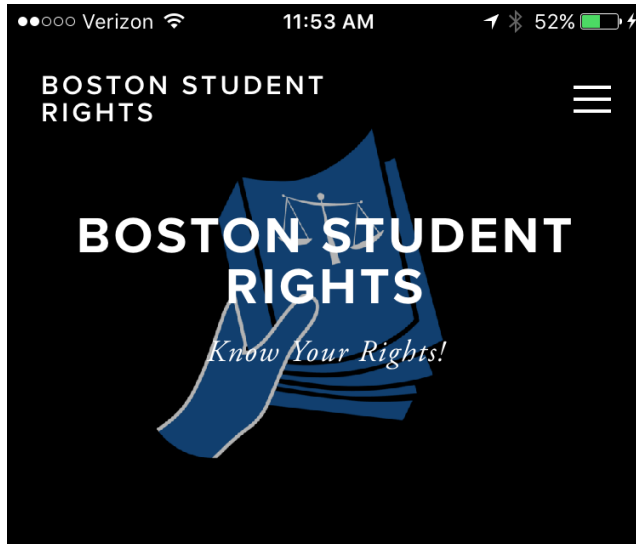
BSAC Has Done:

- Surveyed teachers to identify educator needs around climate justice
- Conducted focus groups with teachers, administrators, and students to get feedback to inform the development of online learning modules

Next Steps and FY17 Goals:

- It is time to get creative! Over the summer BSAC will collaborate with teachers and the Science Department of BPS to create eight teaching modules.

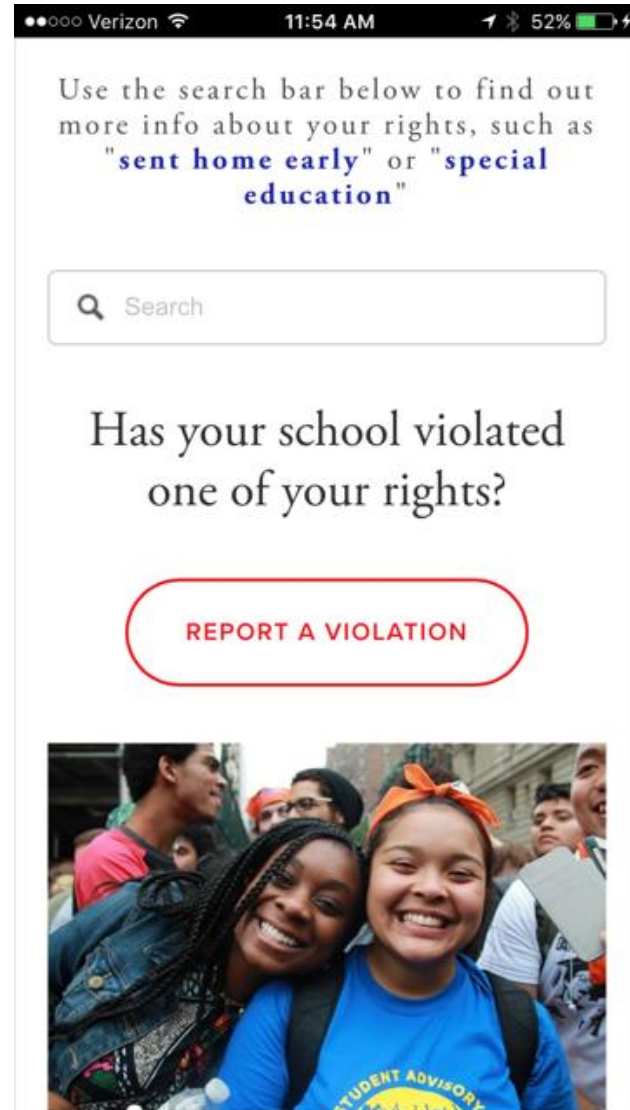
Student Rights & Responsibilities App



Boston Student Rights is an app designed by and for BPS students (and teachers and parents!) to help them understand their rights, suspension and expulsion policies, and stay connected to other students in the district.



Use the search bar below to find out more info about your rights, such as "**sent home early**" or "**special**



Thank you!

