

A photograph of a diverse group of young children sitting in a classroom. They are wearing dark blue jackets and backpacks. Some children are looking towards the camera, while others are looking towards the left. The background is slightly blurred, showing a classroom setting with a whiteboard and colorful posters.

UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester Presentation to the Boston School Committee

June 12, 2019

Who we are...

UP Education Network: Currently operates six schools in Boston, Lawrence and Springfield that serve over 3,100 students, 70% of whom are economically disadvantaged and 85% of whom are high needs.

Our Vision: Students in our schools cultivate their sharp minds, share their kind hearts, and explore their path and potential in order to succeed on the path to college and pursue their passions.

Our Schools:

- *Boston* – UP Academy Boston, UP Academy Dorchester, UP Academy Holland
- *Lawrence* – UP Academy Leonard, UP Academy Oliver
- *Springfield* – UP Academy Kennedy

The two schools we will discuss today...

UP Academy Boston

- Horace Mann Charter school founded in 2011
- Renewed in 2016
- Located in South Boston
- Serves approximately ~ 500 students in grades 6-8
- In each of its first 4 years of turnaround, UAB was ranked as the number one middle school in the state for student growth in math

UP Academy Dorchester

- Horace Mann Charter school founded in 2013
- Renewed in 2018
- Located in Dorchester
- Serves approximately 740 students in Grades: K1-8
- In its first year of turnaround, UP Academy Dorchester had the highest one-year increase in math and ELA proficiency in state history, a cumulative gain of +73 points

Requests of the Boston School Committee

The UP Academy Boston/UP Academy Dorchester Board of trustees respectfully submits the following items to the Boston Public Schools School Committee for consideration:

- UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester MOU Extension
- UP Academy Boston Accountability Plan
- UP Academy Dorchester Accountability Plan

MOU Extension Summary

We are seeking an extension on UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester's MOU.

- The current MOU was approved by the Boston School Committee and expired on June 30, 2018.
- We have been operating under the old MOU until we can finalize a new one.
- We have been working with BPS on a new one. The new MOU will most likely not be completed until late summer/early fall.
- In agreement with Boston Public Schools, we are submitting an MOU extension to August 31, 2019 to the Boston School Committee for approval.
- The extension does not make any updates or changes to the previously approved MOU but is required for the schools to receive SY19-20 funding from the city.

Accountability Plan Summary

We are seeking Boston School Committee sign-off on UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester's updated Accountability Plans:

- Accountability Plans are required by DESE – outline ways beyond MCAS results to measure success during a five year charter term.
- DESE provides clear guidelines for developing and updating Accountability Plans
- Main areas of focus in UP Academy Boston and UP Academy Dorchester's Accountability Plans include student growth, attendance rates, homework completion, and dissemination.
- Both plans have been updated as required as a part of the charter renewal
- Both plans have received provisional approval from DESE (Sept 19, 2018 and Oct 30 2018 respectively), sign-off from the Boston Teacher's Union, and from the UAB/UAD Board.
- The last step in the approval process requires a Boston School Committee approval before official sign-off from DESE. These Accountability Plans are required pieces of end of year Annual Reporting for both schools.