

OAG Co-Chairs Statement in Support of Mass Core

We, the undersigned co-chairs for the Opportunity and Achievement Gaps (OAG) Task Force, are strongly in favor of the Boston Public Schools fully adopting Mass Core requirements for high schools. It is an undeniable and inescapable fact that the achievement gaps between Black and Latinx students when compared to their white and Asian peers - and more importantly when compared to a benchmark of proficiency in reading and math - is tied to a lack of opportunity. If we are going to close achievement gaps we must first close the opportunity gaps.

The sad reality is that BPS high schools are not equal and our students are not given an equal opportunity to thrive, nor are students held to the same standards for what striving and thriving should look like. Graduation requirements are unequal and uneven, and therefore unjust. Why should a student at Charlestown High have a different set of graduation requirements from a student at Edward M. Kennedy Academy for Health Careers (EMK) or Fenway High? That disparity is inequitable and unjust because it sets a different bar for different students, simply based on the school to which that student is assigned.

Adopting Mass Core will not solve all of the problems in our high schools, but it is an important first step. First, the District must set the bar, and then the District must work to ensure that all students receive the supports they need to be able to meet that high bar. The District must ensure that all schools receive equitable resources to help students meet the Mass Core requirements. The OAG Task force can help hold the district accountable for ensuring ALL students are able to meet this higher standard, so that they are fully prepared for college, careers, and life success.

OAG Task Force Co-Chairs:

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