

November 2012

Expanded AP Initiative for 10 Boston High Schools

Program targets underserved students for academic and career success in STEM

Expanding access for Black, Hispanic and female students to Advanced Placement (AP) math, science and English courses to increase their performance and enhance their ability to attend, succeed and graduate from college is essential for student success in Boston and their ability to participate in the local economy. That is the objective of the Mass Math + Science Initiative (MMSI) developed and managed by the nonprofit organization [Mass Insight Education](#). On November 1, Mass Insight announced a new, expanded version of MMSI with 10 Boston [high schools](#) in support of the City's Success Boston program which supports BPS seniors for college success.

The MMSI Program

[MMSI](#) creates a culture of high expectations and increased participation in AP courses, especially among underserved populations, to prepare students for college and career success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The work involved with MMSI can transform the culture in a school to one in which academic success is celebrated as is frequently done for athletic success. In MMSI schools, pep rallies and assemblies are held to recognize students who score 3, 4 or 5 on AP tests.

MMSI students statewide are graduating from high school, attending and succeeding in college at rates that exceed national and state averages for all students.

- College matriculation rates for MMSI students from under-represented populations are 14% higher for low-income students and 20% higher for African American students.
- College persistence rates for MMSI students at 4-year schools are 10% higher than the state average and for students at 2-year schools are over 25% higher than the state average.

The Expanded MMSI Version

For the 10 Boston high schools, AP and PreAP programs will be integrated in grades 9-12 which will impact nearly 6,500 students. All math, science and English teachers at partner schools will be trained in PreAP to prepare and encourage more students for AP. A "Burke High Cluster" is being developed to expand PreAP to grades 6-12 in neighborhood middle schools so they are academically aligned with the high school. This is a promising initiative, and the BPS and MMSI are still in discussions regarding evaluation and planning steps.

MMSI's Boston partners include State Street, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, the Charles Hayden Foundation, the Posse Foundation, the Boston PIC, Boston Rising and uAspire

Students in the 10 Boston high schools will benefit from this program, but excluding Boston Latin School and Latin Academy, that leaves 17 Boston high schools that are not participating in this successful program.