



SCHOOL ON THE MOVE

Prize



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MANNING

2017 Prize Celebration

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edvestors
Driving Change in Urban Schools

EdVestors' mission is to increase the number of schools in Boston delivering dramatically improved educational outcomes for all children.

EdVestors is a school improvement organization that combines strategic philanthropy, education expertise, and implementation support to help schools create the conditions for school change. We work at the classroom, school, and system levels to accelerate improvement in Boston's schools. Since launching in 2002, EdVestors has raised and invested more than \$26 million in school improvement efforts.

EdVestors works to strengthen school effectiveness so a quality education is available to every student in Boston. To do this, we take a problem-solving approach to meeting challenges, and we tap the ingenuity already present in our city's schools, nonprofits, neighborhoods, and institutions. We borrow good ideas that are working elsewhere, generate new ideas where needed, and think creatively and strategically to put good ideas into practice. We invite a wide and diverse network of stakeholders to collaborate, and we share what we know and learn about how schools change, paving the way for more schools to make more progress.

PREVIOUS SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE WINNERS

2016 Phineas Bates Elementary School

2015 Jeremiah E. Burke High School

2014 William Monroe Trotter Innovation School

2013 George H. Conley Elementary School

2012 New Mission High School

2011 Clarence Edwards Middle School

2010 Joseph Lee Elementary School

2009 Boston Community Leadership Academy

2008 Samuel W. Mason Elementary School

2007 Excel High School

2006 Sarah Greenwood K-8 School



2017 SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE SELECTION PANEL

From left to right): Pam Eddinger, Joe Laurin, Susan Windham-Bannister, J. Keith Motley, Richard Holbrook, Jim Stone, Laura Perille, Anne Lovett



WELCOME

2017 THOMAS W. PAYZANT SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE PROGRAM

Wednesday, November 1st

Westin Boston Waterfront

8:00-8:30 A.M.

Registration and Networking

8:30-10:00 A.M.

Breakfast and Program

SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE SELECTION PANEL

Jim Stone, PhD, Selection Panel Chair
Chairman & CEO, Plymouth Rock Assurance Corporation

Senator William “Mo” Cowan
Vice President of Global Litigation & Legal Policy, General Electric

Pam Eddinger, PhD
President, Bunker Hill Community College

Richard Holbrook
Former Chairman and CEO, Eastern Bank

Anne Lovett
Trustee, Lovett-Woodsum Foundation

Joe Laurin
Former President, Fidelity Health Marketplace

J. Keith Motley, PhD

Susan Windham-Bannister
President & CEO, Biomedical Growth Strategies

“It is both intellectually and emotionally powerful to see first-hand how much these schools are improving.”

JIM STONE, SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE SELECTION PANEL



SCHOOL ON THE MOVE

About the Prize

The Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize recognizes one of the most improving Boston Public Schools each fall. While acknowledging the tremendous amount of work needed to ensure every student in Boston receives a world-class education, we seek to shine a light on those schools, leaders, and teachers who are getting it right and have significantly improved outcomes for students. By sharing the stories of how schools are able to improve, we hope to help more schools make significant progress for their students. The School on the Move Prize comes with a \$100,000 award from EdVestors, public recognition, and the opportunity for the winning school to document and share replicable strategies. Two runners up each receive a \$10,000 award.

PRIZE SELECTION CRITERIA

This year, 14 Boston Public Schools were eligible for the School on the Move Prize* based on demonstrated improvement over a four-year period (2012-2016). EdVestors conducts a quantitative data screen of school performance and student demographics using publicly available data to identify schools where:

- » Improvement is 50% greater than the average district improvement in one or both core subjects (English language arts or Math)
- » Improvement is at or above the average district improvement in the second core subject area (ELA or Math)
- » At least 25% of students are in the Advanced or Proficient category (or PARCC levels 4 or 5) in both core subject areas
- » Fewer than 25% of students are in the Warning/Failing category (or PARCC level 1) in both core subject areas
- » At least 50% of students are classified as high needs
- » For high schools, a four-year cohort graduation rate is at least 60%, or a five-year cohort graduation rate of at least 70%.

Invited schools prepare a written Prize application detailing the strategies and approaches behind their dramatic improvement. The Prize Selection Panel reviews all written applications and visits three finalist schools before choosing the winner.

**Previous Prize winners are not eligible for reconsideration for five years. Schools that are finalists for two consecutive years are not eligible for one year.*



The Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary School (PJK), a 300-student school in East Boston, serves one of the largest populations of immigrant students and English language learners across Boston Public Schools (including a significant number of students new to the country). The PJK credits its improvement to deeply engaging families as partners in student success and through their purposeful use of data to inform instruction and plan and provide supports for all students.

KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

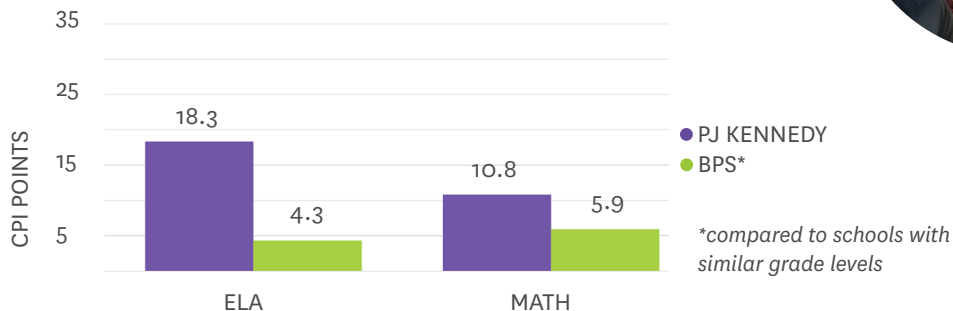
- » An adult culture of continuous improvement and collective responsibility for student achievement
- » Deep integration of family engagement to build community and support student learning
- » The strategic use of multiple data sources to guide instruction

“We view families as partners. We value their input and ask them what they want and need from our school. We’ve taught ESL classes, parent-child book clubs, and most importantly, we provide opportunities for parents to hear from teachers, learn what children are learning, and how to help them at home.”

KRISTEN GONCALVES,
PRINCIPAL



IMPROVEMENT IN COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE INDEX (CPI) 2012-2016



Donald McKay K-8 School



At the 700-student Donald McKay K-8 School, a collaborative, supportive culture encourages teachers to learn from colleagues and test new ideas in their classrooms to find what works best for students. The McKay credits its improvement to its commitment to use data to meet students' learning needs, provide support to continuously improve teaching practice, and create opportunities for professional learning and autonomy.

KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

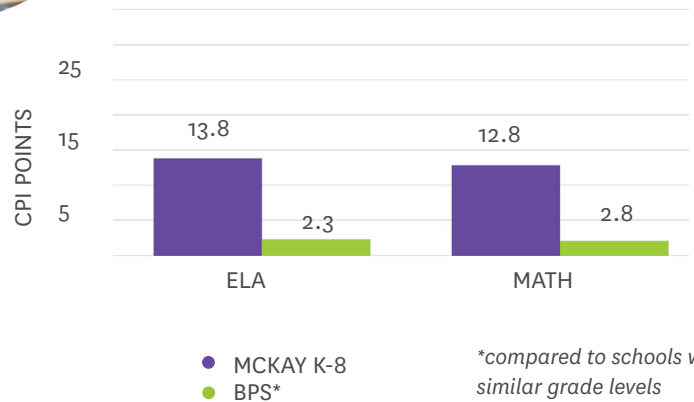
- » “Whole child” culture supports students’ social-emotional needs alongside academic learning
- » Collaborative professional culture where learning, experimentation, and reflection are encouraged
- » Integration of community partners to support teachers’ and students’ learning and success in the classroom

“Just as our children need high-quality learning experiences, social and emotional supports, and targeted instructional practices provided in a safe, warm, welcoming, collaborative environment, so do the adults.”



JORDAN WEYMER, PRINCIPAL

IMPROVEMENT IN COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE INDEX (CPI) 2012-2016



Mildred Avenue K-8 School

Just five years ago, the 500-student Mildred Avenue K-8 School was one of the lowest performing schools in the state. The Mildred is now classified as a “Level 1” school, the state’s highest category for schools. The Mildred attributes its success to being “present and proactive” in their commitment to building strong student-staff relationships and to dedicating resources to create more personal learning opportunities for students.

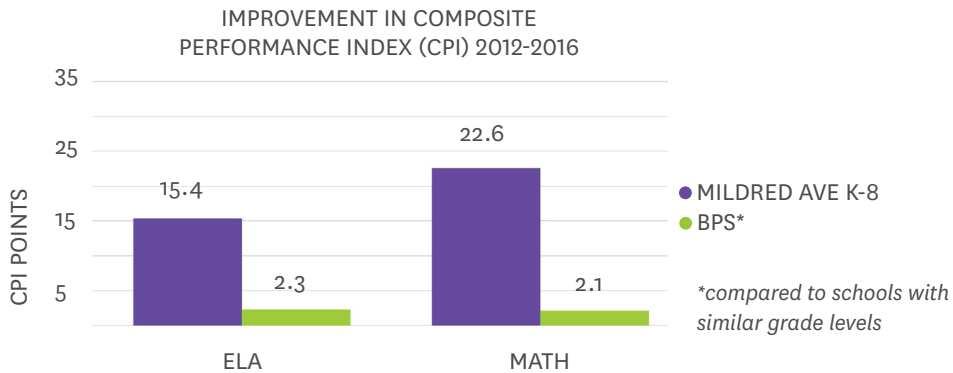
KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- » The development of a compassionate, relationship-based approach to building strong student and adult cultures at the school
- » Investment in staffing to reduce class sizes and shift instruction to more small-group work
- » Strategic use of partners aligned with school priorities to deepen student engagement and learning

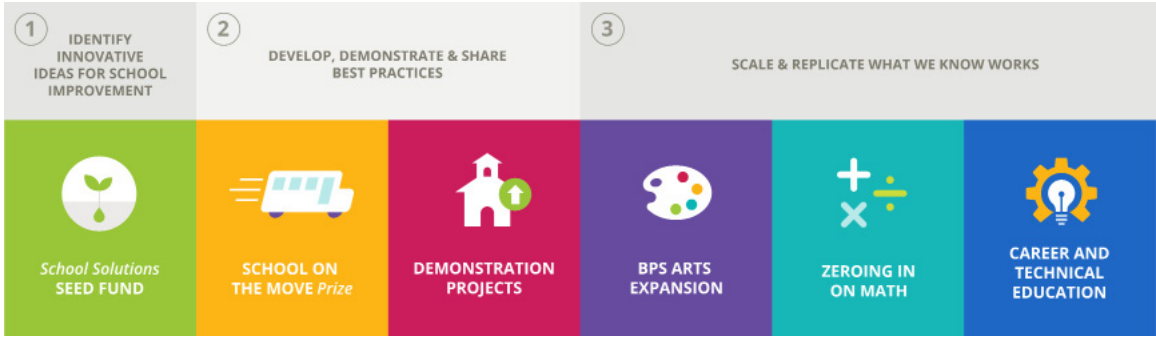


“The Mildred’s turnaround is a story about trust. The district trusted us and gave autonomy back to the school, and we gave it back to the teachers in classrooms.”

ANDREW ROLLINS, PRINCIPAL



EDVESTORS' APPROACH



WHAT WE DO

First, we are a seed funder for solution-seekers’ best ideas in Boston’s schools. Through our School Solutions Seed Fund, we identify and fund innovative school-based ideas for improvement.

Second, we develop, demonstrate, and share best practices for school improvement. Our annual \$100,000 School on the Move Prize highlights examples of dramatic school improvement. We publish annual research and case studies to share stories of improvement and disseminate knowledge throughout the broader field.

Third, we work at scale to achieve city-wide student impact, coordinating major public-private partnerships in targeted issues areas, currently

in math and arts education. Our largest effort to date, BPS Arts Expansion has resulted in 17,000 more pre-K through 8th grade students receiving weekly arts instruction in school, bolstering student engagement and school climate. Our second strategic initiative launched in 2015, Zeroing in on Math, takes a similar city-wide approach to increase math proficiency in the middle grades as a critical gateway for post-secondary, career, and life success. In 2016, EdVestors began work to model effective Career Technical Education pathways for high school students as a strategy for improving Boston’s traditional high schools, connecting more students to postsecondary opportunities, and bolstering Boston’s workforce.

CURRENT PROGRAMS



SCHOOL SOLUTIONS SEED FUND

The School Solutions Seed Fund is a nimble investment pipeline for educators to receive support for problem-solving, experimentation, and innovation in their schools. Each year, EdVestors makes initial Seed Fund investments of \$10,000 to up to 10 promising ideas, with a smaller number of projects receiving larger, longer-term expansion grants based on early success and the potential for impact.

Investing in on-the-ground solutions is an essential part of EdVestors’ approach to strategic philanthropy. The Seed Fund pushes us to think beyond what we already know about how schools change, to be open to new ideas, and to find even more transformative ways to work on behalf of all students.



SCHOOL ON THE MOVE

EdVestors’ School on the Move Prize is Boston’s premier award for school improvement and is a coveted honor among teachers and school leaders across our city. The Prize shines a light on those schools, leaders, and teachers who have made substantive, multi-year academic improvement for students. The Prize comes with a \$100,000 award from EdVestors, public recognition, and a case study to document the school’s replicable strategies. Two runners up also receive a \$10,000 award each.



BPS ARTS EXPANSION

Boston Public Schools (BPS) Arts Expansion is a multi-year collaborative effort to expand arts education within

BPS by providing equitable access to quality arts learning experiences for all students. This public-private partnership involves a large and coordinated network of partners, including schools, arts institutions, teaching artists, and funders, among others.

After nine years of the initiative, and with 17,000 more BPS students receiving in-school arts education, Phase 4 of in the initiative will launch in 2018 and bring us through 2021. To date, BPS Arts Expansion has:

- » Raised the percentage of K-8 students receiving weekly arts access from 67% to 95%
- » More than doubled the number of high school students receiving arts—up from just 26% to 68%
- » Secured an additional \$11 million in public funding annually for the arts, amounting to 130 more arts teachers in schools



ZEROING IN ON MATH

Only one third of Boston eighth graders are proficient in math. This is a quiet crisis in Boston schools as math proficiency indicates student readiness for high school academics, forms the foundation of skills for STEM study, and predicts post-secondary success. We set out to dramatically improve student achievement in middle grades math by launching Zeroing in on Math in 2015, a multi-year, city-wide initiative. Three strategies guide our work:

- » Improve student math proficiency in grades 3-8 by closing student knowledge and skill gaps
- » Deepen effective math instruction by strengthening teacher math knowledge and pedagogy
- » Build a citywide community of math advocates

In Year 2 of the initiative, students averaged gains in math knowledge and skills of 1.4 grade levels (vs. the expected .9). In Year 3, we will provide more intensive supports for deeper impact at 16 schools serving over 4,000 students.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



EdVestors’ third and most recent effort to achieve city-wide student impact is our work to expand Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways in Boston schools.

CTE pathways that marry rigorous academics with high-quality Career and Technical Education can be an effective strategy for overall high school improvement, resulting in deeper student academic engagement and increased access to post-secondary and employment opportunities for Boston students. We believe that CTE pathways built on best practices can serve as a cornerstone to improve a number of Boston Public Schools. EdVestors is working closely with East Boston High School where new career pathways are launching while simultaneously partnering with the BPS central office to develop a cohesive district-wide CTE strategy.

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2016, 2017 (Gifts received as of October 2017)

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