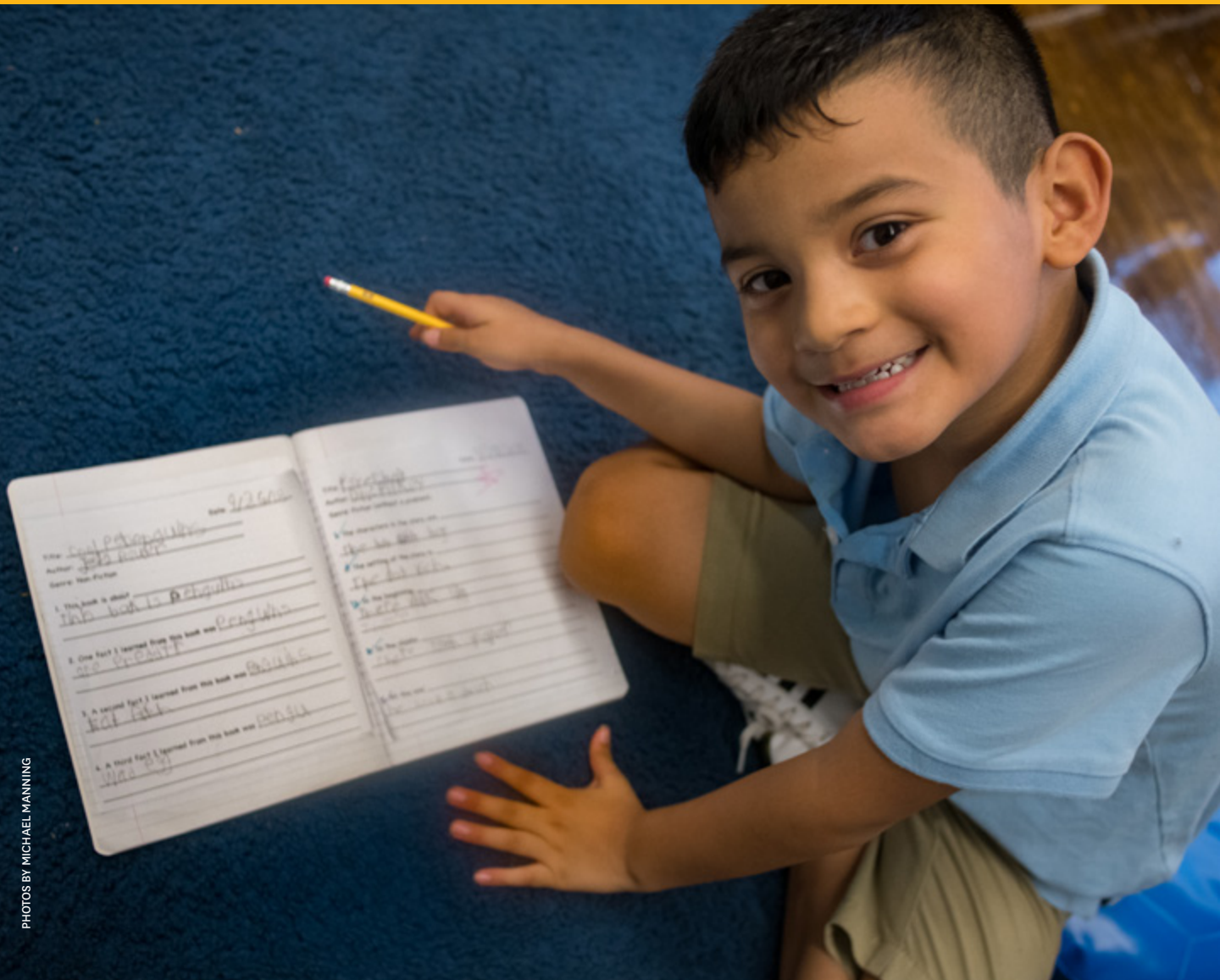




# SCHOOL ON THE MOVE

Prize



## 2019 Prize Celebration

#schoolonmove • @EdVestors • [www.edvestors.org](http://www.edvestors.org)

**edvestors**  
Driving Change in Urban Schools

***EdVestors is a school improvement nonprofit whose mission is to increase the number of schools in Boston delivering dramatically improved educational outcomes for all students.***

EdVestors combines strategic philanthropy, education expertise, and implementation support to help schools close opportunity and achievement gaps. We take a multi-pronged approach to reduce these gaps, drive positive change, and ensure all Boston students are prepared for college, career, and life. Since launching in 2002, we have raised and invested more than \$32 million in school improvement efforts.

**PREVIOUS SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE WINNERS**

**2018** Donald McKay K-8 School

**2017** Mildred Avenue K-8 School

**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

**2019 SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE SELECTION PANEL**

*From left to right: Pam Eddinger, Bridget Terry Long, Jack Lynch Jr., Marinell Rousmaniere, J. Keith Motley, Anne Lovett, Jim Stone, Phyllis Barajas, Yvonne Garcia*





## 2019 SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE PROGRAM

**Thursday, October 31, 2019**

InterContinental Boston

**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*

Phylis Barajas  
*CEO, Conexión*

Pam Eddinger, PhD  
*President, Bunker Hill Community College*

Yvonne Garcia  
*Chief of Staff to CEO, State Street Corporation*

Bridget Terry Long, PhD  
*Dean of the Faculty of Education and Saris Professor of Education & Economics, Harvard Graduate School of Education*

Anne Lovett  
*Trustee, Lovett-Woodsum Foundation*

John (Jack) J. Lynch, Jr.  
*Chief Executive Officer, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

J. Keith Motley, PhD  
*Chancellor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts - Boston*

***“The School on the Move Prize demonstrates that rapid improvement is possible and gives us a front-row seat as we learn directly from the experts in these schools.”***

JIM STONE, SCHOOL ON THE MOVE PRIZE SELECTION PANEL





# SCHOOL ON THE MOVE

## About the Prize

Each fall, the Thomas W. Payzant School on the Move Prize recognizes one of the most improving Boston Public Schools. 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, thirteen Boston Public Schools were eligible for the School on the Move Prize\* based on demonstrated improvement over a four-year period (2014-2018). EdVestors conducts a quantitative data screen of school performance and student demographics using publicly available data to identify schools where:

- » There has been a substantial positive change on statewide assessments in one or both core subjects (English language arts and math) compared to schools serving similar grades over the most recent four years
- » At least 25% of students are in the top two scoring categories on MCAS (Meeting or Exceeding Expectations) in both core subject areas
- » Fewer than 25% of students are in the lowest scoring category on MCAS (Not Meeting Expectations) in both core subject areas
- » At least 60% 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.*



## Manassah E. Bradley Elementary School

The majority of students at the Manassah E. Bradley Elementary School, a 275-student school in East Boston, speak a first language other than English. The Bradley celebrates the diversity of their school community, whose students and families have rich traditions of oral language in their cultures. They credit their improvement to an intentional focus on building student voice throughout the school by tapping into those traditions and empowering student discourse.

### KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

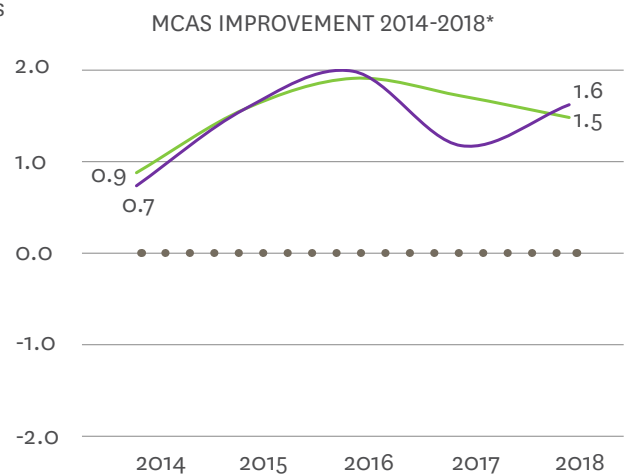
- » Commitment to building relationships with students, families, and community
- » Student-centered instruction with an emphasis on building oral language and increased rigor for all students
- » Coordinated student support model that relies on shared responsibility among teachers and partners

- ELA school average
- Math school average
- District average

*\* improvement is measured in the change in standard deviations from the mean (SD units) between 2014 and 2018, compared to schools with similar grade levels*

**“When student voice is at the heart of learning, teachers develop a better understanding of the students they serve, and all students benefit.”**

CLAIRE CARNEY,  
PRINCIPAL





# Harvard-Kent Elementary School

The Harvard-Kent Elementary School, a 400-student school in Charlestown, serves a diverse community of students with a vast array of programs and supports, including a specialized program for students with emotional impairments and a Sheltered English Immersion program for students new to the country. The Harvard-Kent credits their improvement to a dedicated staff who share a commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment for all students and fellow colleagues.

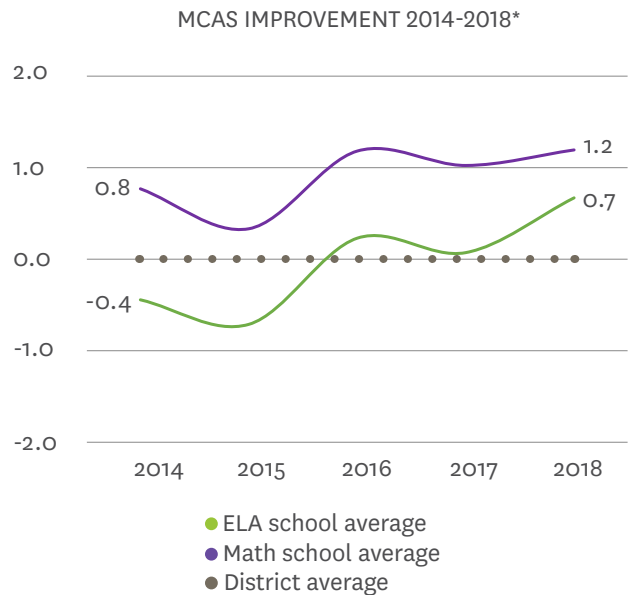
## KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- » Cultivation of a school culture that is equally caring and academically rigorous
- » Collaborative structures in place to build strong and trusting relationships among staff
- » Strategic integration of community partners aligned with school priorities to deepen student engagement and learning



**“If you are a member of the Harvard-Kent school community, we want you to feel important, loved, and valued. We also want you to become a proficient reader, writer, and mathematician.”**

JASON GALLAGHER, PRINCIPAL



\* improvement is measured in the change in standard deviations from the mean (SD units) between 2014 and 2018, compared to schools with similar grade levels

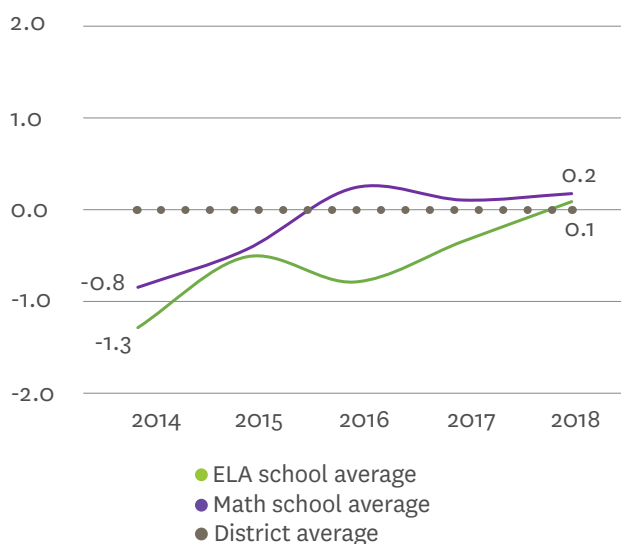
## Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School

Located in Dorchester, the 300-student Kenny Elementary School has risen from the bottom ten percent of schools statewide, tripling their accountability level over the past five years. The Kenny credits its improvement to equal parts focus on operations, relationships, and academics, grounded in the belief that every student has a right to a high-quality education in a safe environment.

### KEY STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

- » Refinements to whole school operations to create a supportive learning environment anchored in routine and predictability
- » Authentic relationships with students and families underlying a strengthened community identity
- » Data-driven and targeted instruction made possible through strategic changes to master schedule

MCAS IMPROVEMENT 2014-2018\*



\* improvement is measured in the change in standard deviations from the mean (SD units) between 2014 and 2018, compared to schools with similar grade levels

**“Much of the success we have seen has come from creating a community where we are learning from and valuing our students and families. We strive to integrate their experiences and identities into everything we do.”**

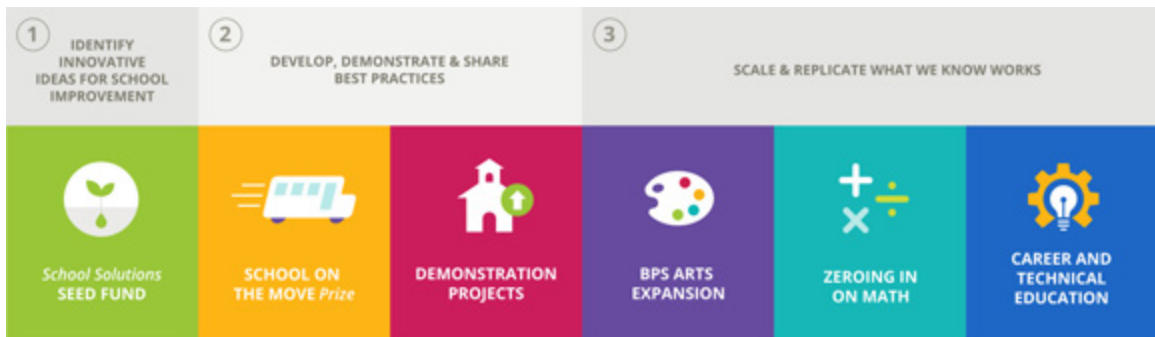
EMILY BRYAN, PRINCIPAL



## EDVESTORS' APPROACH

### EdVestors works in three ways:

1. **We seed promising ideas.** The School Solutions Seed Fund makes direct grants to schools so they can pilot and test innovative solutions. We reached 3,500 students in 63 schools over the last year.
2. **We shine a spotlight on improving schools** through the annual \$100,000 School on the Move Prize, which rewards schools that have made major strides in improving academic performance. Each year we publish the effective strategies of the winning school to inform the work of educators.
3. **We scale efforts to close opportunity and achievement gaps** through our three current strategic initiatives in arts education, middle grades math, and career pathways.



### 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. EdVestors makes investments of \$5,000 to \$10,000 each winter to provide schools with the opportunity to move quickly and test, plan, or pilot a solution to ongoing challenges impacting student learning.

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 PRIZE

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 each receive a \$10,000 award.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



### BPS ARTS EXPANSION

Research shows that students who receive arts education improve their ability to think creatively and schools that offer arts education improve school climate and student engagement. Boston Public Schools (BPS) Arts Expansion is a collaborative effort to expand arts education within BPS by providing equitable access to quality arts learning experiences for all students. Through BPS Arts Expansion we have transformed access to quality in-school arts education for Boston Public School students. Today, 17,000 more students annually receive arts education as compared with a decade ago and private investment has leveraged a 5:1 increase in the BPS district budget for arts education.



### ZEROING IN ON MATH

Two out of three Boston eighth graders are not proficient in math by the 8th grade. Strong math knowledge and skills can be a huge door opener for students: in fact, the “deadline” that most accurately predicts a young person’s success in college and beyond is 8th grade academic achievement. In 2015 we set out to address this crisis by launching Zeroing in on Math.

Today we are working with 17 Boston schools and 170 teachers; boosting math skills for 3,900 students. Thus far, on average, the proficiency of participating students has moved ahead by three to five months beyond the year of expected progress.



### CAREER PATHWAYS

We believe that expanding career pathways is a key strategy to address the challenges facing Boston’s traditional public schools and part of the solution for increasing student engagement and relevance. Through our Career Pathways initiative, we are partnering with the BPS Office of Career and Technical Education to support high schools to plan and provide quality career and technical education opportunities for more Boston students, preparing them to qualify for the fields that hold the employment opportunities of the future. We’re also partnering at the district level with key stakeholders to develop a blueprint for implementation of high-quality career learning across the district.



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*Gifts received January 2018 - October 2019*

*We deeply appreciate our generous supporters, volunteers, and nonprofit partners for their invaluable contributions to improving our schools.*

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# 2019

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