

Dorchester Education Complex: Academy of Public Service, Noonan Business Academy, and Tech Boston Academy University of Massachusetts Boston Partnership



Goals

- Significantly increase the number of DEC students who graduate from high school; apply, are accepted to, and enroll in UMB and other baccalaureate degree programs; and attain a degree in six years.
- Strengthen UMB support services
- Strengthen UMB teacher, counselor, and other professional preparation programs to ensure graduates are well prepared to work effectively in urban schools.

Dorchester Education Complex

- UMB has a long-standing partnership with the complex—since 1965.
- Restructured in 2003-04 from a comprehensive high school serving 1,000 students into three small schools serving 250-300 students each
- Academy of Public Service and Noonan Business Academy merging for Fall 2009
- High-poverty, diverse inner-city school
 - 91% underrepresented students
 - 25% English as a second language
 - 25% special education
 - 71% low income

Dorchester Education Complex

- Low rates of student engagement—high rates of absenteeism, low promotion rates, high mobility rates, high drop out rates.
- Large numbers of students fail to attain the academic skills needed for college access and success.
- Low post-secondary aspiration and enrollment rates.

Current Efforts: Academic Support

- Four UMB pre-collegiate programs (Admission Guaranteed, Upward Bound, Urban Scholars, Project REACH) serve DEC students—367 were enrolled in 2007-08.
- Composition, math, and study skills assistants.
- Support for students taking Advanced Placement science courses.
- PSAT/SAT Prep
- Teach Next Year—accelerated teacher licensure program and professional development school annually places 5-10 interns at DEC.
- Support for the Debate Team

Current Efforts: Curricular Enhancement

- Dual Enrollment—24 students in 2007-08.
- Boston Science Partnership
- Faculty alignment dialogues
- Graduate College of Education Math Education faculty member working with math teachers.

Current Efforts: College and Career Awareness and Support

- College Access Corps member—full-time.
- Placements for shadow day, mini-internships, and summer jobs.
- College visits
- AGP Graduate Student
- Career Speakers

Current Efforts: Social Personal Development

- School psychology intern
- Health Fair
- Go Kids Partnership

Principles of Effective Partnerships

- Start small and be in it for the long haul—Rome wasn’t built in a day... and the schools won’t be “reformed” overnight.
- Appreciate and understand the challenges facing your schools and their staff.
- Don’t add to the work of school personnel—be willing to roll up your sleeves and help with the nitty gritty work of running a school.
- Must be mutually beneficial and the partners should take mutual responsibility for the work and the outcomes.
- Governance/structure—needs to be flexible and tailored to specific context.