

# WESTON METCO ANNUAL REPORT

## 2017-2018



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While 2018 marks the 51st year of METCO in Weston, our 2017-2018 school year was our 50th Year of METCO in Weston. In celebrating this major accomplishment, we as a department along with various community partners held a series of events. This report will show our ongoing programming as well as highlight some of the events that have taken place through the year. While the expressed support of our program continues, we were not immune to the budget cuts that have impacted various departments and programs in the district. Our hope as we go into the 2018-2019 school year will be to reinstate those programs, as they are a part of what has continued to set Weston METCO apart as a standout METCO program in the Commonwealth.



# Overview

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Areas of note, including student successes in and out of the classroom

## ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Standardized testing results, college placement, etc.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS – SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAMMING

Description and detail of the varied programs offered specifically to our METCO students throughout the district during the school year.

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS – SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Description and detail of the programs and experiences offered to our METCO students during the summer.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Description of the varied organizations with whom Weston METCO partners.

## 2016-2017 NEXT STEPS AND FOLLOW UP

Review of the past year and plans for the future.

# Accomplishments

## STUDENT-SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 2 National Honor Society members
- Posse Scholarship – Seven of our students nominated, five made it to the semifinal round and one was selected as a finalist.
- 1 Field School student is a member of a Boston swim team, competing on a national level
- High School students serving on: Principal Advisory Council (1), School Council (1), Student Council (2), Class officers (2)
- 2 members of the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra
- 82% (28 of 34) of all students participate in afterschool athletics, clubs, and recreational activities at the Middle School.
- 50% (17 of 34) of Middle School students participate in METCO Homework Club.
- 3 Middle School students were among a small group of 8th graders selected to participate in the WE Youth Activism workshops last fall. WE Schools offer educational programs for students giving them tools to create transformative social change within their local and global communities.
- 3 8th graders recommended for High School Honors History
- In lieu of the divisive climate nationally, these students also went on to initiate the planning and execution of a fundraiser event for the entire 8th grade in January, the goal of which was to bring students together and celebrate differences. Proceeds raised from the event were contributed to the Human Rights Campaign, the Jimmy Fund, & Puerto Rico hurricane relief.
- Project 351 member (current 11<sup>th</sup> grader, nominated in 8<sup>th</sup> grade to represent the Weston Public School District)
- 1 High School student selected member of the Youth Leadership Convention sponsored by Citizen University (only 25 students selected from across the country)
- 1 High School student selected as a member of the Keystone Conference (a national youth conference focusing on leadership, academics and community service)

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- 4 Field School students elected by their classmates to serve as Student Council representatives
  - 96% (27 out of 28) of the Field School students participate in optional after-school activities (Sports, Chorus or Band)
  - 1 Field School student participated in the Weston Junior Broadway Program
  - 100 % (12 of 12) of the grade 3 students participate in Orchestra
  - 58 % (7 of 12) of grade 3 students participate in Chorus
  - 80 % (10 of 12) of the grade 3 students participate in After School Sports
  - 100 % (12 of 12) of the grade 3 students participate in Homework Academy/Learning Academy
  - 73 % (8 of 11) of the grade 1 students participate in After School Math Academy Program (MAP) 91 % (10 of 11) of the grade 2 students participate in After School Math Academy Program (MAP)



## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

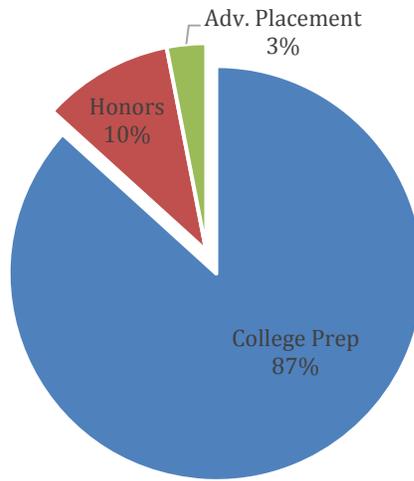
This year, the 14 METCO graduates of the class of 2018 have been accepted to the following institutions:

- American University
- Bates College
- Boston College
- Boston University
- Brandeis University
- Curry College
- Drexel University
- Fitchburg State University
- Fordham University
- Franklin Pierce University
- Ithaca College
- Lesley College
- Loyola University
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Pine Manor College
- Salem State University
- Simmons College
- Tufts University
- University of Hartford
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Massachusetts Boston

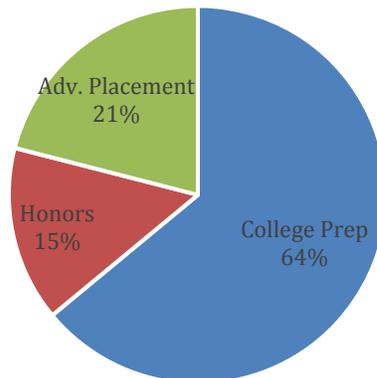
# Achievement Data

## COLLEGE PREP, HONORS & ADV. PLACEMENT COURSE DATA COMPARISON

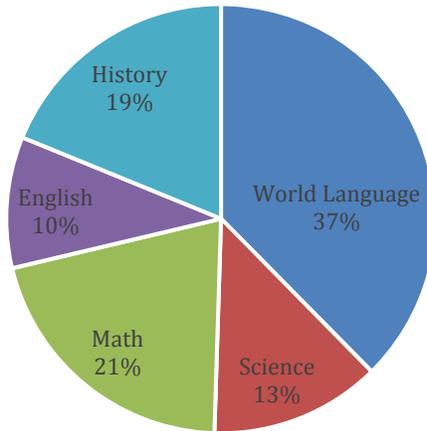
Percentage of METCO Students in AP/Honors/CP Courses  
(2016-2017 School Year)



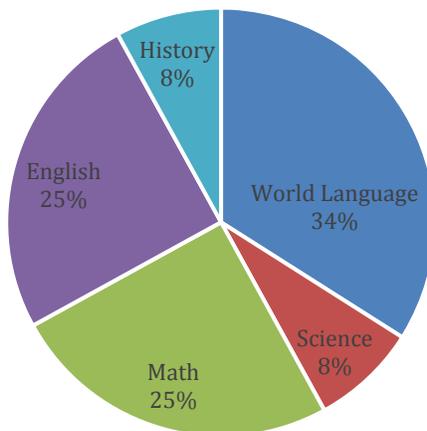
Percentage of METCO Students in AP/Honors/CP  
Courses (2017-2018 School Year)



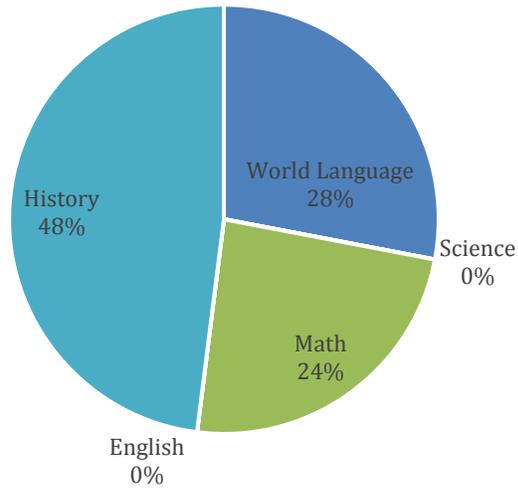
**Percentage of METCO Students in Honors Courses by Department (2016-2017 School Year)**



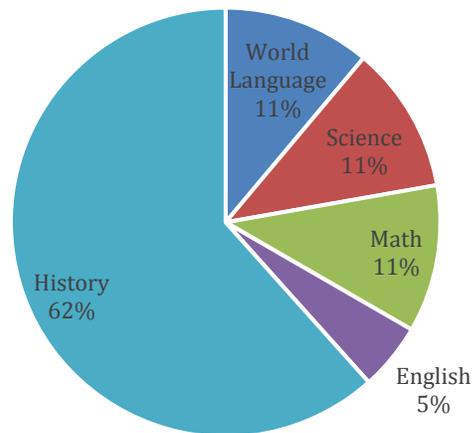
**Percentage of METCO Students in Honors Courses by Department (2017-2018 School Year)**

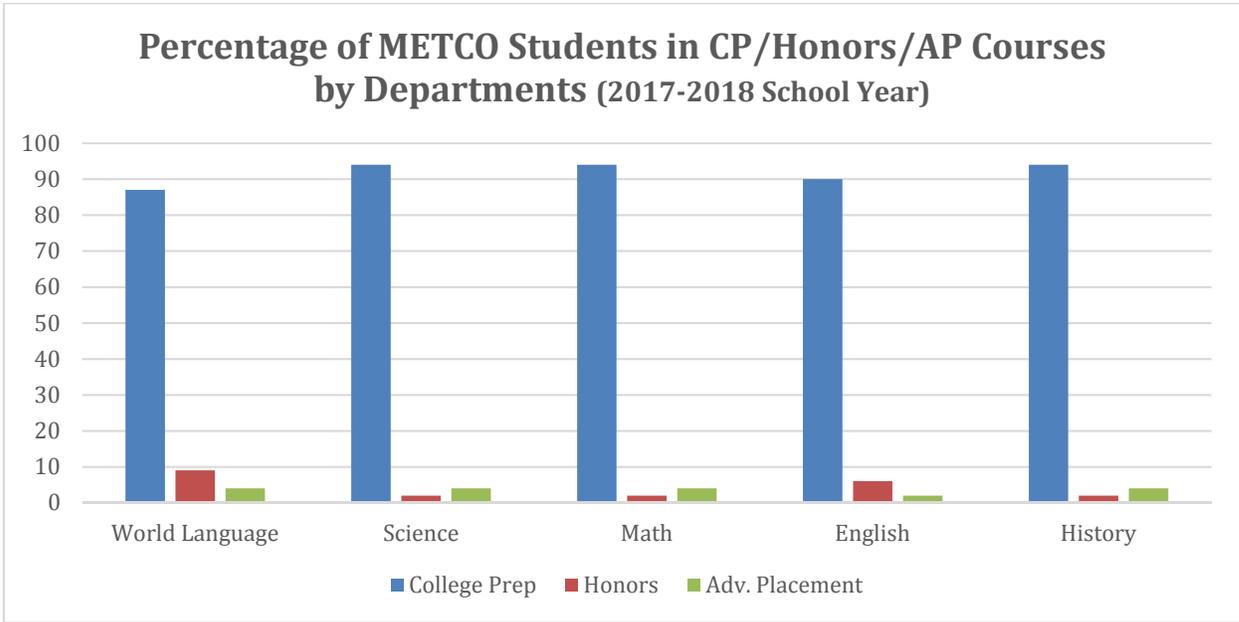
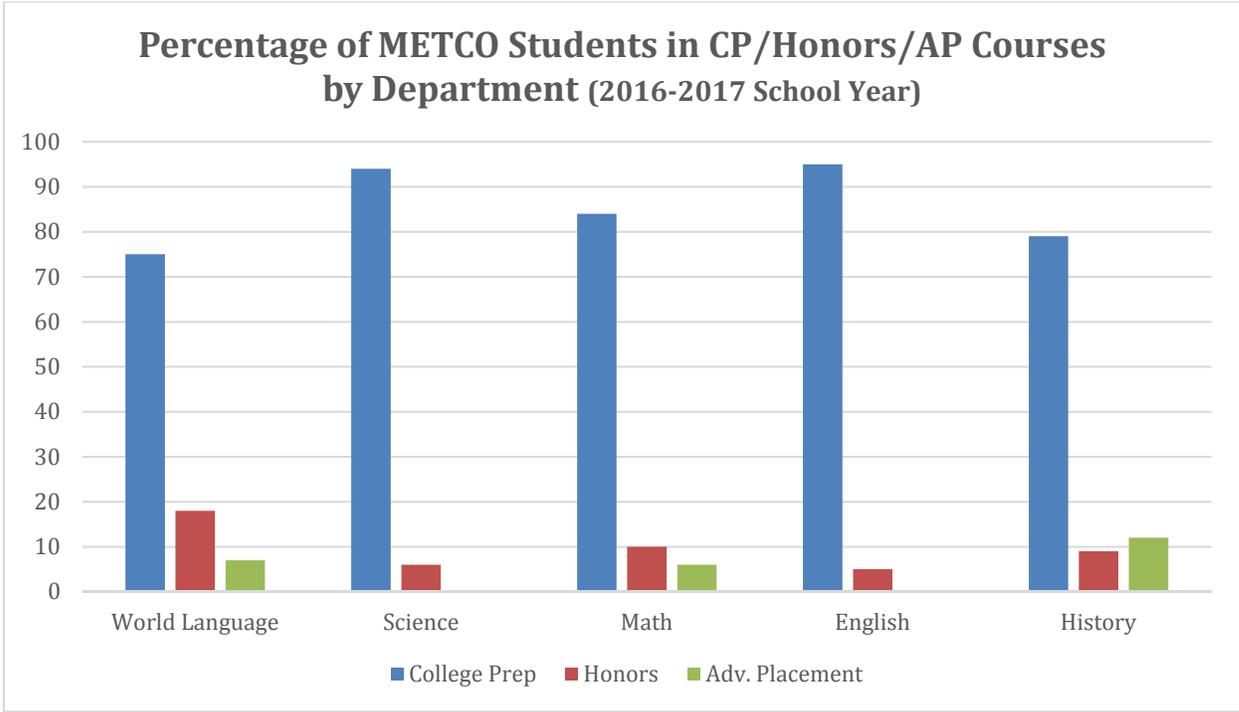


### Percentage of METCO Students in Advanced Placement Courses by Department (2016-2017 School Year)



### Percentage of METCO Students in Advanced Placement Courses by Department (2017-2018 School Year)





# Supporting Students – School Year Programming

## ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS – WOODLAND AND COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students PARTICIPATING	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type(s)
<u>MAP (Math Academy Program)</u>	Objectives: Strengthen mathematical foundations; Reinforce language and mathematical concepts; Strengthen thinking and factual math operations; Reinforce the curriculum by extended exposure to the concepts.	18	1 and 2	2 days a week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
<u>Academic Support</u>	Objective: Provide in and or out of classroom services to METCO students who need regular education support in specific areas, such as math, writing, reading and/or science.	12	K, 1 and 2	1-2 times per week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
<u>METCO Transition Meetings/Activity</u>	Objective: Provide support for third graders transitioning to fourth grade at Field School; Reduce anxiety about going to a new school building and environment; Meet METCO students currently in fourth and fifth grade at Field School as well as the FS METCO Liaison.	All	3	1-2 times per school (WS/CS)	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison and FS METCO Academic Liaison
<u>Snack Groups</u>	Objectives: The objective is to provide opportunities to students in need of help (K – 3rd) for learning and development of social-emotional skills as well as language and communication skills. Skills that helps children learn to navigate the school life (playground, bus ride, transitions) better by learning self-regulation strategies. Students learn the meaning of teamwork, having good “sportsmanship”, confidence and friendship. This promotes appropriate student like behavior in order to better access the curriculum. Some essential themes are: Positive and appropriate interactions with peers, social awareness, use of appropriate language in social settings, negotiation and play skills, and safety in the school and on the bus.	Open to All	K, 1, 2, and 3	2-3 times a week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison
<u>Breakfast Academic Program (BAP)</u>	Objectives: Provide breakfast and social-emotional support to students under stress as a result of the long journey from Boston and the dynamics generated on the bus; Opportunity for the students to prepare themselves and finish academic work required for the day; Opportunity for students to talk about their plans for the day and perspective attendance to after school enrichment programs.	Open to All	K, 1, 2 and 3	2 days per week	K-3 METCO Academic Liaison

Boys Group	Enhance academic achievement and social skills through an affinity and mentoring program model	9	1, 2 and 3	2 days per month	Middle School METCO Academic Liaison
Lunch Groups	Strengthen the interaction between Boston and Weston students, provide opportunity to build social relationships and develop social skills, provides opportunity to reinforce proper manners when eating, encourage appropriate conversation, share experiences	All	1, 2 and 3	1 day per week	METCO ACADEMIC Liaison
Kindergarten Academy	To enhance the learning experience of incoming Kindergarten students in the METCO program.	All	K	2-4 times a month	METCO KA Support Staff

### ELEMENTARY PROGRAMS – FIELD SCHOOL

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students participating	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type(s)
METCO After-School Achievement Program (M.A.A.P.)	Build a culture of academic collaboration and excellence among METCO students, introduce young students to the benefits of seeking extra help from teachers outside of class time, support homework completion by providing a supervised setting where students begin their homework before their commute home, and provide co-curricular enrichment opportunities	15	4 and 5	3 days per week	Field School METCO Academic Liaison
Boys' Group	Enhance academic achievement and social skills through an affinity and mentoring program model	7	4 and 5	2 days per month	Middle School METCO Academic Liaison
Math Lunch Group	Strengthen mathematical foundations, reinforce mathematical language and concepts, practice basic math skills, promote risk-taking and outside-the-box thinking, and explore the understanding that every student is a mathematician	All students	4 and 5	1 day per week	Elementary Math Specialist
Lunch Groups	Promote social and emotional learning and community-building in an affinity group setting. Facilitate and support relationships between Family Friends pairs	All students	4 and 5	3 days per week	Field School METCO Academic Liaison
MCAS Boot Camp Program (ELA and Math)	To improve students' test taking skills and strategies, while also enhancing writing skills, reading comprehension and vocabulary usage	10 students (via invitation)	4 and 5	Full day – week long program (During Winter and Spring Breaks)	Academic Tutorial Center in Boston

METCO Transition Meetings/Activity

Objective: Provide support for fifth graders transitioning to sixth grade at the Middle School; Reduce anxiety about going to a new school building and environment; Meet METCO students currently in sixth, seventh and eighth grade at Middle School as well as the MS METCO Liaison.

All

5

1-2 times per school

Field School and Middle School METCO Academic Liaisons

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
METCO Homework Club	Students experiencing academic struggles may be nominated for HW club support by the Liaison, teachers, or parents. Additionally, while not optional for some students, the program is also optional for any students looking for extra academic support and/or 1 on 1 assistance provided by the Liaison	Open to All	6, 7 and 8	3 days per week	Middle School Academic Liaison
Lunch Groups	Provide social and emotional support in semi-structured affinity groups	All students	6, 7 and 8	1-2 days per week	Middle School Academic Liaison
Academic Support (METCO Academics, Math Topics, Math Lab, 7th Gr Science Block)	Provide support in starting and completing all assigned coursework	Open to All	6, 7 and 8	5 days per week	Middle School Academic Liaison, Weston faculty
MCAS Prep Program (ELA, Math and STE)	To improve students' test taking skills and strategies, while also enhancing writing skills, reading comprehension and vocabulary usage	15 students (via invitation)	6, 7 and 8	2 days per week	Weston Staff
<u>METCO Transition Meetings/Activity</u>	Objective: Provide support for eighth graders transitioning to the High School; Reduce anxiety about going to a new school building and environment; Meet METCO students currently in the high school as well as the HS METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director.	All	8	1-2 times per school	Middle School METCO Academic Liaison and the High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
Tenacity Challenge	An academic scholarship competition for teams of Latino and African-American students from urban and suburban high schools across Massachusetts	9	9, 10, 11 and 12	6-month preparation leading to annual competition	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director and Weston High School Staff (2)

Academic Planning and Support Meetings	Scheduled appointments to review academic struggles and create a plan for academic support. Review schedule and discuss potential course selections for upcoming year	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	2-4 times per year (midterm reports, term report, spring course selection)	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director
Affinity Meetings	Opportunity for METCO Students to meet as a group to discuss issues that are most relevant to them as students of color as well as METCO students.	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	Once a month	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director
Black Student Union	School Club to help address the needs of the Black students in the school as well as allow them an organized voice and way to contribute positively to the school. Organize the Black History Month Assembly.	Open to All	9, 10, 11 and 12	1-2 times a month	High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director

# Supporting Students – Summer Programming

## ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS – RISING STUDENTS IN GRADES 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
Summer Opportunities in Academics and Recreation	Builds skills, expands upon prior learning, and provides opportunities for students to work together on team building and problem solving	20 students	4, 5, 6 and 7	2 weeks	METCO Liaison(s), Weston Staff

## HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grades	FREQUENCY	Educator Type and #
METCO Summer Academy	To review material from the prerequisite courses (when applicable), preview material for the upcoming school year, build relationship(s) with WHS faculty	15 students	9, 10 and 11	1-2 weeks	Weston Staff

## Supporting Students – Community Coordinator Programming

### ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Name of Program	Purpose	# Students	Grade(s)	FREQUENCY	Educator Type(s)
Kindergarten Luncheon	To provide an opportunity for new Family Friend families to learn about the program and meet in person	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	K	Once each for Country School and Woodland	Community Coordinator
Family Friends After School Program	To strengthen the relationships between the Family Friend pairings by having shared enrichment activities	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	1-3	Each grade meets once every three weeks	Community Coordinator
Field School Field Trips	To strengthen the relationships between the Family Friend pairs by providing an opportunity for a shared social experience	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	4 and 5	1-2 times per year	Community Coordinator and Liaison
Middle School After School Activity	To strengthen the relationships between the Family Friend pairings by providing an opportunity for a shared social experience	METCO students and their Weston Family Friends	8	1 per year	Community Coordinator and Liaison
Pot Luck Supper	To strengthen the relationships between the Boston and Weston families by providing an opportunity for a shared social experience for the students and their families	METCO students and their Weston Families, members of the Community, and Staff	K-12	Once a year	Community Coordinator

\*Due to a budget cut to our Community Coordinator Position; we were unable to run: our annual Family Friends’ Ice Cream Social, Field School Afternoon Activity, Middle School Family Friends’ Field Trip and we had to reduce our Family Friends’ Afterschool Program for grades 1-3. Typically, each grade (1-3) have one afternoon activity a month and this year each of the grades had 3 activities. We were also unable to expand the program into the high school as we had planned.

## Community Support Organizations

The following organizations, which represent both communities, continue to be an integral part of the success of our METCO program:

- Friends of Weston METCO (F.W.M) – Madelaine Kenyon is in her third year as the Chair of the Committee. The committee consists of members from both the Boston and Weston communities. In support of the METCO Director and staff, the committee offers recommendations for fundraising opportunities. A letter distributed to Boston and Weston resident families in the spring, has become an annual fundraising vehicle. The METCO Director/High School academic liaison, the Field School academic liaison and the Community Coordinator served as members on the committee this year.
- Boston Weston METCO Parent Organization (BWMPO) – Keitrice Johnson serves as Chair of this organization. The BWMPO continues its work by co-sponsoring the annual METCO Informational Session held annually at the historic Twelfth Baptist Church. The organization also continues to assist the METCO Director and the Transportation Director in a variety of areas pertaining to program goals and transportation issues and policies. The organization holds monthly meetings in Boston for parents and supporters for discussion and review of procedures and policies of the METCO program and the school system. The organization supports our graduates with an annual scholarship program for qualified students. This gift award is given during the annual Class Day at the High School.
- Weston METCO Scholarship Committee – The members of this committee consist of former METCO graduates, members of the Boston and Weston communities who volunteer their time to raise scholarship money for our graduating seniors, and former students who are currently attending college. The committee works closely with parents, students, the METCO staff, and the Guidance Department in support of the scholarship process.
- Weston PTO – This organization continues to support our program in several areas, which includes working with the Community Coordinator to advertise METCO events to the Weston community. It also donates a portion of the proceeds of the annual PTO calendars to the BWMPO for their scholarship program.
- Land's Sake Farm (Weston) – Thriving community farm that is dedicated to building meaningful connections between people, the food they eat, and the land. For the past



4 years, the farm has raised funds to cover the cost of the summer programming they provide (free of charge) to our METCO Summer SOAR Program.

- First Parish Church in Weston – Gathered in 1698 by the Puritan settlers of Weston, First Parish was founded to serve all the residents in our neighborhood and was known as the “parish” or town church. For over 7 years First Parish has awarded the Weston METCO Program a grant to establish (and continue to fund) our Educational Travel Assistance for METCO Families.
- Weston Recreational Department – For the past 4 years, the Weston Recreation Department has allowed our METCO Students, participating in our summer program, use of the pool as well as access to discounted swim lessons.
- Weston Historical Society – The Weston Historical Society Inc. is a private, non-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. It was founded in 1963 at the time of the town's 250th Anniversary. Their mission is to collect, preserve, and make available artifacts relating to the history of Weston, and to educate residents about our community heritage. This year, in honor of our program's 50<sup>th</sup> year; the historical society hosted a panel of the program's founders as well as the founders of the Roxbury Weston Preschool. The Roxbury Weston Preschool and its founders were instrumental to the launch of the Weston METCO Program. The historical society also commemorated this milestone event with a Roxbury Weston Preschool and Weston METCO themed Fall 2017 Weston Historical Society Bulletin.

## 2016-2017 Next Steps and Follow Up

- Review Kindergarten Academy efficacy and plan for the 2017-2018 implementation  
2017-2018→ Will continue to advocate for continued funding of our Kindergarten Academy. Some observed benefits: greater affinity amongst METCO Cohort, additional feedback/perspectives of students by additional staff (KA Teachers), childcare benefit to METCO Families as the Wednesday half days created a barrier for some families, additional structure and enrichment opportunities for our youngest students.
- Streamline the K-3 in-school programming to increase the frequency of sessions  
2017-2018→ Continue to track the data of our streamlined the K-3 in-school programming. This year we decreased scope and increased the frequency of sessions
- Develop/Expand Boys' Mentoring Initiative at the Field School.  
2017-2018 →Continue to run our Boys' Group which is running for boys in grades 1-5
- Expand MCAS/PARCC Support to middle school  
2017-2018 →Middle School offered MCAS/PARCC support courses for qualifying students.  
2017-2018 →10 Field School students participated in MCAS/PARCC Boot Camps and we will review their scores. If there is a positive impact, we will advocate for continued funding of those 10 seats.
- Review Summer Programming
  - Meet with Directors and Department Heads for cohort specific needs  
2017-2018 →Based on feedback there will be changes made to this year's HS Summer programming which will be reviewed by obtaining additional feedback and monitored for its impact

- Meet with 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> grade teams to develop transition programs  
2017-2018 → In progress
  
- Survey families and students (HS) for input  
2017-2018 → Based on feedback there will be changes made to this year's HS Summer programming which will be reviewed by obtaining additional feedback and monitored for its impact
  
- Collaborate with stakeholders for our Weston METCO 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration 1967-2017  
2017-2018 → The following events were coordinated with the High School METCO Academic Liaison/METCO Director and partners identified in parenthesis.
  - "A History of METCO in Weston: 50 years" (Weston Historical Society)
  - "Lift Every Voice" Gospel Jubilee: Weston METCO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
  - Desegregation to Integration: 50 years of METCO in Weston: The Work Continues – Discussion (Friends of Weston METCO)
  - A Book Conversation with: Kwame Alexander (Ben Sandals' Scholarship Fund)
  - Weston METCO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Movie Premier and METCO Family Friends Potluck Supper (Friends of Weston METCO and Community Coordinator)
  - ROXBURY-WESTON and METCO in WESTON: Why did it start? Has it been successful? What is the outlook? – Discussion (First Parish Church)
  - Student 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation (Black Student Union, Boston and Weston Resident Students)



The METCO Staff would like to thank all of the following stakeholders for helping to ensure that we are not simply a functioning program, but a flourishing Weston METCO Community: the Weston School Committee, the Superintendent, the Assistant Superintendents, members of the Central Administrative staff, building Principals, Faculty and Staff members, members of the Transportation Department, Office Support Staff and Aides, the members of the Food Services Department, and members of the Custodial and Maintenance Staff. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do to work at making this program the success that it is and supporting our students! Additionally, we would like to thank both the Weston and Boston families for a collaborative spirit and continued dedication to work together.

Last, but certainly not least, as Director, I would like to thank the METCO staff for their persistent dedication to our students' success. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing team and look forward to helping our students reach their fullest potential!

## METCO Staff

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