

# BOSTnet BUZZ

BUILD THE OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME NETWORK

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED TO OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME INFORMATION

September 12, 2006

## Inclusion and Positive Behavior Support

Email any comments or additional information for the BUZZ to [buzz@bostnet.org](mailto:buzz@bostnet.org)

## BOSTnet Information

### Special Announcement

BOSTnet is pleased to announce that the **Afterschool Access** Program to address behavior issues in out-of-school time programs has been awarded a one-year grant from the Department of Early Education and Care. BOSTnet designed the **Afterschool Access** program to enhance the ability of afterschool staff to address the social/emotional needs of children exhibiting significant behavioral difficulties, and to reduce the need for expulsion from Early Education and Care programs.

In this special edition of the BOSTnet BUZZ, you will find out more about Positive Behavior Support and why it is significant for the OST field, resources for Inclusion and Positive Behavior Support (PBS), the Landscape of the need for behavior strategies in the OST field, and more on the ground breaking Afterschool Access Program that will explore the application of PBS in OST programming.

### Strengthening Programs...

## What is Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and what does it mean for After School?

*"I want to learn more about behavior and how to deal with behavior problems."*

*"I want to learn different strategies for youth with disruptive behavior."*

*"This [behavior management] is a constant struggle in programming."*

- OST Providers citing their reasons for attending BOSTnet's March 2006 **Promoting Positive Behavior Half Day Forum** held at the **United Way of Massachusetts Bay**

Those working in the OST field know that disruptive behavior can destabilize even the most well-planned after school activity or event. Often, OST programs are unable to adequately support youth with consistent disruptive behavior and they are subsequently expelled from programs. How can programs be better supported in addressing challenging behavior to improve outcomes for all children and youth?

Traditional behavioral management views the individual as the problem and seeks to "fix" him or her by quickly eliminating the challenging behavior. Positive Behavioral Support (PBS) and Functional Analysis (FA) focus on improving systems, settings, and staff skills to create an environment that encourages positive behavior.

A core principle of PBS is to understand why challenging behavior occurs and what function it serves. What does a child hope to achieve with a certain behavior? In addition to helping practitioners and families understand the individual with the challenging behavior, PBS and FA also guide them in developing physical and social contexts for positive behavior.

A synthesis of more than 100 research articles found that: **PBS is effective in reducing problem behavior by 80 percent in two-thirds of the cases.**

(ERIC/OSEP Special Project (1997). *School-wide Behavior Management Systems. Research Connections in Special Education, Number 1, 1-8.*)

Positive Behavior Support systems are being implemented in schools but have not been widely tested in after school programming.

## What Resources are available for Inclusion and Promoting Positive Behavior?

BOSTnet has published ***Promoting Inclusion of Children and Youth with Disabilities: Tips and Tools for After School Professionals***, which includes tools, tips, and resources for Promoting Positive Behavior. Please contact [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org) for more information on this resource.

Through the new initiative ***Afterschool Access***, funded by the Department of Early Education and Care, BOSTnet will work with the Program in Education, Afterschool & Resiliency (PEAR) to develop an assessment tool for Positive Behavior Support in Out-of-School Time Programs.

### ***Online Resources for promoting Positive Behavior Support***

Association for Positive Behavior Support - Factsheets on PBS practices  
<http://www.apbs.org/PBSPractices.htm>

Tools from the Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (tailored toward school-wide practices)  
<http://www.pbis.org/tools.htm>

### ***Trainings***

BOSTnet will be holding a series of Leadership Roundtables on Inclusion in early 2007.

BOSTnet will hold a series of Promoting Positive Behavior ½ Day Training Forums throughout the Commonwealth. In January 2007, we will hold a free training forum in Boston.

Please watch the BUZZ and the BOSTnet website for details and registration information on these training opportunities. ([www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org)).

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Out-of-School Time Landscape...

## Why is Positive Behavior Support critical now?

“Youth engagement in afterschool programs is very important to achieving youth outcomes. Youth engagement includes positive interactions with adults, friendly relationships with peers, and focused participation in activities.”  
(*Pathways to Success for Youth: What Counts in After-School, Executive Summary. Massachusetts After-School Research Study (MARS). November 2005. Page 4*)

Boston’s OST field has indicated a strong demand for tools and strategies that support positive interactions. In a March 2006 survey conducted by a Harvard Business School Student Consulting Team on behalf of BOSTnet, 65% of providers indicated interest in having access to “How To” Guides for Positive Behavior Strategies. **Sixty-six (66%) of providers indicated interest in staff training on Positive Behavior Strategies, the #1 training interest among the choices provided.**

In a July 2006 survey of over 30 providers, conducted by Brandeis’ Heller School Team Consulting Project on behalf of BOSTnet, the #1 program area where OST providers would find cost reduction beneficial was in hiring a Behavior Specialist.

This demand for increased behavior management support arises from the significant number of OST staff working with children and youth with learning and other cognitive disabilities. According to BOSTnet's annual out-of-school time survey: 66% of responding OST providers report that they currently serve youth with Learning Disabilities; 56% report serving youth with Attention Deficit Disorder; 32% report serving youth with mental health issues; and 17% are serving youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Pervasive Developmental Disorder. ( *2006-2007 Guide to Boston's Before and After School Programs*).

Of the 26 programs that have a priority of serving specific disabilities, 5 programs serve those with Learning Disabilities, and 5 serve those with Attention Deficit Disorder.

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Access for All...

### ***Afterschool Access!***

#### ***Promoting Positive Behavior and Reducing the Need for Expulsion***

BOSTnet is pleased to announce that the ***Afterschool Access*** Program to address behavior issues in out-of-school time programs has been awarded a one-year grant from the Department of Early Education and Care. BOSTnet designed the ***Afterschool Access*** program to enhance the ability of afterschool staff to address the social/emotional needs of children exhibiting significant behavioral difficulties, and to reduce the need for expulsion from Early Education and Care programs.

BOSTnet and its key partners, the Program in Education, Afterschool & Resiliency (PEAR) and the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership (MAP), will strengthen programs throughout the state in the following ways: coordinate local consultation from behavioral health experts and deliver training on Positive Behavior Support to afterschool programs; highlight promising practices implemented by participating afterschool programs; and design a Positive Behavior Support in Out-of-School Time Assessment Tool. For questions about ***Afterschool Access*** Program, please feel free to contact BOSTnet at (617) 720-1290 and/or email [info@bostnet.org](mailto:info@bostnet.org). As always, please stay tuned to the BOSTnet website ([www.bostnet.org](http://www.bostnet.org)) for updates on this and other exciting projects!



policy update...



### **How do gubernatorial candidates propose to address issues affecting Children with Disabilities?**

Last month, The Arc of Massachusetts surveyed potential Republican, Democratic and Independent candidates for governor, regarding their views on issues that impact the lives of people with disabilities and their families. While all three Democratic candidates replied, Mihos (Independent) declined the opportunity and Healey (Republican) did not respond.

Among other concerns, candidates had to respond to questions relating specifically to children with disabilities. They were invited to share their ideas to improve special education, particularly in addressing the lack of meaningful progress/goals, untrained teachers, failure to implement programs as intensely as designed, and lack of accountability in IEPs (Individualized Education Plans).

In his response, Chris Gabrielli recognizes “the importance of high-quality special education programs & IEPs to children in Massachusetts,” and proposes that districts be held accountable for IEPs and the progress their students make.

Deval Patrick states that we must “work hard to ensure that professional development in districts is strong,” and supports educating students in inclusive settings and, whenever possible, in classrooms with their peers. He recognizes that to accomplish this, “teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals, even early education educators, must be well trained.”

Tom Reilly's strategy includes working to improve educational results for children with disabilities as stated in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Amendments of 1997. He pledged a commitment toward “working for adequate funding at the state and federal levels to help all of our children reach high standards”, attracting and retaining highly-qualified and well-trained special education teachers, innovating compensation methods to offer bonuses to special education teachers, and providing district grants for pilot model programs to improve inclusion practices. Please visit <http://www.arcmass.org/> for additional information.



Connecting You To Resources



## **Junior Achievement (JA) would like to teach your students about business, economics and life skills!**

JA wants to partner with after-school programs to help young people understand the economics of life. JA brings the real world to students, opening their minds to their potential.

Let us help you take the load off this year!

### **Junior Achievement programs:**

Supports MCAS and Social Studies Learning Standards

Are provided at NO COST to schools, after school and summer programs

Are a fun and hands-on way to teach economics and life-skills concepts to students in grades K through 12

### **What does this entail?**

Contact your local JA Education Manager for a Program Request Form

Schedule a JA training for your staff/tutors (30 min.)

Receive program materials from your local JA Education Manager

Agree to facilitate 5 - 8 lessons (depending on grade level)

### **Interested in finding out more about JA!**

Go to [www.jaem.org](http://www.jaem.org) or contact Calvin Chu, Afterschool Education Manager (617) 368-3566 or [cchu@ja-easternmass.org](mailto:cchu@ja-easternmass.org)



Connecting You To the Latest Events



## **September 14: Stuck in the Middle: Strategies for Working with Middle School-Age Youth**

BOSTnet's Middle School Network will devote three Leadership Roundtables to sharing promising practices in serving Middle School youth within before and after-school programs. The first Middle School Leadership Roundtable will take place September 14<sup>th</sup>.

Please join BOSTnet to share and learn promising practices from the field and to network with other OST leaders. Providers will also be given the opportunity to join a virtual Middle School Network where you can find tools and discussion on serving Middle School youth.

### **Getting them in the Door!**

#### **Recruitment and Retention Strategies for Middle School Students in Out-of-School Time Programs**

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at the Tobin Community Center from 9:30 until 12:00.

*Tobin Community Center, 1483 Tremont Street, Mission Hill, 02120*

### **Save the Date for the following sessions of the Middle School Series**

October 5: **Planning to Succeed! Creating Curriculum and Programming for Middle School Students**

November 2: **Let Them Lead! Creating Leadership Opportunities for Middle School Students**

## **September 14: Boston Lyric Opera**

### **Don't Know If Opera Is For You?**

Get to know the singers before you hear them in concert!

Attend a free one-hour chat with several stars of the opera stage to hear their stories, hear them sing, and ask them questions.

Thursday, September 14 at 4:30pm

The Wang Center for the Performing Arts

Wang Center Studio, 276 Tremont Street

(part of the New England Medical Center Garage building next door to The Wang Center and across the street from the Courtyard Marriott hotel)

Call 617-532-1256 to RSVP

Each singer will talk about the challenges and rewards of an operatic career and demonstrate that the participation of people of all backgrounds is not only possible but essential for the continued existence of the art form.

We hope to reach a wide array of audiences:

- Youth, families, seniors
- Aspiring performers, from singers to instrumentalists to actors
- Anyone who is curious about opera

- Anyone who loves music!

All attendees receive free tickets to hear the singers in concert at The Wang Theatre on September 15!

### **October 11: 2006 Teen Pregnancy Institute: Valuing Youth One Teen at a Time**

Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy's

Please join us for a day of continuing education, skill-building, networking, resource sharing, and support at the only conference in New England focused on issues related to teen pregnancy and parenting, the Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy's 2006 Teen Pregnancy Institute.

Wednesday, October 11, 2006

8:00am - 4:00pm

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA

We are extremely excited to present Alyssa Wulf, a leading researcher in the field of progressive framing, as our plenary speaker. Ms. Wulf will provide insights and concrete strategies on how to create community change for teens using the language of values.

Register by September 29, 2006.

To learn more and register for the

2006 Teen Pregnancy Institute go to:

<http://www.massteenpregnancy.org/about/calendar.html>

Questions? Contact Abi Karlin-Resnick, MA Alliance on Teen Pregnancy Associate Director, at 617.482.9122, x109 or [abi@massteenpregnancy.org](mailto:abi@massteenpregnancy.org).

The Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy provides statewide leadership to prevent adolescent pregnancy and to promote quality services for pregnant and parenting teens and their children through policy analysis, education, research and advocacy.

***Lights On Afterschool is coming on October 12!***



<http://www.bostnet.org>

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