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BOSTnet Information

July 31, 2007

"Access For All"

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Special Announcements

Welcome to the July 2007 edition of the BUZZ! Please send your feedback and ideas on the BUZZ to info@bostnet.org.

- **BOSTnet is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2007!** Please watch the [BOSTnet website](#) and the next BUZZ for updates on our 20th Anniversary special events. See BOSTnet's work through the "[BOSTnet Milestones](#)" timeline, which highlights year-by-year activities since 1987.
- **BOSTnet provides a variety of trainings for Out-of-School Time Programs.** Please [click here](#) to visit our training webpage to view signature BOSTnet trainings such as Promoting Positive Behavior, Engaging Families, and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities, as well as exciting new trainings such as Designing Out-of-School Time Space.
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Leadership Roundtable, Forums & Conference Calendar**
For ten years, BOSTnet has been providing free, monthly Leadership Roundtables for directors,

managers and supervisors of out-of-school time programs. [View the schedule](#). If you would like to contribute to one of our Roundtables, please contact us at info@bostnet.org.

- **State of the Field** - BOSTnet is pleased to announce the publication of the first State of the Field report for 2007. Beginning with this issue, the State of the Field will be published quarterly and will cover topics relevant to the out-of-school time field. This issue explores the connections between promoting positive behavior and access in out-of-school time and looks at BOSTnet's Afterschool Access project to build the capacity of OST staff to address behavior problems. We hope you find this document useful and we encourage you to let us know what you think. To read this State of the Field report, [click here](#).
- **BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Special 20th Anniversary Edition of the *Guide to Boston's Before and After-School Programs*** is now available at libraries, community centers and online at webguide.bostnet.org

Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **BOSTnet All Means All Statewide Conference Registration Now Available** - This all day conference scheduled for Friday September 21, 2007 will focus on inclusion of youth of all abilities in after school programming, including a focus on promoting positive behavior in after school programs. For more information and to download a registration packet, please visit www.bostnet.org.



Out-of-School Time Landscape...

Programs Serving Children and Youth with Disabilities

Promoting access for all children to enriching out-of-school time opportunities is a part of BOSTnet's vision. A key aspect of our work toward this vision is BOSTnet's longstanding commitment to improving access for children with disabilities in out-of-school time programs. We work with program providers to improve their capacity to increase inclusion of children of all abilities in programs through our Lead to Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities (LOYD) initiative.


BOSTnet's comprehensive annual data collection includes information on the disabilities that are most commonly seen by OST program staff in their work. Our activities are informed by this data and are responsive to the needs of the OST field. For example, based on demand, BOSTnet's Inclusion Roundtable series in the Spring 2007 connected OST providers with disability resources through 3 trainings on inclusion and the arts, sports, and learning. One hundred and eighty-five (185) out-of-school time leaders attended at least one of these trainings. BOSTnet will also hold an All Means All Conference on inclusion on September 21. Please read the [Access for All](#) article below for details on this event.

BOSTnet's 2007-2008 data collection provided information on the disabilities served by OST programs. Seventy-one percent (71%) of programs reported that they served one or more disabilities. These disabilities include Learning Disabilities, Physical Disabilities, Mental Health Issues, Autism, Multiple Disabilities, Visual Impairment, Hearing Impairment, AIDS/ HIV, Speech Impairment, Mental Retardation, Significant Health Care Needs, Attention Deficit Disorder and others. Of these disabilities, programs most often cited serving youth with Learning Disabilities (almost 62% of programs surveyed), Attention Deficit Disorder (51%), Physical Disabilities (32%), and Mental Health issues (30%). Actual percentages are likely higher as not all programs report and or know of all disabilities that children and youth have.

Although most programs report that they serve several disabilities, only 27 programs (about 7%) indicated a priority of serving children with specific disabilities. Of these, 5 programs serve those with Learning Disabilities, and 5 serve those with Attention Deficit Disorder.

How wheelchair accessible is the field?

About 67% of programs report location at a wheelchair accessible site.



Access for All...

3rd Annual BOSTnet All Means All Conference

On Friday, September 21st, 2007 from 8 am-4pm, BOSTnet will hold its third annual **All Means All Conference: Welcoming and Supporting Children and Youth of ALL Abilities within Out-of-School Time Programs** at Northeastern University in Boston. This highly anticipated and only statewide conference on inclusion in out-of-school time programs will feature speakers Ann Reale, Commissioner of Department of Early Education and Care and Leo Sarkissian, Executive Director of The Arc of Massachusetts. This conference will also unveil the Promoting Positive Behavior and Resiliency Self-Assessment Tool developed by BOSTnet and the Program in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency (PEAR).

This one of a kind afterschool Self-Assessment tool was created as part of the Afterschool Access project, funded by the Department of Early Education and Care, that helped 16 after school programs implement positive behavior strategies within their programs through the help of one-on-one coaching and modeling from behavior specialists. OST providers from the North Shore to the South Shore created program wide strategies that supported over 1500 children and youth through specific approaches to promote positive behavior. Their work, as well as research on national positive behavior support, resiliency, mental health, and emotional health strategies, were incorporated into the self-assessment tool to create a comprehensive tool for programs evaluate the effectiveness of their positive behavior strategies and to create action plans to achieve a more positive and emotionally healthy afterschool program.

In addition to learning about the Promoting Positive Behavior and Resiliency Self-Assessment Tool, All Means All Conference participants will be able to attend workshops that cover a full spectrum of inclusion strategies for out-of-school time programs. The conference is only \$30 (\$20 if registered by August 15, 2007) and includes materials, breakfast and lunch. The registration deadline is September 12, 2007 and there are limited scholarships available for individuals who cannot afford the full registration

cost. Below is a listing of presenters and workshop titles. For a full description of workshops and to download registration material please visit www.bostnet.org. The **All Means All Conference** is sponsored in part by The Dammann Boston Fund and The Center for the Study of Sport in Society.

Access to Theatre Program - Partners for Youth With Disabilities:

- *Making Creativity (Theatre & Dance) Universally Accessible to All*

Asperger's Association of New England (AANE)

- *Understanding and Supporting Children with Asperger Syndrome*
- *Asperger Syndrome, A View from Within*

Erica Lindamood

- *Learning from a Lion (Beliefs about Youth's Capabilities)*

The May Institute

- *Creating a Pro-social Environment via Positive Behavior Support (PBS)*
- *"Show Me": Data-based Decision Making to guide Behavior Intervention*

Outdoor Explorations

- *Breaking Down Barriers to Adventure*

Partners for Youth with Disabilities

- *Strategies for Including Youth with Disabilities in Mentoring Programs*

Toward Independent Living and Learning, Inc. (TILL, Inc.)

- *A Practical Behavior Management Workshop for Out-of-School Time Providers (for children with & w/out Autism)*

University of Massachusetts-Boston, Department of Exercise and Health Sciences

- *Modifying Physical Activities to Include Youth with Disabilities*
- *Promoting Physical Activity Programs to Youth with Disabilities*

Please contact us at buzz@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232 to register for this conference. For more information about the Afterschool Access Project please visit www.bostnet.org.

Measuring Quality in Out-of-School Time

Out-of-school time programs have the potential to have a profound effect on the children and youth they serve. BOSTnet hears of transformative change from staff of programs: how a teenager developed interest in academics after an experiential learning activity; or how a child improved in social interactions after receiving positive reinforcement from staff. This summer, through our Strengthening Programs initiative, BOSTnet starts work with OST programs supported by the Hestia Fund to improve how programs can measure and communicate the impact of their work. Throughout the 2007-2008 year, programs will work on improving their evaluation and outcomes measurement systems, incorporating time-tested evaluation tools. Programs will have access to training and technical assistance on using recognized evaluation tools. Included in the tools are those developed by BOSTnet through its core initiatives such as Inclusion of Children with Disabilities, Engaging Families in Out-of-School Time, and Promoting Positive Behavior in Out-of-School Time. These tools were developed over several years, tested by OST programs, and linked to research-based practices through BOSTnet's partnerships with the members of the research and academic community such as the Harvard Family Research Project, The Intercultural Center for Research in Education, and the Program in Education and Afterschool Resiliency. Programs will have an opportunity to improve practices around a specific area of evaluation that will be feasible to implement given program staffing and resources. BOSTnet is excited to be working with a dynamic group of organizations to improve their ability to highlight their successes in providing children with enriching and rewarding opportunities.

policy update...



Please Act Quickly! - The Department of Early Education and Care has extended the informal comment period for the proposed changes to align regulations for family child care, group child care and school-age child care until August 10, 2007. Your input is critical, so please visit the [EEC website](#) to read the proposed changes and file your comments electronically. EEC has also set up a dedicated email box for comments at regreform@massmail.state.ma.us.

The EEC will revise the draft regulations based on our comments and begin the formal comment this fall.

Save This Date! The Boston hearing for the Special Commission on After School and Out-of-School Time has been set for Tuesday, September 25, 2007 from 5pm - 8pm. The Boston hearing is the last of the 10 regional hearings statewide on out-of-school time issues. This is an important opportunity for everyone to speak up to support continued quality programming for the city's children and youth. On Tuesday, July 19th over 40 people attended the sixth public hearing held at UMASS-Dartmouth. Speakers included youth, parents, community-based providers, public educators, and public safety officials, representing diverse perspectives on issues critical to children, youth and families.

Expanded Learning Time is Growing in Massachusetts

The Department of Education announced that 10 new schools will begin expanded learning time programming this fall, bringing the total statewide to 19. According to a DOE press release, "schools in Boston, Cambridge, Chicopee, Fall River, Fitchburg, Greenfield, Malden and Worcester are participating. Lynn has received preliminary approval, but members of the Lynn Teacher's Union are still negotiating their contract and have not yet fully signed onto the program. If approved, funding will be available for the Ford School ELT program in January 2008."

The participating schools are: Clarence R. Edwards, Umana Barnes, James P. Timilty, Boston Arts Academy, Fletcher Maynard, Martin Luther King, Bowe, Matthew J. Kuss, Osborn Street, North End, Fitchburg Academy, Newton, Greenfield Middle, Ford, Salemwood, Ferryway, Jacob Hiatt Magnet, City View and Chandler Elementary.

These schools will serve over 9,000 children through an implementation grant totaling \$12,502,100. For more information contact Heidi Guarino at 781-338-3106.

To access more Community News, Events, Resources and Job Listings, please visit our website, www.bostnet.org, to view our Resources Page.

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