



# METCO and school integration

## SEGREGATION is a major driver of educational inequity.

That's why METCO was founded: when Boston refused to integrate public schools, black women from Roxbury and white suburban residents teamed up to create a new way.

## Racial segregation persists.

Like most cities, Boston has been resegregating since the 1980s and is now more divided than ever.

That means METCO is more important than ever.

60% of Boston schools are 90% students of color—20 years ago it was 42%.

*Boston Globe*

Greater numbers of cross-race friendships predict more positive attitudes toward racial and ethnic minorities over time.

*National Coalition on School Diversity*

## But INTEGRATION benefits everyone.



### STUDENTS

#### Academic success

- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving
- Self-confidence
- Richer learning environment

#### Cross-cultural knowledge and empathy

- Reducing prejudice
- Encouraging cross-racial friendships
- Likelihood of living in diverse neighborhoods later in life

#### Preparation for employment in the global economy

96% of major employers say it is "important" that employees be "comfortable working with colleagues, customers, and/or clients from diverse cultural backgrounds."

#### Increased civic engagement

Participation in community activities



### SCHOOLS

Builds support in suburban districts for:

- Inclusive school climate
- Culturally responsive curriculum
- Equitable conduct policies
- Equitable academic policies
- Faculty diversity



### SUBURBAN COMMUNITIES

Normalizes and celebrates diversity, paving the way for investment in more equitable housing, policing, and economic policies

## Fully fund METCO to meet the demand for INTEGRATED CLASSROOMS!

In a time when schools are more segregated than they were in the 1950s, METCO is a national model for school desegregation—creating learning environments where students, parents and teachers of different backgrounds can appreciate diversity, build lifelong friendships, and prepare young people to become global citizens.



# A new era for METCO

## METCO is modernizing its operations

in close collaboration with DESE and districts.

- Moved applications **online** to make process more transparent, efficient, and equitable
- New **communications initiatives** to engage urban and suburban families, mobilize alumni, and build awareness of the benefits and best practices of school integration
- New **fundraising** capacity to expand programming in Boston and in suburban districts

## METCO is looking outward to build and strengthen partnerships in the community.

- Arts events to bring Boston and suburban families together to share cultural experiences
- College readiness support
- Exclusive scholarships to summer programs and colleges
- Specially designed classes for parents and students on parenting, school readiness, and diversity and inclusion
- Research on METCO's impact

## ABOUT METCO

- METCO is the nation's largest and second oldest voluntary school desegregation program. It provides the opportunity for children from racially imbalanced schools in Boston and children in racially isolated suburban schools to learn together in an integrated public school setting.
- It began as a **grassroots movement** founded 1966 as the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity
- **3,300 Boston students** are currently enrolled in **190 schools in 33 districts**
- Tens of thousands of alumni thrive in Boston and around the country

## METCO'S LEGAL BACKING

METCO, Inc. operates under two pieces of Massachusetts legislation, both passed due to the efforts of grassroots activism from Boston and suburban families:

- The **Racial Imbalance Act** of 1965
- required Massachusetts schools to be diverse
- The **METCO bill** of 1966 (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 76, Section 12A) funds the program in order to fulfill the Racial Imbalance Act.

## METCO's funding has not kept pace with rising costs.

Costs for transportation, staffing, educational expenses, and support continue to increase. The legislature should allocate full funding to ensure that participating districts can sustain their METCO partnerships—and increase funding to enable more Boston-resident students to enroll in each school and more towns to join the METCO program!

- **Boston Public Schools does not provide funding** to suburban districts to enroll METCO students.
- Each year, the **Massachusetts legislature allocates** total funding for all 33 districts, which is distributed through a line item, according to formulas for per-pupil amount and transportation reimbursement
- Districts also receive **Chapter 70** funding from the state to cover costs of METCO students

METCO is a **marginal seat** program:

- Participating suburban school districts identify open seats in specific grades
- Placing Boston resident students in these seats adds only marginally to fixed costs (teacher salary, classroom space)