2019

ANNUAL REPORT

WriteBoston
Promoting deep learning through writing for urban youth in Eastern Massachusetts.
Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders.

Young people have big aspirations—for themselves and their communities. Together, we can help prepare students for what lies ahead: college, meaningful work, and positive social change.

W��Boston improves the writing and critical thinking skills of youth across Eastern Massachusetts. Our two-pronged approach targets both students and educators. By helping young people hone their voices, we prepare them to achieve their goals and invest in our collective future.

15 school partners in Boston, Chelsea, Everett, and Salem

300+ educators supported by intensive professional development services

869 students served through in- and after-school, summer, and workshop programming

3,051 one-on-one writing tutorials provided to high schoolers

15,000 student newspapers distributed quarterly to schools and libraries

12,000+ students impacted last year (ripple effect)
WE ENCOURAGE & EMBOLDEN STUDENTS

Students are encouraged to take a stance, and conduct research and interviews to back their claims. Writing for Teens in Print, students see the power of their voices firsthand.

Masha Layfer, Boston Public Schools senior, used the Teens in Print newspaper as a platform to write about an issue that matters to her—teen voting rights.

The below is excerpted from the article “Voting Rights for Teens are Long Overdue,” published in the March 2019 Issue of Teens in Print.

“Some critics [of lowering the voting age] have suggested that teens don’t have ‘enough skin in the game,’ often pointing to the fact that we generally don’t financially support ourselves. While it may be true that most teens are dependents, not only do many of us work and get taxed, but the very premise of this argument veers dangerously into the territory of property-based democracy. Employment and dependent status should never be benchmarks of qualifications to participate in democracy.

Regardless of employment, teens ‘skin in the game’ shouldn’t be up for debate. Not only will we be living with the effects of long-term national policies on climate change, healthcare, immigration, and more, local policies are affecting us right now.”

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND BEYOND.

A student’s voice carries powerful weight. When a young person can articulate their ideas, their prospects for the future broaden. These skills can help a student craft a strong college essay, nail the cover letter for their dream job, or contribute to the national conversation around an issue they care about.

WriteBoston’s Teens in Print (TiP) program teaches literacy skills to middle and high schools through a journalistic lens. During the afterschool program, students learn to be responsible media makers and consumers while writing articles for Boston’s only citywide youth newspaper. In addition, TiP runs a summer journalism institute, offers news literacy workshops for schools and nonprofits, and provides college readiness services to high schoolers.

LIFTING UP EDUCATORS TO REACH EXPONENTIALLY MORE STUDENTS.

Research is unified: effective teaching is the most powerful lever for student achievement. Educators have a lot to contend with: shifting student populations, an uptick in English language learners, and new state standards. Teaching writing—an already arduous task—requires serious skill and support.

Our Professional Development program partners with schools to offer expertise around writing and reading instruction. We support first-year teachers, veteran educators, administrators, and classroom aides—from English and history, to science and beyond.

WriteBoston’s instructional coaches collaborate with partners to determine their unique literacy needs, draw up a schedule of services, identify benchmarks, and build long-term school capacity.

133 ARTICLES PUBLISHED LAST YEAR
94% OF STUDENTS REPORTED BETTER WRITING SKILLS
101 STUDENTS PUBLISHED LAST YEAR
93% FELT MORE PREPARED FOR FUTURE JOBS
300+ EDUCATORS SERVED LAST YEAR
91% OF EDUCATORS REPORTED INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS
15 SCHOOL PARTNERS IN 4 COMMUNITIES LAST YEAR
88% OF PARTNERSHIPS WERE MULTI-YEAR TO EFFECT LASTING SCHOOL CHANGE

WE SUPPORT DEDICATED TEACHERS

This year, we completed a 3-year partnership with the Chelsea public middle schools aimed at building student engagement and school capacity. Read a literacy coach’s take on the work.

“WriteBoston Professional Development has been a game changer for our literacy department.”

Quotes from Amy Archibald, Literacy Coach for the Chelsea Public Schools

“WriteBoston has had a profound impact on our students and teachers in Chelsea and, of course, on me as an educator.

Our goal was to get more student-centered learning and engagement with complex texts and tasks in the classroom, and to provide teachers with the tools and skills to make this happen.

Since working with WriteBoston, we have maximized the learning minutes in all classrooms—students spend more time reading, writing, and discussing complex texts.

Reflecting on my experience in education, I can confidently confirm: my WriteBoston coach is the best teacher I have ever had in my life.”
OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR FINANCES

The following charts represent funds raised and used on operating activity during fiscal year 2019. WriteBoston also has net assets with donor restrictions available for future years totaling $446K.

FOUNDATION, CORPORATE, & INDIVIDUAL GIFTS 59%

REVENUE

UNRESTRICTED $1,126,975

FEE-FOR-SERVICE 28%

IN-KIND 14%

SPECIAL EVENTS 8% (NET OF EXPENSE)

EXPENSES $974,005

PROGRAMS 75%

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE 11%

FUNDRAISING 14%

HOW DO WE CREATE CHANGE?

MISSION

WriteBoston promotes deep learning through writing. We offer training and coaching for teachers, along with writing opportunities for students, built on the premise that powerful thinking and writing are inseparable.

VISION

WriteBoston believes that writing is essential to student achievement. We believe all young people can be flexible, thoughtful communicators and problem solvers when writing is embedded in daily learning.

TWO-PRONGED APPROACH

WriteBoston works directly with educators and students. This two-pronged approach creates a ripple effect, which last year reached an estimated 12,000 students.

DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for believing that today’s youth can achieve their loftiest goals and change our communities for the better. Your support means that you stand behind every student’s right to access challenging opportunities that will lift them to their highest potential. By investing in students, you invest in our collective future.