

## **KIPP Academy Boston Charter School Executive Summary**

*This was prepared by the founding group of the KIPP Academy Boston Charter School.*

### **Mission**

The mission of KIPP Academy Boston Charter School is to create a school environment where students develop the academic skills, intellectual habits and character traits necessary to maximize their potential in high school, college and the world beyond.

### **Educational Program**

Our educational program is based on the following elements:

- **High-Quality Instruction** - to ensure our students develop the academic and intellectual, and interpersonal skills and habits that will allow them to become responsible and successful adults.
- **Character Development**—a consistent and fair Student Management System that rewards positive student behavior and reinforces strong character traits.
- **More Time on Task** - KIPP students attend 50% more school than their public school peers, completing 6 years of school in 4 years.

### **The Success of KIPP: Offering enhanced options for students**

With 99 KIPP schools across the country in 20 states and the District of Columbia, we know the KIPP model *works*, and we know that the success demonstrated by KIPP Academy Lynn is replicable in and adaptable to Boston. Our successful experience with the following four measures means that we are prepared to replicate this success in Boston.

- 1) **MCAS gains:** Our MCAS gains year-over-year speak for themselves. Lynn Public Schools have MCAS averages that closely mirror those in many Boston Public Schools. Given the remarkable gains made by KIPP Lynn students who came to us from LPS, we have proven our ability to provide any remediation necessary to turn largely under-performing populations of students into students who primarily test at or above grade level. For example, the 2009 cohort of KIPP Academy Lynn (KAL) graduates had average 4<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency rates of 23% in Math and 25% in ELA before entering KAL. By the time this cohort graduated from KAL four years later, the cohort had average MCAS proficiency rates of 78% in Math and 85% in Reading. This magnitude of academic gains is consistent across multiple classes, and is just one of many indicators that KIPP Academy Boston will provide the same remarkable opportunities for Boston students as KAL has for the students of Lynn.
- 2) **Demographic Similarities:** KIPP Academy Lynn has been successful with a similar population of students that exist in Boston. KAL educates a student population that is 87% low-income, and 87% minority, a demographic makeup that closely mirrors that of Boston. We are prepared to serve the Boston communities that are in most need of high quality school options.
- 3) **Academic gains particularly for most challenging populations:** We are uniquely prepared to serve not only the mainstream population of students in Boston, but

particularly the populations who are at highest risk of failure: Special Education students, English Language Learners, and those in the bottom quartile of testing. As proven by a recent longitudinal study conducted by researchers at Harvard and MIT, KIPP Academy Lynn was able to help these highest-risk groups of kids make the greatest gains in year-over-year MCAS scores. The findings were:

- In Math, KAL students improved 1.2 deviations in their 4 years at KAL.
- In English, KAL students improved .5 deviations in 4 years.
- Students who entered KAL classified as English Language Learner (ELL) had the greatest gains over 4 years, improving 1.8 deviations in Math and 1.5 deviations in English Language
- Students with IEPs had the next highest gains, 1.76 deviations math over 4 years and 1.16 in ELA
- Overall, KAL had the most success with our most challenging students (the students who were in the bottom quartile in MCAS coming in made the largest gains while at KAL

- 4) KIPP Academy Lynn is part of a very large, highly successful national network. Having begun in 1999 with two KIPP schools in Houston and New York City, the KIPP network has grown to 99 schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia serving more than 26,000 students. We have the resources, the experience, and the expertise to expand in the most strategic, responsible way possible. *We know how to grow*, and are well prepared to grow the KIPP Massachusetts network to include Boston.

### **Community Support for KIPP**

Currently, the waitlist for charter schools in Boston (estimated at 10,000) indicates that parents and families of students in low performing schools want more options. This increased demand clearly indicates the need for academically rigorous schools that will prepare these students for success in high school, college, and life beyond. Perhaps the greatest indicator of support for KIPP is the parent response. On the most recent survey conducted with KIPP Academy Lynn families in May 2010, parents made their support for KAL clear. When asked, “Would you recommend KIPP Academy Lynn to another family?” 99% of respondents (238 families) reported ‘Yes’. Parents report strong levels of satisfaction across a multitude of other performance measures, indicating that the KIPP model has been and continues to be very well received by the community we serve.

### **Founding Group’s Ability to Make the School a Success**

Since its opening in 2004, the KIPP Academy Lynn Charter School has been remarkably successful in educating its students and preparing them for success in high school, college and life. Many Board members have deep personal commitments to the Boston community, and are similarly concerned about the limited number of high quality school options in many Boston neighborhoods. The Board of Trustees for KIPP Academy Boston is highly qualified to lead a successful expansion effort. Several of our members have extensive experience with growing companies as well as expanding schools. Since its formation in 2003, the board has effectively governed the operation of an academically successful and operation. The KIPP Academy Boston management team includes two former KIPP school founders with substantial history of leading schools that produce transformative outcomes for kids.