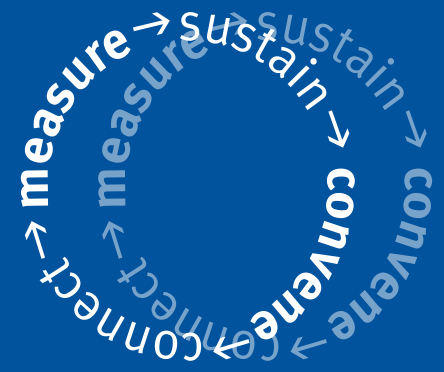


The Re-Engagement Center

BOSTON PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL



Helping every student through

The Re-Engagement Center (REC) re-enrolls students who have dropped out of school and those who remain enrolled, but no longer attend school regularly. Launched in 2009 as a joint initiative between the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC), the REC has become a national model and has inspired cities around the country to start similar initiatives.

The REC provides the resources and counseling students need to get back on track to graduation. Without a high school diploma, the future can be dim. In fact, high school graduates earn an average of \$9,000 more per year and almost \$500,000 more over the course of their lifetimes than people who do not finish high school. Since the work to re-engage dropouts began, 2,807 young people have been enrolled in the BPS, and of those, hundreds have earned a diploma to date. Due to the sustained efforts of the BPS, the REC, and a broad coalition of community organizations, there were 1,106 fewer dropouts in Boston last year, a 57% decrease compared to 10 years ago.

The re-engagement process

- Staff reach out to dropouts via mail, phone, social media, networking, and door-knocking
- Once at the REC, each young person has a chance to tell his or her story, and to hear the story of a staff member who faced similar struggles
- REC staff review transcripts to give students a clear picture of the requirements they need to fulfill in order to graduate from high school
- Students and REC staff discuss educational options including BPS high school or alternative programs such as online credit recovery, night school, day and summer school classes, and staff offer their recommendations
- REC staff begin re-enrollment paperwork and advise students on next steps
- Once re-enrollment takes place, REC staff follow students to ensure that they receive guidance at every stage
- Together, students and staff focus on the finish line and help students to empower themselves to earn their diploma

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