



Defining a Successful Partnership Strategy to Best Serve Students and Families  
2019-2020

It is...

- An Independent Non-Profit
- A School Program
- A Civic Partnership

... serving students enrolled in  
Brookline's public schools from low-  
income families



**STEPS TO SUCCESS**

# A Brief History of the Steps to Success Program

- **Before STS:** BHS Brookline Housing Authority (BHA) graduation rate 60%. BHA college matriculation rate 50%
- **Mid-to late '90's:** Janet Selcer formulates the Brookline School Community Partnership inside Lincoln School and 6-Year Gear Up Grant starting with the 4th grade
- **Founded in 2001:** STS is formalized.
- **2016:** STS became a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, with continued support from the BHA & PSB.
- **2017:** BHA hires a Family Learning Center Director to oversee High Street Vets, 22 High Street, Trustman & Egmont housing developments.
- **2018:** STS completes strategic plan, outlining the agreement between 3 main partners (PSB, BHA, STS)
- **Today:** PSB STS is comprised of a PSB Coordinator, 3 HS Advisors, and 4 EM Advisors. STS, Inc. is comprised of Extended Learning, Career Explorations, and College Success staff.
- **The STS Class of 2019** high school graduation rate was 96% for STS students and 89% of STS college students are on track to graduate from college within 4-6 years.

Steps Inc



Public Schools of  
Brookline



Brookline  
Housing  
Authority

## PARTNERSHIP POWER

**Our Vision:** We envision a community where all students can attain their educational, economic and life goals into adulthood.

**Our Mission:** We partner to leverage resources from each organization to provide comprehensive, integrated services and supports to achieve educational equity for families and students who are low-income in the Public Schools of Brookline.

# Our Students and Long-term Outcomes

## Who we Serve

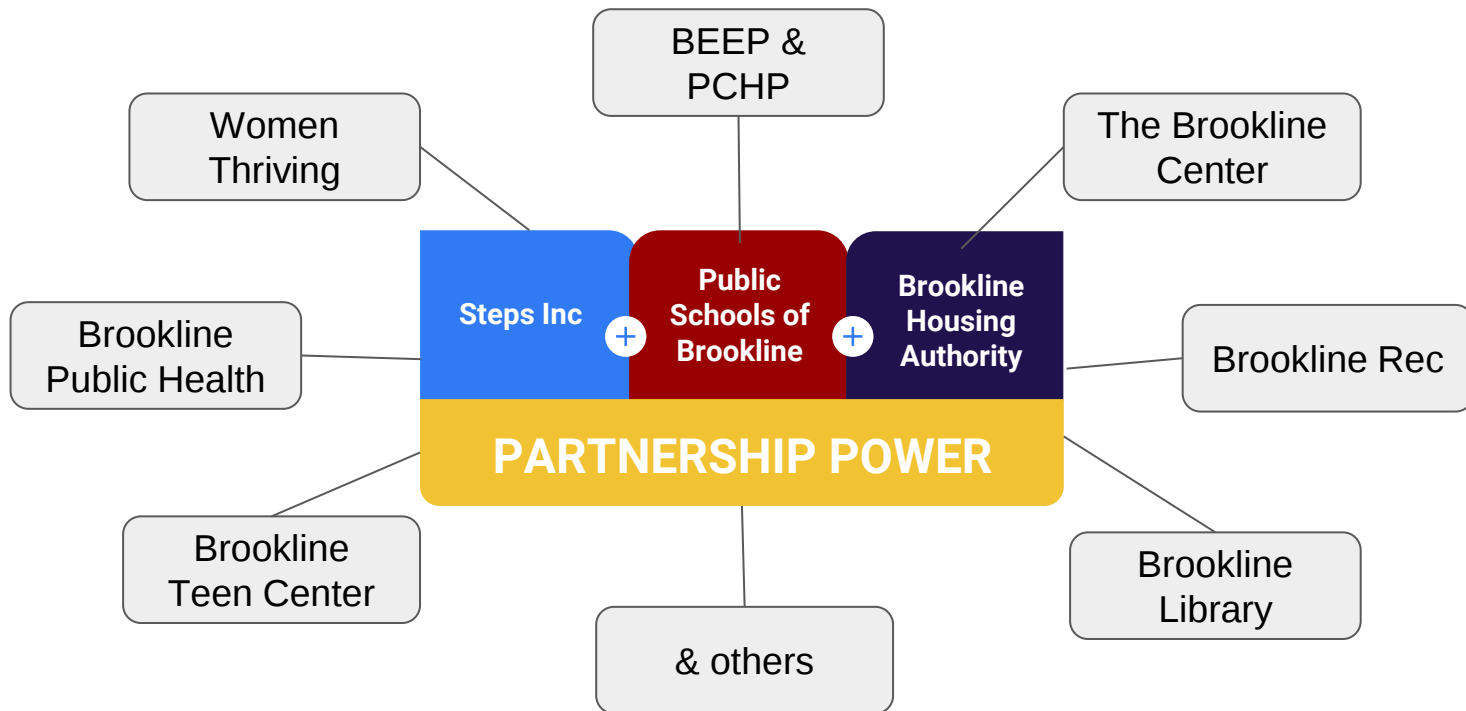
- We prioritize serving STS students based on the following (as space and funding are available):
  - First and foremost: BHA residents
  - Then: Section 8 families, students from low-income families living in Brookline (“economically disadvantaged”), low-income METCO students

## Intended Long Term Outcome

- As a result of participating in the Steps to Success program, graduates from Brookline High School will:
  - Have a post-secondary plan of their choosing that maximizes their opportunities
  - Enroll in and complete that plan, whether it be college, other post-secondary education or another pathway.
- All of which supports our students in progressing towards economic self-sufficiency as they become adults.



# ALIGNED FOR SUCCESS



Out of School

Home and Family

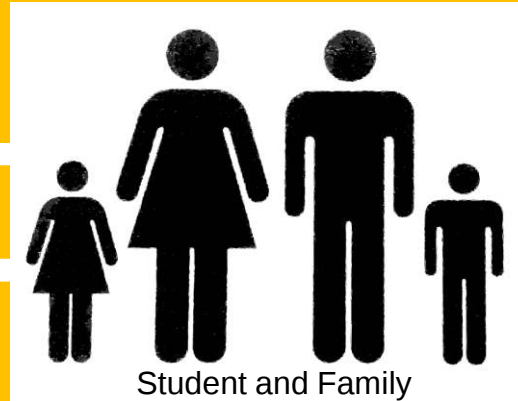
In School

# Wrap-around Support

College and Career  
Readiness

Academic Support

Social and  
Emotional Learning



Enrichment

PSB

BHA

# Steps To Success



## Elementary / Middle School

- Family Learning Centers
- Girls Preparing to Succeed
- Invest 'N Kids (INK)
- 8th grade to High School
- After Hours University (AHU)
- Teen Advantage (TA)
- Access to Camps
- Internships
- Outdoor Explorations
- Vacation Week Programs



## High School

- 9th Grade: Homework Center
- 10th Grade: Career Exploration, Internships
- 11th Grade: SAT/ACT Prep and College Visits, Internships
- 12th Grade: College Applications & enrollment, mentorship, Internships



## Post-Secondary

- College matriculation, enrollment, and persistence
- Work Readiness Workshops
- Next Steps Career Counseling

STS



PSB



BHA

PARTNERSHIP POWER

# Managing the Partnership

- Fundraising
- Communications & Marketing
- Finance, Grant Management, & Government Compliance
- Outcome, Evaluation & Accountability
- Partnership Administration & Governance
- Volunteer Management

# Benefits of the Partnership

| Program/Event                                 | Benefit                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| More family engagement events                 | Annual Back to School event brings families and resources together before school start<br>More events in housing makes programs more accessible, e.g. parent meetings & potlucks<br>Brings together all Partnership staff as a united team |
| August & February Outdoor Exploration trips   | PSB STS Advisors & STS Inc. chaperone                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Joint fundraising through new state contracts | Increased internships, creation of Egmont's STS student-led tutoring program, new post-secondary pathways program, April vacation camp funding, new Teen Advantage site                                                                    |
| Camps & internships                           | Stronger staff coordination that allows for more student access to programs                                                                                                                                                                |
| STS Roadshow                                  | Increased visibility and awareness across Town of the Partnership                                                                                                                                                                          |
| PSB Financial Aid Form                        | Creation of BHA waiver to simplify process for families                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Data sharing agreement                        | Enables us to share program impact with funders                                                                                                                                                                                            |

# Importance of the MOU

- Codifies our work and ensures it lives on
- Signifies to external audiences, e.g. partners and funders, the importance of educational equity in Brookline and why STS's students and families need a targeted approach
- Shows what is possible when partners work together in tandem



# Ways to Collaborate with STS

- Communicate with STS Team
- Attend partner events (e.g. Step Up for our Stars Gala (April 2020), Recognition Ceremony (June), Stepping Back to School (August))
- Advocate for educational equity in Brookline by supporting STS
- Questions?



# Contact the Team

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