



Brooke Charter Schools & College Awards

Brooke Charter Schools - An Overview

Brooke Charter Schools was founded in 2002 with the mission to provide an academically rigorous public education to students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea. Named after former Massachusetts Senator Edward W. Brooke, the first African American elected to the U.S. Senate, the school network is committed to preparing each student for success in college and beyond.

Over the last three years, Brooke 7th and 8th graders' MCAS scores have ranked among the highest performing districts in the state – even ranking #1 on multiple occasions. On the 2012 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS), Brooke students accomplished the following:

- *In all tested elementary grades (3-5), Brooke Roslindale students scored #1 in the state in Mathematics;*
- *In 4th and 8th grade, Brooke Roslindale students scored #1 in the state in English;*
- *On all English and Mathematics tests in all grades, Brooke Roslindale ranked either #1, #2 or #3 among all Boston schools; and*
- *In its first year, Brooke Mattapan 5th graders demonstrated the highest growth in the state in both English and Mathematics.*

In addition, 100 percent of 8th graders are admitted and matriculate to a college preparatory high school, and 71 percent of college-age alumni are enrolled in a two or four-year secondary institution.

Brooke Charter Schools currently serves over 925 students at three schools: Brooke East Boston, Brooke Mattapan, and Brooke Roslindale. Our students are 94 percent black and Latino and 80 percent come from low-income families. As the fastest growing charter network in Massachusetts, we plan to grow to serve over 1,500 students within the next four years.

College & University Awards

In 2011, the Yale Black Alumni Association (YBAA) approached Brooke with the idea of sponsoring an annual book award for a graduating 8th grader. The YBAA wanted to create an award to contribute to the college aspirations of Brooke students as well as help connect to the YBAA to show motivated students that attending Yale is a possibility within their reach. Chosen annually by Brooke teachers and administrators using criteria outlined by YBAA, the prestigious award has become a symbolic and meaningful component to Brooke's 8th grade commencement exercise.

Following the success of the YBAA Achievement Award, Brooke is excited to explore additional book award opportunities with colleges and universities who share Brooke's commitment to increasing college access for urban low-income students traditionally under-represented in higher education.

While Brooke does not have a structured outline for book awards, the YBAA Achievement Award currently includes:

- an annual \$500 contribution to Brooke Charter Schools: part of the annual gift is given directly to the recipient to purchase school materials and books in 9th grade, and the remaining gift goes into a general scholarship fund to support low-income Brooke students attending tuition-charging high schools;
- An annual meeting between the award recipients and a member of the YBAA;
- An annual college tour of the Yale campus hosted specifically for Brooke students and alumni.

Brooke is interested in partnering with a college or university through the admission office, alumni center or group, minority student group, or other champion to create future book awards for our students commencing on their college path. For more information on Brooke Charter Schools or to discuss a potential book award idea, please contact Scott Knox at 617-833-8448 / sknox@ebrooke.org.