

# Boston EQUIP

## Boston Early Education Quality Improvement Project

### 1999 Neighborhood Profiles: Allston, Brighton, Kenmore\*

#### DEMOGRAPHICS<sup>i</sup>

Due to the close proximity to area colleges and universities, Allston and Kenmore are usually bustling with activity and are predominantly populated by college students. Brighton, on the other hand, is fairly quiet and is primarily populated by graduate students, young professionals, and families.<sup>ii</sup>

<i>Total Population:</i>	79,861	<i>Median Income:</i>	\$27,139
<i>Population under 18 years old:</i>	7,194	<i>Percent in Poverty:</i>	22.1%
3.3% Age 0-4	2,610	<i>Percent of Youth in Poverty:</i>	17.1%
5.7% Age 5-17	4,584	<i>Unemployment Rate:</i>	5.7%
<i>Racial/Ethnic Diversity:</i>		<i>Highest Educational Attainment:</i>	
11.2% Asian		16.3% Less Than 12th Grade	
7.0% Black		20.2% High School Graduate	
8.3% Hispanic		17.3% Some College	
0.3% Native American		51.6% College Graduate	
78.4% White			
3.1% Other			

#### CAPACITY<sup>iii</sup>

Type of Program	Total Capacity
Center-based & Head Start Programs (CHS)	772
Licensed School-Age Programs (SACC)	297
Family Child Care (FCC)	141

Capacity by Age Group	
<b>CHS</b>	
Infant	90
Toddler	148
Preschool	534
<b>SACC</b>	
Elementary School	181
Middle School	16

#### WAITLISTS

Demand for childcare combined with limitations on capacity often result in long waitlists. **The average number of children on a waitlist at individual Center and Head Start programs is 41; for School-Age Child Care the average is 45. Family Child Care providers reported an average of one child on their waitlists.** Citywide, these numbers are 62, 10, and five respectively. In June 1999, approximately 194 of Allston-Brighton's children were on the waitlist for a state Office of Child Care Service (OCCS) subsidy, according to OCCS.

#### SUBSIDIES

Subsidies often provide access to child care for families who cannot afford to pay regular rates. **Per program, the average number of children in this neighborhood who use subsidies Center-based, School-Age Child Care, and Family Child Care are 15, 24, and one respectively.** Citywide, these numbers are 38, 30, and two respectively.

## ACCREDITATION<sup>iv</sup>

Accreditation is often used as an indicator of the quality in a child care program. **In this cluster, four center-based and/or Head Start programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and two Family Child Care providers are accredited by the National Association of Family Childcare (NAFCC).**

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	17%	16%	25%
FCC	8%	10%	25%

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## TRAINING

Research shows that the quality of programs is directly related to the education and training of their staff.<sup>v</sup> Specialized early childhood training for caregivers helps make the most of children’s developmental potential. **In Allston, Brighton, and Kenmore, about half (51%) of Center and Head Start staff received college training in the last year; slightly over half (57%) of all FCC providers received college training; and almost a third (27%) of SACC staff received college training.** While CHS and FCC programs in Allston, Brighton, and Kenmore exceed the EQUIP accreditation, SACC programs fall substantially below it.

Additionally, a significant number of the neighborhood’s early childhood professionals have obtained college degrees. **Those who have obtained a BA or more include: 52% of CHS teachers and lead teachers; 92% of SACC group leaders and senior group leaders; and 14% of FCC providers.**

Staff Receiving College Credit

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	51%	41%	43%
SACC	27%	50%	43%
FCC	57%	57%	43%

Staff with BA or more

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston
CHS	52%	29%
SACC	92%	55%
FCC	14%	12%

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parents play a significant role in the education of their children. Many programs encourage opportunities for parents and providers to work together not only in activities inside the classroom like assisting teachers or participating in celebrations, but in the leadership of the program through activities like hiring staff, evaluating programs, and serving on governing boards. **Averaging the parent engagement on a number of activities, an overall score indicates 20% of parents are involved in Centers and Head Starts, and 21% of parents are involved in School-Age Child Care programs in Allston, Brighton, and Kenmore.** While parent participation in SACC is higher than the citywide average, neither SACC nor CHS has met the EQUIP benchmark.

Average Parent Engagement

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	20%	26%	50%
SACC	21%	16%	50%

Top Three Parent Engagement Activities

CHS	
Program Evaluation	63%
Parent/Teacher Conferences	58%
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	32%
SACC	
Advocacy	50%
Staff Evaluations	50%
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	48%

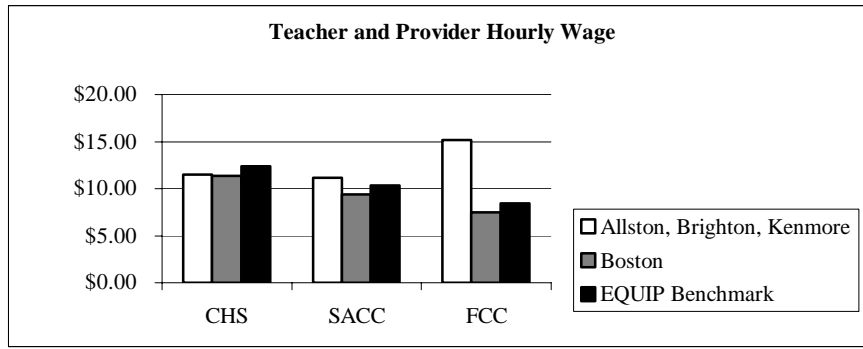
## SALARIES

### Teacher and Provider Hourly Wage

Low salaries are often linked to high staff turnover rates and lower quality of child care. Higher salaries generally correlate with higher levels of education, professional training, and a commitment to staff retention. **The average hourly wages for CHS, SACC, and FCC in**

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	\$11.51	\$11.32	\$12.40
SACC	\$11.17	\$9.41	\$10.35
FCC	\$15.15	\$7.47	\$8.46

**Allston, Brighton, and Kenmore are \$11.51, \$11.17, and \$15.15 respectively.** For each type of care, the neighborhood's averages are higher than the citywide averages; of these three, CHS is the only program type that has not met EQUIP's benchmark. Of the four Family Child Care providers responding to the survey, two were licensed for large family child care (up to 10 children) so this may not be representative of hourly wages for family child care providers in the entire neighborhood.



### Benefits and Health Care

Another indicator of a program's commitment to its staff is the level of benefits offered. In this neighborhood, CHS and SACC programs provide fairly comprehensive benefits to their full-time employees. **All CHS programs responding provided health care benefits to their full-time staff.** Among CHS program, the one benefit that was not generally provided is paid maternity leave; only one of the six programs responding provided this benefit.

**For FCC providers, benefits are less commonly available.** Paid sick time was frequently cited—six of the seven providers had access to it— but other benefits like paid holidays and maternity leave were not provided by their own FCC business. **29% of family child care providers reported having no health insurance coverage.**

### Turnover

Continuous changes in personnel limit efforts to build stable environments and relationships for children and their families. **CHS and SACC programs in Allston, Brighton, and Kenmore reported similar levels of annual staff turnover--27 and 28 percent respectively.** While the staff turnover for CHS is slightly higher than that of the entire city, SACC turnover is substantially lower than the citywide average.

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston
CHS	27%	23%
SACC	28%	56%

## FACILITIES

Physical environment is important in a program's ability to deliver quality care. A safe, well-maintained, inviting, and well-designed environment contributes to physical, emotional, and cognitive development in children.

### Closures

Program closures due to unforeseen circumstances such as building problems place a burden on parents to seek alternative child care while providers potentially face lost revenue and the prospect of losing families. In addition, closures due to facility problems are an indicator of the need for repairs and general maintenance. **One out of seven Centers and Head Starts in this neighborhood, and one out of four School-Age Child Care programs reported having to close at least once in the past year.**

### Expand, Relocate, Renovate

**When Centers and Head Start programs were asked if they would like to expand, renovate, or relocate, two (29%) wanted to expand, one (14%) wanted to renovate, and one (14%) wanted to relocate.**

	Allston, Brighton, Kenmore	Boston
Expand	29%	63%
Renovate	14%	78%
Relocate	14%	39%

### Computers

Caregivers can use computers for both instructional and administrative purposes. They can selectively choose appropriate material designed to help children acquire basic cognitive skills. Furthermore, computers can perform a variety of administrative tasks like budgeting or planning.

#### Top Three Computer Uses

- Word Processing
- Educational Software
- Internet

**All seven of the Centers and Head Starts; all four of the School-Age Child Care programs; and four of the seven Family Child Care providers reported owning and using at least one computer.**

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### What is Boston EQUIP?

*The purpose of the Boston Early Education Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP) is to measure and help improve quality for the 25,000 children and families that use Boston's public and private early childhood and school age care and education programs. In the Spring of 1999, Boston EQUIP surveyed licensed center-based, Head Start and Boston Public School early childhood programs, school-age child care programs, and a representative sample of licensed family child care providers.*

*A total of 264 of Boston's early childhood and school-age programs returned surveys.*

*For more information, contact Boston EQUIP at 617-695-0700 x229.*

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\* Unless otherwise identified, all data is from 1999 Boston EQUIP Third Inventory. Analysis by Alyssa Na'im. Return rates in Allston/Brighton/Kenmore were: 33% for CHS; 55% for SACC; and 32% for FCC.

<sup>i</sup> Statistics are from Rolf Goetze. *Facts about Boston's Neighborhoods: 16 Neighborhoods and 69 Neighborhood Statistical Areas.* February 1995.

<sup>ii</sup> City of Boston website: <http://www.ci.boston.ma.us/neighborhoods/>.

<sup>iii</sup> School-age capacity numbers are projected from 1999 Boston EQUIP data. All other capacity numbers are from the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services 1998 licensing records.

<sup>iv</sup> CHS Accreditation is from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. FCC Accreditation and CDA numbers are from the National Association for Family Child Care.

<sup>v</sup> Suzanne W. Helburn (editor). *Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers.* June 1995.