

Boston EQUIP

Boston Early Education Quality Improvement Project

1999 Neighborhood Profiles: Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury*

DEMOGRAPHICSⁱ

Hyde Park is a combination of city and suburban life with a tremendous amount of open, useful space while retaining the city's character in its people and community institutions. Roslindale boasts a proud Greek population, but in recent

<i>Total Population:</i>	92,762	<i>Median Income:</i>	\$36,545
<i>Population under 18 years old:</i>	18,396	<i>Percent in Poverty:</i>	7.7%
7.1% Age 0-4	6,610	<i>Percent of Youth in Poverty:</i>	9.5%
12.7% Age 5-17	11,786	<i>Unemployment Rate:</i>	11.6%
<i>Racial/Ethnic Diversity:</i>		<i>Highest Educational Attainment:</i>	
1.9% Asian		18.7% Less Than 12th Grade	
11.0% Black		32.7% High School Graduate	
6.0% Hispanic		21.6% Some College	
0.1% Native American		27.1% College Graduate	
84.3% White			
2.6% Other			

years has experienced a growth in diversity from people of different races. Bordered by Roslindale and Hyde Park, West Roxbury's tree-lined streets and mostly single family homes give it a suburban feel in an urban setting. This neighborhood's resources include community activism, youth recreational services, and economic development.ⁱⁱ

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Capacityⁱⁱⁱ

Program Type	Capacity
Center & Head Start Programs (CHS)	956
School Age Programs (SACC)	NA
Family Child Care (FCC)	856

Capacity by Age Group	
CHS	
Infant	38
Toddler	157
Preschool	761
SACC	
Elementary School	87

Waitlists

Demand for childcare combined with limitations on capacity often result in long waitlists. **The average number of children on a waitlist at individual Centers and Head Start programs is 54.**^{iv} **Family Child Care providers reported an average of six children on their waitlists.** Citywide, these numbers are 62, 10, and five respectively. In June 1999, approximately 502 of this area'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 total number of children in this neighborhood who use subsidies for Centers and Head Start, School-Age Child Care, and Family Child Care are 24, eight, and eight respectively.** Citywide, these numbers are 38, 30, and two respectively.

ACCREDITATION^v

Accreditation is often used as an indicator of the quality in a child care program. **In this neighborhood, none of the Centers and Head Start programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); One family child care provider has National Association of Family Childcare (NAFCC) accreditation.**

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	0%	16%	25%
FCC	<1%	10%	25%

TRAINING

Research shows that the quality of programs is directly related to the education and training of their staff.^{vi} Specialized early childhood training for caregivers helps make the most of children’s developmental potential. **In this neighborhood, 88% of Center and Head Start staff had received college training in the last year; slightly over half 70% of SACC staff had received college training; and 64% FCC providers had received college training.** While CHS and FCC exceed the benchmark set by EQUIP, SACC is substantially below it.

Additionally, a significant number of the neighborhoods early childhood and school-age professionals have obtained a college degree. **Those who have obtained a BA or more include: 19% of CHS teachers and lead teachers; 58% of SACC group leaders and senior group leaders; and 27% of FCC providers.**

Staff Receiving College Credit

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	88%	41%	43%
SACC	70% ^{vii}	50%	43%
FCC	64%	57%	43%

Staff with BA or more

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston
CHS	19%	29%
SACC	58%	55%
FCC	27%	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 29% of parents are involved in Centers and Head Starts; 6% of parents are involved in School-Age Child Care; and 31% of parents are involved in Family Child Care.** While CHS and FCC parent participation exceeds the citywide average, none of the program types meet the EQUIP benchmark.

Average Parent Engagement

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	29%	26%	50%
SACC	6%	16%	50%
FCC	31%	17%	50%

Top Three Parent Engagement Activities

CHS	
Parent/Teacher Conferences	65%
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	56%
Fundraising	47%
SACC	
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	33%
Fundraising	13%
Parent/Teacher Conferences	13%
FCC	
Playing with Children	31%
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	69%
Fundraising	11%

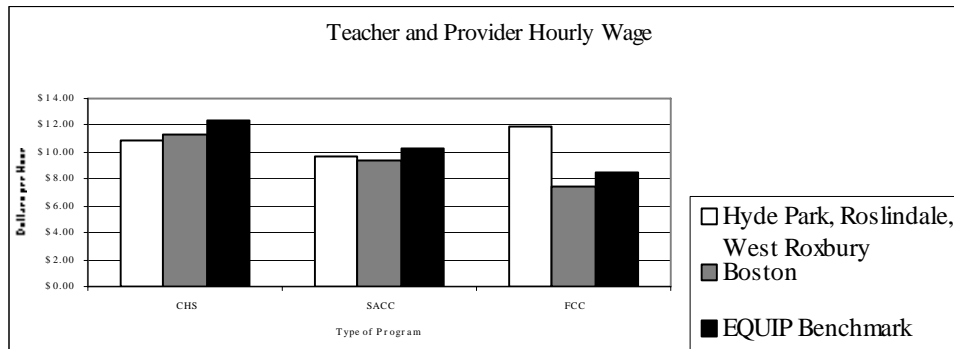
SALARIES

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**

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	\$10.85	\$11.32	\$12.40
SACC	\$9.75	\$9.41	\$10.35
FCC	\$11.88	\$7.47	\$8.46

CHS, SACC, and FCC in this neighborhood are \$10.85, \$9.75^{viii}, and \$11.88 respectively. For each type of care, the neighborhood's averages are higher than the citywide averages yet FCC is the only group that exceeds the EQUIP benchmark. A disproportionate number of the FCC providers who responded to the survey are licensed to be large Family Child Care providers (providing care for up to 10 children), so this average salary may not be representative of the hourly wages for 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. **27% of CHS programs, however, do not offer health care benefits to their full-time staff. In addition, 64% of family child care providers have no access to health care benefits.**

Turnover

Continuous changes in personnel limit efforts to build stable environments and relationships for children and their families. **CHS and SACC programs reported similar levels of annual staff turnover--19 and 20 percent respectively.**

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston
CHS	19%	23.3%
SACC	20%	56.3%

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. **18% of this neighborhoods responding centers, and 45% of 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, 73% wanted to expand, 91% wanted to renovate, and 9% wanted to relocate.

	Hyde Park, Roslindale, West Roxbury	Boston
Expand	73%	63%
Renovate	91%	78%
Relocate	9%	39%

Computers

Caregivers can use computers for both instructional and administrative purposes. They can selectively choose appropriate material to help children acquire basic cognitive skills. Furthermore, computers can perform a variety of administrative tasks like budgeting and planning. **Ten of the 11 centers**

Top Three Computer Uses
• Word Processing
• Educational Software
• Internet

responding, all three of the School-Age Child Care programs, and five of the 11 Family Child Care providers reported owning and using a computer.

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 for this neighborhood were: 43% for CHS programs; 53% for SACC programs; and 39% for FCC providers.

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

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

ⁱⁱⁱ 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.

^{iv} SACC did not provide enough data on this item so similar analyses could not be performed.

^v CHS Accreditation is from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. FCC Accreditation numbers are from the National Association for Family Child Care.

^{vi} Suzanne W. Helburn (editor). *Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers.* June 1995.

^{vii} This is the average of assistant group leaders and group leaders.

^{viii} This is for senior group leaders only; none of the programs supplied data on group leader salaries.