

Boston EQUIP

Boston Early Education Quality Improvement Project

Committee Report: Evaluation

(Community Profiles 2001 Data)

Associated Early Care and Education, Inc. (formerly Associated Day Care Services) and a community-based advisory of early care and education providers, advocates, and policymakers established Boston EQUIP in 1995 in an effort to improve the quality of early care and education services in Boston. After completing its first survey of licensed center-based child care, family child care, public pre-school programs, and after-school programs, Boston EQUIP's advisory established a set of five benchmarks for quality improvement in the areas of accreditation, facilities, teacher education and training, teacher salaries, and parent engagement. Since that time, Boston EQUIP has surveyed Boston's licensed early care and education school-age child care programs three times – in 1997, 1999, and most recently in the winter of 2000-2001.

As part of the 0-8 Coalition's Needs Assessment, the 0-8 Evaluation Committee requested a report on 2001 Boston EQUIP data showing program and provider's familiarity with and involvement in Community Partnerships for Children.

The following summarizes the findings of the 2000-2001 survey in that area, by neighborhood.

Data from Center/Head Start Surveys

Although a very high percentage of programs are familiar with CPC, many do not participate. Among Center/Head Start respondents, East Boston had the highest participation rate at 100%.

Neighborhood	Percent of respondents who have heard of CPC	Percent of respondents who participate in CPC (0-8)
East Boston	100	100
Charlestown/North End	100	20
South Boston	100	89
South End/Fenway/ Chinatown	91	36
Allston/Brighton/Kenmore	86	71
Roxbury/Jamaica Plain	96	67
Dorchester	96	75
Mattapan	100	50
Hyde Park/Roslindale/ West Roxbury	56	47
Head Start	88	82

The most common form of participation in CPC reported by Center and Head Start programs was providing direct services (78% of respondents overall), followed by attending meetings (74%) and participating in trainings (70%). By neighborhood, the participation broke down among the following activities:

Neighborhood	Provides Services	Member of Council	Attend Council Meetings	Participate in Trainings	Receive Accred. Support	Receive Supplies and Materials	Use Resource Library
East Boston	86%	86%	86%	71%	57%	86%	0
Charlestown/North End	0	0	17%	0	0	0	0
South Boston	89%	56%	56%	66%	56%	33%	11%
South End/Fenway/Chinatown	36%	36%	36%	36%	9%	36%	9%
Allston/Brighton/Kenmore	43%	14%	43%	43%	29%	43%	14%
Roxbury/Jamaica Plain	48%	32%	44%	40%	16%	32%	8%
Dorchester	54%	29%	46%	50%	38%	46%	29%
Mattapan	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%
Hyde Park/Roslindale/West Roxbury	39%	28%	44%	39%	11%	22%	11%
Head Start	71%	53%	59%	59%	41%	29%	24%

Barriers to CPC Participation

Of the Center and Head Start programs not participating in CPC, the most common barrier selected from among the choices offered was that the program didn't know enough about CPC or the 0-8 Coalition (73% overall), followed by time commitment (19%) and time of council meetings (14%).

Neighborhood	Time Commitment	Time of Mtgs.	Day of Mtgs.	Location of Mtgs.	CDA/Accred. Requirement	Don't Know enough	Other
East Boston	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Charlestown/North End	17%	17%	0	0	0	50%	13%
South Boston							
South End/Fenway/Chinatown	0	0	0	0	9%	27%	27%
Allston/Brighton/Kenmore	14%	0	0	0	0	14%	0
Roxbury/Jamaica Plain	16%	8%	4%	0	0	28%	8%
Dorchester	4%	4%	0	0	4%	16%	8%
Mattapan	0	0	0	0	0	50%	0
Hyde Park/Roslindale/West Roxbury	0	6%	0	0	0	28%	6%
Head Start	0	0	0	0	0	0	11%

Family Child Care Respondents

In several neighborhoods there were not enough family child care respondents to establish a reliable sample. Citywide, 86% of family child care respondents had heard of Community Partnerships for Children, and 47% said they were participating in CPC.

Among those participating the most common forms of participation were participating in trainings (61%), using materials from a resource library (52%), and attending council meetings (55%).

Among those family child care providers not participating in CPC, 52% reported that they did not participate because they didn't know enough about CPC, and 26% said they did not participate because of the time commitment. Only 7% said the time of the council meetings were a significant barrier, and 22% said they did not participate because of the accreditation/CDA requirement.

For more information contact Associated Early Care and Education Boston EQUIP, 617-695-0700, x229, or go to www.AssociatedEarlyCareAndEducation.org.