METROPOULITAN COUNCIL FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, INC.  
(METCO)

Fact Sheet

✓ METCO provides the opportunity for a quality integrated public school education for students of color (Black/African American, Latino/a, Asian/Asian American, and Native American) from Boston and for suburban students in participating communities. The approximate racial/ethnic breakdown for Boston residents participating in the Brookline METCO Program is: 77% are Black/African American, 15.5% are Latino/Hispanic, 5.5% are Asian/Asian American, 1.4% are Multi-Racial and <1% are American Indian.*

✓ METCO was incorporated in 1966 under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Chapter 76, Section 12A of Massachusetts General Laws states that “the school committee of any city or town or a regional school district may adopt a plan for attendance at its schools by any child who resides in another city, town, or regional school district in which racial imbalance exists...[This plan is also] to help alleviate racial isolation in the receiving district.”

Racial imbalance is defined as “the condition of a public school in which more than fifty percent of the pupils attending such school are non-white.” Racial isolation is defined as “the condition of a public school in which not more than thirty percent of the pupils attending such school are non-white.”

✓ The first 7 school districts to become METCO districts are: Arlington, Braintree, Brookline, Lexington, Lincoln, Newton, and Wellesley.

✓ METCO is a voluntary program. Parents/guardians choose to enroll their children in the program.

✓ Socioeconomic status is NOT considered when students are enrolled in METCO.
METCO provides the opportunity for deeper understanding, collaboration, and sharing between urban and suburban parents/guardians, students, and community members.

METCO exists in 35 suburban school systems in Boston and Springfield. A school district’s participation in the METCO Program is voluntary. The central administrative office (METCO, Inc.) is located in Roxbury at 40 Dimock Street.

METCO is a state funded program. Each year, the METCO communities receive state funds to cover the costs related to their METCO Program. The amount of the financial award from the state includes money for per pupil instructional cost, transportation costs, special programs, and staffing.

METCO Staff is in place to provide supplemental support to school leaders, teachers and other staff within schools.

Of the 483 Black students in Brookline, 41.4% are in the METCO Program.*

Of the 696 Latino students in Brookline, 9.9% are in the METCO Program.*

Of the 545 Multi-Racial students in Brookline, 2.4% are in the METCO Program.*

Of the 1340 Asian/Asian American students in Brookline, 1.1% are in the METCO Program.*

*As of March 1, 2012