

Success Boston Coaching

Intervention Report Snapshot | Supporting Postsecondary Success

WHAT WORKS CLEARINGHOUSE™

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Enrolling in college and earning a degree or certificate is one of the primary pathways to economic success; however, many students who begin a college education fail to complete it. In 2017, median weekly earnings of full-time workers with an associate degree was 17 percent higher than full-time workers with a high school diploma only. Despite the economic advantages of educational attainment, only 32 percent of students enrolled in two-year institutions complete their programs within three years, while 60 percent of students enrolled in four-year institutions complete their programs within six years. The first year of college is critical, as 38 percent and 19 percent of first-time, full-time students in two-year and four-year institutions, respectively, fail to return to the same institution for their second year. As a result, several interventions have been designed to support student retention and degree completion among college students. One example is *Success Boston Coaching*.

Success Boston Coaching is a coaching intervention for students who are traditionally underrepresented in college

to help them transition from high school to college and progress in college. Students are paired with a dedicated coach starting as early as the spring of their senior year of high school and receive coaching through their first two years in college. As Boston’s citywide college completion initiative, *Success Boston* partners with existing nonprofit organizations focused on coaching and mentoring to deliver these one-on-one coaching services. Nonprofit coaching partners may also provide students with other direct services such as tutoring and career readiness support, and financial support that includes scholarships, transportation subsidies, and funding for school-related materials and supplies.

Findings on *Success Boston Coaching* from two studies that meet WWC standards are shown below. The table reports an effectiveness rating, the improvement index, and the number of studies that contributed to the findings. The improvement index is a measure of the intervention’s effect on an outcome.

What Happens When Students Participate in *Success Boston Coaching*?

The WWC found that implementing <i>Success Boston Coaching</i> :	Effectiveness rating	Study findings	Evidence meeting WWC standards (version 4.0)	
		Improvement index (percentile points)	Number of studies	Number of students
May increase progression in college	Potentially positive effects	+9	2	8,375
May increase academic achievement	Potentially positive effects	+4	2	5,543

Note: The improvement index can be interpreted as the expected change in percentile rank for an average comparison group student if that student had received the intervention. A positive improvement index does not necessarily mean the estimated effect is statistically significant. Progressing in college outcomes reported in these studies include college persistence to the second year of higher education. Academic achievement outcomes reported in these studies include cumulative grade point average.

FINDINGS ARE BASED ON:

2 studies with 8,375 students in Massachusetts covering grades 12-Postsecondary



STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS:

Free & reduced-price lunch: 77%	Gender: 60% female	Race: 58% minority (34% Unspecified)
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What Does *Success Boston Coaching* Cost?

Success Boston Coaching was awarded a Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant to scale up coaching services in the fall of 2015. During the 2015-16 academic year, *Success Boston* scaled up services from 300 to 1,000 students per cohort annually.

That year, the estimated total cost was \$5,762 per student, which accounts for both the scale-up expenses and the administrative costs to fulfill Social Innovation Fund (SIF) grant reporting requirements. For the 2016-17 academic year, the cost per student decreased to \$3,037. Costs may vary depending on the size and type of organization delivering the coaching.

LEARN MORE



Read more about the *Success Boston Coaching* intervention and the studies that are summarized here in the [Intervention Report](#). Contact [The Boston Foundation](#) for additional information on implementing *Success Boston Coaching*.