

September 2010

Boston United for Students

A coalition of 35 organizations united to demand serious reform in the teachers' contract

Boston United for Students, a coalition of 35 organizations to date, launched its campaign to demand fundamental change in the Boston teachers' contract at a rally and press conference held on August 31. On the last day of the teachers' current contract at the front steps of School Department Headquarters, parents, students and representatives of education and business organizations called for the reform momentum from the state Race to the Top campaign to be carried forward to each and every public school in Boston.

As the contract talks move forward, Boston United for Students will publicly demand that the Boston School Committee and Boston Teachers Union address four key priorities in a new contract. Other contract items may evolve but the four top issues are:

- Timely and effective teacher evaluations
- Greater flexibility in teacher hiring and evaluations
- A stronger voice for parents and students in school decision-making.
- Extended time to engage students and increase teacher planning and professional development.

For months, the Boston United for Students Coalition has been building a broadly represented constituency centered on student success. The Coalition has been mobilizing parents, families, high school students, educational advocates and faith-based and business leaders to demand that the Boston School Committee and Boston Teachers Union agree to substantive

reforms in the new teachers' contract that would lead to improved educational achievement of Boston public school students.

The grassroots make-up of Boston United for Students brings a passion and urgency to the reform demands from those directly involved with the schools throughout the City. The Research Bureau is an active participant in Boston United for Students, bringing its expertise in school operations and contract matters to the campaign. Many of the organizations in this coalition, including the Research Bureau, played a positive role in a similar school reform campaign in 2000.

Boston United for Students' drive for student success is not limited to changes in the teachers' contract but also includes advocacy for improved administrative practices and earnest implementation of current and new contract reform measures. Factors supporting principals and headmasters as educational leaders in a collaborative setting are administrative issues of interest.

[Click here for a list of Coalition members.](#)



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for Students**

The Contract: What's in it for Our Kids?