



COMPASS

THE
COMPASS
SCHOOL

294 Bowdoin Street - Dorchester, MA 02122
857-220-2333 | compassboston.org

Program Contacts:

Nathania Onyeagoro
Director of Educational Services
Nathania.Onyeagoro@compassboston.org

Terence Belli
Director of Clinical Services
Terry.Belli@compassboston.org

Keir Araujo
Director of Admissions and Family Engagement
Keir.Araujo@compassboston.org

Erin VanPatten
Lower School Education Coordinator
Erin.VanPatten@compassboston.org

David Buckingham
Upper School Education Coordinator
David.Buckingham@compassboston.org

Program Directors:

Alan James
Lower School
Alan.James@compassboston.org

Heather Orr
Transitions
Heather.Orr@compassboston.org

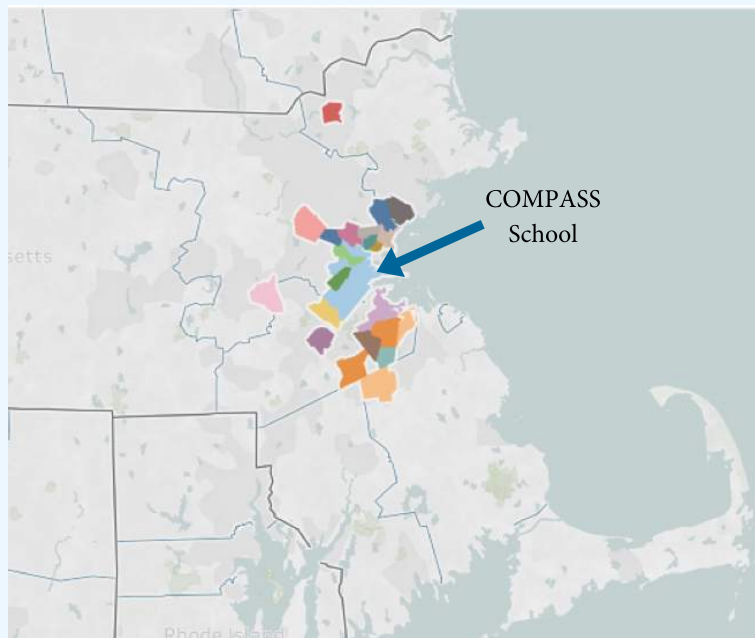
Ricky Montesino
Upper School
Ricky.Montesino@compassboston.org

Other:

Attracta Britton
School Nurse
Attracta.Britton@compassboston.org

School Coverage Area:

Students are referred from school districts in the Greater Boston area for whom school has been a struggle and not a consistent, positive experience.



Program Summary:

What makes the COMPASS School unique?

The COMPASS School is a therapeutic day-school that serves students aged 6-21 with varying disabilities including emotional impairment, behavior disorders, and other disabilities that require special education in an individualized environment. Students are referred from school districts in the Greater Boston area for whom school has been a struggle and not a consistent, positive experience. Students attend COMPASS on a short or long-term basis depending on their specific needs and the referring school district's goal(s) for the student. The COMPASS School utilizes a therapeutic approach to build resiliency among its students by providing them with distinct programs based on age, cognitive level, and academic requirements that include grades 1-12 in addition to Vocational and Transitions programs.

Keys to Our Educational Approach

- Develop outstanding educational, vocational, and support services
- Collaborate with other organizations to increase the resources available to each individual and his/her family
- A diverse staff whose competence, compassion, and commitment are evident in our client-centered approach and interdisciplinary teamwork
- Employ a wide range of teaching methods centered on students' distinct learning-styles
- Provide a challenging, individualized curriculum and instruction that addresses the clinical, behavioral, and academic needs of our students

CLINICAL COMPONENT

Staff clinicians provide individual and group counseling to all students with the goal of having them be able to recognize and minimize the effects of roadblocks to their socio-emotional health.

While all COMPASS staff are oriented to the social, emotional, and psychological needs of the students, individualized clinical services are organized to give continuous assistance to each student through establishing and/or enhancing their emotional management and intrapersonal reflective skills. This work can include helping students identify appropriate and inappropriate responses to their emotions, use socially acceptable coping skills and strategies to respond to their emotions, and evaluate their own behavior during and following challenging situations.

BEHAVIORAL COMPONENT

Staff members provide a safe and nurturing environment in which students can successfully navigate daily life challenges through informed decision-making.

Throughout the school day, students are supported by teachers, clinical, and caseworker staff to establish and/or enhance their planning, life, and problem-solving skills. By providing consistent and clear expectations, COMPASS staff may work with students to name and anticipate consequences to their behaviors, use functional communication to get their needs met safely, and develop the ability to compromise when conflict arises.

COMPASS utilizes a behavior management policy (the BEAMS system) that provides a nonpunitive, comprehensive approach to building skills that lead toward transitioning students to a less restrictive setting. While the behavior management system provides the needed structure for the safety of students and staff, the key treatment is to reward students for positive behavior.

ACADEMIC COMPONENT

COMPASS provides students with access to curriculum and strives to ensure that they follow their path to reach their fullest academic potential. Teaching and learning at COMPASS are built upon a literacy based, multi-sensory curriculum that establishes and/or enhances a student's academic and job skills. Teachers develop curriculum guided by the Massachusetts curriculum frameworks and implement lesson plans in compliance with each student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). In addition to state-mandated MCAS testing, students may also participate in district-wide testing. These individualized educational opportunities are designed to encourage students to attend to tasks for a required duration along with demonstrating emotional management skills in classroom and employment settings.