

Impact of CEI's BOOST Program 2017-2018

Project BOOST (Building Options and Opportunities for Students) is a CEI program targeted at late elementary, middle and high school students who have demonstrated academic talent but come from disadvantaged neighborhoods where they do not have the opportunity to develop their talents. **Project BOOST's main goal is to help participating students gain admission to high quality, competitive and/or specialized high schools.**

To accomplish this goal, Project BOOST provides low-income students from diverse communities with academic, social-emotional, and cultural enrichment experiences, academic guidance, and community service opportunities. Whereas many other enrichment programs accept only the "best and the brightest," Project BOOST admits students with mid-range test scores who demonstrate a commitment to success.



"Our whole school culture thrives when Project BOOST activities occur in the school."



Project Scale

In the 2017-2018 school year, CEI supported **151 New York City public schools** through Project BOOST, collectively serving over **42,403 students**.

BOOST Schools Participating in Survey

Schools that participated in CEI's BOOST Program were asked to complete a survey in June of 2018 to share their perceptions of their students' participation in the program.

Of the 151 participating schools, 118 of the schools (78%) completed the survey:

- 52 out of 61 elementary schools
- 13 out of 23 elementary and middle schools
- 28 out of 37 middle schools
- 4 out of 7 elementary, middle and high schools
- 4 out of 5 middle and high schools
- 11 out of 14 high schools
- 5 out of 6 schools that primarily serve Students with Disabilities

Student Participation Per School

Of the schools that completed the survey, 72% of the schools had 100 or more students involved in BOOST.

Academic Support and Enrichment

Schools reported receiving the following academic supports for students in the BOOST program:

- ✓ Access to STEAM programs or events
- ✓ Support for academic goal-setting
- ✓ Preparation for interviews (for high school)
- ✓ Guidance for high school selection
- ✓ High School Fairs
- ✓ College Fairs
- ✓ College and university visits including Lehman College, University of Albany, Queens College, Fordham College, College of Staten Island and Columbia University

Impact of Academic Support on Students

Survey respondents believe that BOOST's academic enrichment activities had the following effects on students:

Effect of Project BOOST On Students	Percent of Principals Who Agree
Increased engagement in the classroom	80%
Increased student knowledge	81%
Improved academic performance	64%

Impact on High School Admissions

Project BOOST specifically aims to increase students' admission into their first, second, or third choice of high school or specialized high school. Schools who completed the survey were asked to count the total number of students in each of the following categories:



High School Admissions	Number of Students
Admitted to a Specialized High School	677 students
Admitted to their 1 st choice of Specialized High School	445 students
Admitted to their 2 nd or 3 rd choice of Specialized High School	135 students
Admitted to their 1 st choice of High School	1,476 students
Admitted to their 2 nd or 3 rd choice of High School	934 students

Based on our 2017-2018 survey results, over 3,516 BOOST were admitted to their first, second, or third choice of high school or specialized high school.

Social Skills and Emotional Support

Schools reported receiving the following social-emotional supports for their students through BOOST:

- ✓ Activities that build resilience
- ✓ Personal goal-setting
- ✓ Anti-Bullying programs
- ✓ Social Skills seminars or support
- ✓ Etiquette classes
- ✓ Team-building
- ✓ Parent engagement

Impact of Social-emotional Support on Students

Survey respondents believe that Project BOOST's social skills and emotional supports had the following effects on students:

Effect of Project BOOST On Students	Percent of Principals Who Agree
Improved students' relationships with peers	91%
Improved students' relationships with teachers	75%
Improved students' communication skills	75%
Increased students' self-confidence	81%
Increased students' willingness to share ideas	75%

Cultural Enrichment

The following represents a sample of the cultural enrichment opportunities BOOST students received:

- ✓ Broadway/Off Broadway Theater
- ✓ Lunch or dinner at a restaurant
- ✓ The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Metropolitan Museum, Museum of Mathematics, Museum of Moving Image, MoMA
- ✓ 1 World Trade Center & Ground Zero Memorial
- ✓ Dance Performances
- ✓ Sponsored trip outside of NYC (upstate, D.C., Philadelphia)
- ✓ Sporting Event
- ✓ Tour of neighborhood in NYC (Harlem, midtown Manhattan, etc.)
- ✓ Radio City Music Hall
- ✓ Brooklyn Bridge
- ✓ Ellis Island
- ✓ Apollo Theater



✓ New York Hall of Science

✓ Circle Line Tour

Impact of Cultural Enrichment Activities on Students

Survey respondents believe that BOOST's cultural enrichment activities had the following effects on students:

Effect of Project BOOST On Students	Percent of Principals Who Agree
Exposed students to new cultures, new people, and/or new experiences	92%
Broadened students' understanding of educational, career, cultural opportunities for their future	72%
Increased students' interest in trying new things	86%

Community Engagement

Project BOOST seeks not only to encourage students to engage in community service but to also increase students' civic-mindedness through volunteering and community service activities. **Surveyed schools reported that students who participated in BOOST-sponsored fundraising for a charitable cause raised over \$98,128 during the course of the 2017-2018 school year.** Students also participated in the following community engagement and volunteer activities:

- ✓ Senior citizen center
- ✓ Food drive
- ✓ Penny Harvest
- ✓ Shelter outreach
- ✓ Toy drive
- ✓ Recycling
- ✓ Cancer Research/Treatment Fundraising
- ✓ Autism Speaks
- ✓ Leukemia
- ✓ Jump for Heart with the Heart
- ✓ Association & March of Dimes
- ✓ Cleanup our parks
- ✓ Recycling
- ✓ March of Dimes
- ✓ Ronald McDonald House
- ✓ Reading Partner
- ✓ Shoe Drive
- ✓ March of Dimes
- ✓ Recycling
- ✓ SmileTrain
- ✓ Valentines for Veterans
- ✓ Cleanup our parks
- ✓ Shelter outreach
- ✓ Marching Band performances
- ✓ Women's March
- ✓ Coat drive
- ✓ Science Olympiad
- ✓ Alzheimer walk
- ✓ AIDS Walk
- ✓ Hurricane Relief for Puerto Rico PR
- ✓ Hygiene Packages for Homeless Teens
- ✓ Community Art Projects



Telling the BOOST Story

The following quotes from Principals and BOOST Coordinators describe the overwhelmingly positive impact of Project BOOST in their school.

The CEI Project Boost Program is an amazing program that has allowed me as Principal to expose my student population to an array of events, speakers, experiences that they would have never had the opportunity to afford.

I chose this program to expand the horizon and opportunities for my students. My student population are students with emotional special needs. This program allows our students to appreciate life.

Project Boost has helped create more positive teacher-student interactions and promoted social, emotional, ethical, civic and intellectual skills, knowledge, dispositions, and engagement. Parental involvement, collaborative relationships between the school leader, faculty and students have increased and improved.

Project BOOST impacted our community by increasing students' ability to set goals for college and/or career. We have increased our college awareness as well as college trips.

It has given our students something to look forward to every year, while changing their attitudes, attendance and view of school. Our school culture has changed and it is definitely because of the Boost Program.

Every year, more and more students (and parents) ask to join with hopes to participate in community service activities.

Project BOOST has increased student's attendance and behavior as well as their academic outcomes.

Project Boost has created a culture where students are looking to experience new things. Once we take them somewhere they have never been, they have started to ask about other opportunities.

Project BOOST has impacted our whole school culture by allowing us to furnish our students with otherwise foreign opportunities outside of the school environment. Students have engaged in team-building activities, STEM trips, and trips focused on bonding and positive reinforcement. BOOST has also helped us improve educational outcomes within the classroom.