Frequently Asked Questions

COLLEGE SUCCESS ACADEMY

WHO SHOULD APPLY TO COLLEGE SUCCESS ACADEMY?
Motivated fourth graders who are hardworking, love to learn, want help in accessing college, and are committed to attending three summers with CSA. Applicants must attend the Edison, Gardner, Jackson-Mann, or McKay Schools.

HOW MUCH DOES COLLEGE SUCCESS ACADEMY COST?
College Success Academy is tuition-free. There is an $80 summer enrollment fee and $50 after-school attendance deposit, which can be reduced or waived if it is a hardship.

CAN STUDENTS APPLY FOR JUST ONE SUMMER?
No. When a family applies to College Success Academy, they make a commitment to attend three six-week summer sessions as well as Tuesday and Thursday after-school classes each week throughout their fifth and sixth-grade years. It is important that both families and students understand the time commitment involved before applying to Steppingstone. Saturday classes are offered in 7th and 8th grade to help prepare Scholars for the high school placement process.

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED INTO COLLEGE SUCCESS ACADEMY?
There are approximately 30 fourth-grade students admitted each year.

HOW ARE STUDENTS SELECTED FOR THE PROGRAM?
The admission process is divided into four parts: 1) Written Application (Application Form), 2) Teacher Recommendation, 3) Transcript (includes past grades and standardized test scores), and 4) Interview. Final decisions are made based on all of the admission components. We are looking for students who enjoy learning and challenging themselves, families and students who are committed to making Steppingstone a priority, and families who demonstrate a need for tuition-free college access programming.

IS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED?
Bus transportation is provided by Steppingstone for all Scholars during the summer session. During the academic year, bus transportation to the program and home is only provided for Scholars in Allston-Brighton. East Boston families need to arrange their own transportation.

WHERE AND WHEN DOES THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE?
The summer sessions are held at Milton Academy in Milton MA, Monday-Friday (7:45 a.m. -3:30 p.m.) for six weeks from early July to mid-August. During the academic year, classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-5:30 p.m.* at one of two locations pertaining to your neighborhood:

- Brighton Site
  Edison K-8
  60 Glenmont Rd.

  OR

- East Boston Site
  McKay K-8
  122 Cottage St.

*Program hours are subject to change based on school hours for 2020-2021 academic year.