



# BOSTON EDUCATORS FORGE INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP TO BRIDGE TEACHER PRACTICE ACROSS SECTORS AND SCHOOLS

## OUR IMPACT

In the fall of 2016, a ballot initiative to expand charter schools divided the city of Boston. Advocates on either side of the issue spent millions to challenge their opponents, ultimately deepening the rift between charter and district public schools among the city's leadership.

As the dust settled on the vote, teachers were the ones to step into the breach and **propose an unprecedented partnership to cross district, charter, and even Catholic school lines and return the focus to student learning.**

## HOW WE GOT THERE

To achieve this, Teach Plus partnered with the Boston Compact to bring educators together to share best practices to improve student outcomes. Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh praised this groundbreaking work by teachers to bridge the divisions: *"I'm excited that educators from across the city can learn from one another and build on each other's strengths."*



Launched in the spring of 2017, The Boston Educators Collaborative is a teacher-led professional learning model through which teachers develop adult learners. **Teach Plus recruited, selected, and trained** six outstanding teacher leaders—two each from district, charter, and Catholic schools—to facilitate hands-on learning for their peers and elevate teacher leadership.

This first-of-its-kind partnership sparked collaboration among educators across Boston. Teacher leaders noted that the conversation was not about where you taught, but about how to grow your teaching practice to best support and challenge your students. **The teachers built a community of practitioners regardless of school type**, that focused on grade-level support in disseminating best practices and strategies on how to best serve all of Boston's students.

The Collaborative's work is ongoing. In 2017-18, Teach Plus will train five times as many teacher leaders who will support cross-sector collaboration by training and sharing best practices among hundreds of teachers in the district, charter, and Catholic schools in Boston.

*Collaboration of best practices is a proven way to improve strategies that increase academic rigor and narrow opportunity and achievement gaps for all of our students.*

— Boston Public Schools Superintendent **Tommy Chang**

*“As teachers, we constantly want to do better for the children in our classrooms. We are always looking for new practices, new ideas, new lesson plans, new use of data, new ways to reach young people.”*

— Boston Public Schools teacher and Boston Educators Collaborative Teacher Leader **Nathan Lewallen**.

**80+**

teacher participants in the first year of the Boston Educators Collaborative.

**6**

courses across subjects and grade levels.

**54**

teacher leaders that Teach Plus will train in the 2017-18 school year.

**500+**

teacher participants projected in the 2017-18 school year.

**Sydney Chaffee**, a Teacher Leader with the Boston Educators Collaborative and a Commonwealth Policy Fellow, was selected by the Council of Chief State School Officers for the nation's top teaching honor: **the 2017 National Teacher of the Year**. Sydney, a 9th grade humanities teacher and department chair at Codman Academy Charter Public School in Dorchester, MA, has mentored pre-service teachers since 2010.

*“All teachers can be leaders. Someone in their first year of teaching can be considered a leader. When we open up our classrooms to each other and share best practices—that’s leadership.”*

— **Sydney Chaffee**



CBS THIS MORNING

A CLASS ACT

MA'S CHAFFEE IS 2017 NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR