

SMALLER, SAFER, SANER *Successful Schools*



National Clearinghouse for Educational Facilities, Washington, D.C.
Center for School Change, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs,
University of Minnesota

Codman Academy Charter Public School

Dorchester,
Massachusetts

Called a "blueprint for urban education" by The New York Times, Codman Academy Charter Public School's success as a new model for high schools has also been the subject of prominent stories in The Boston Globe and on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered." Codman takes a holistic approach to serving students, their families and alumni. Located in a low income neighborhood where violence is an ongoing challenge, admission is by lottery. 100% of the graduating

classes have been accepted to four year colleges. 99% are students of color, and 65% are eligible for the free/reduced lunch program. 22% of the student body has Special Needs as defined by their Individual Education Plans. Thirty percent speak one of four languages other than English at home.

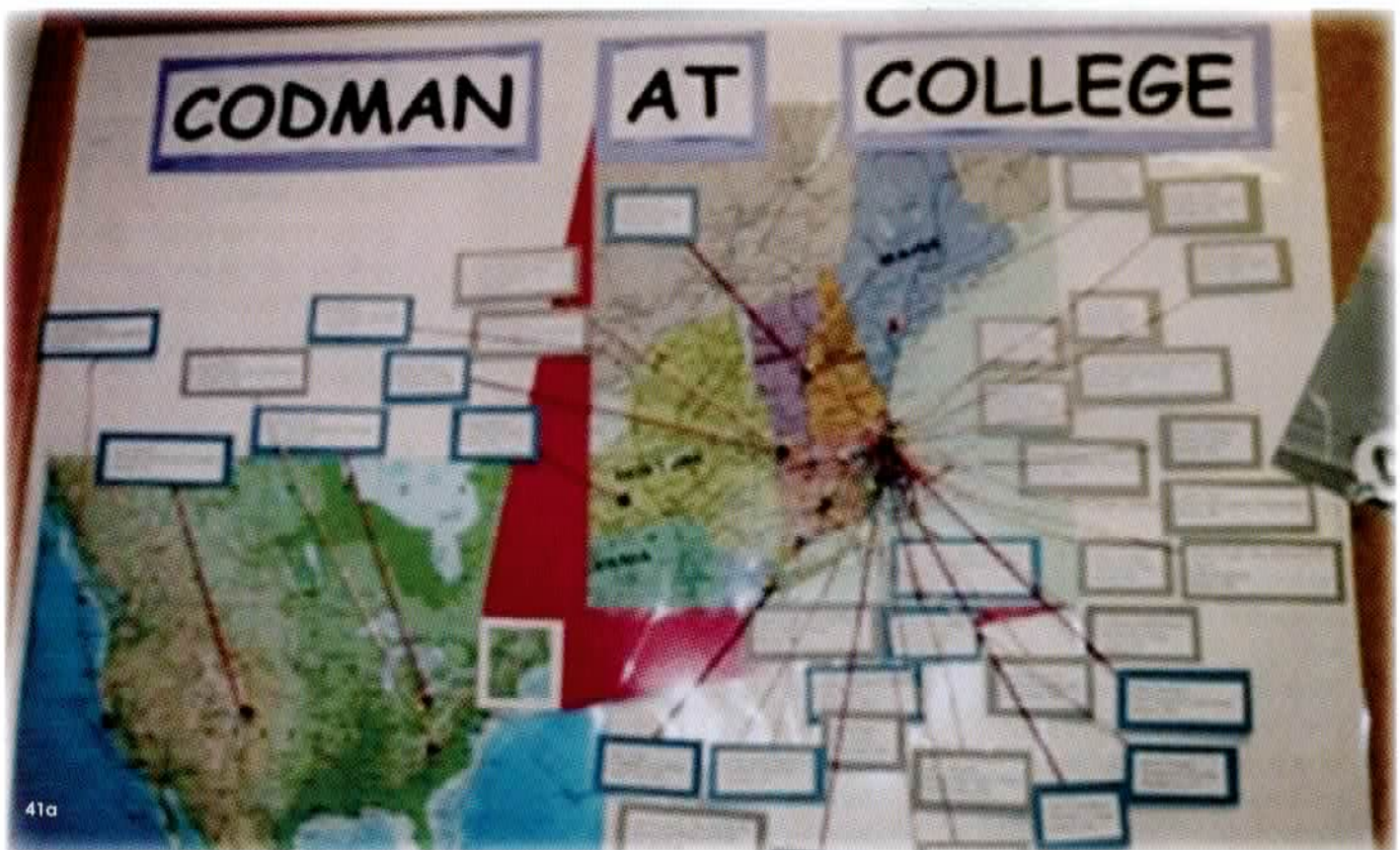
A Boston Globe editorial called the test scores, school's graduation rate, and college placement record "outstanding."

KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL ARE:

- Use of Expeditionary Learning design from Outward Bound which emphasizes leadership, service and character as well as intellectual and physical development.
- Strong social justice focus across

curriculum including senior social action project with research paper and demonstration that the student has made positive change in the community.

- Deep community partnerships including Codman Square Health Center, the Huntington Theatre Company and Boston Modern Orchestra Project which enrich curriculum and extend classroom to the entire city.
- Four-year performance sequence required of every student including participation events such as national Poetry Outloud and Shakespeare competitions, writing and producing three original theatre pieces and giving a Senior Talk
- Required four years of math and





42a



42b

laboratory science, with projects that are community based including focus on diabetes, obesity prevention and energy conservation.

- Single sex, multi age advisory system ("crews"), which meet at least three times week and also have rotating chores such as serving and cleaning up lunch.
- Single gender "Talking Circles" for all ninth graders led by social workers.
- After admission to the school, individual meeting with parent/guardian to discuss parent and child's dream for the child and how Codman can help support family in achieving that dream.
- Wireless environment with each

junior and senior assigned his or her own laptop.

- Longer day academic classes are 9 am – 4:15 with required sports, dance and other physical education offered in the morning and afternoons at 7:15am & 6pm, and an optional supervised study hall open until 7 pm (which 40% of students use on a daily basis).
- Longer school year – required classes on Saturday mornings and two summers of required approved programs for all students such as Huntington Theatre/ Codman summer Shakespeare production.
- College advising beginning in grade 9 with multiple college visits and completing sample college applications.
- Culture of hospitality to visitors including shaking hands and looking guest in the eye. The school has hosted delegations from Japan, Ireland, Germany, England, South Africa, Israel and Northern Ireland.
- Strong ongoing support for alumni while in college and participation by alumni in school events, including leading in new graduates at commencement.

Dissemination including documentation on line at www.codmanacademy.org, and mentorship to candidates who are interested in starting schools similar to Codman. "Film Speak True: Shakespeare Competition at Codman Academy" narrated by Taye Diggs is available for viewing on line at YouTube.

Codman's mission "is to prepare students for full participation in the

intellectual, economic and civic life of our society, by ensuring their full preparation and access to further education, the skills and vision to undertake a rewarding career, and the motivation and character needed to engage deeply and productively in community life. We view parents and community members as integral partners in this endeavor."

IMPACT ON STUDENTS: Boston Globe editorial called the school's graduation rate and statewide test scores "outstanding." 100% of the 2005, 2006 and 2007 students were accepted at 4-year colleges and universities. Alumni current enrollment includes Bates, Brandeis, Boston College, Bowdoin, Holy Cross, Kentucky State, Mount Holyoke, Marieta, Regis, North Carolina A&T, Northeastern, Trinity, Wentworth, UMass-Amherst, and Utica. Documentary film, "Voices of Codman Alumni" featuring interviews on college campuses produced by students at Harvard Graduate School of Education is available from the school.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, Contact Codman Academy Charter Public School, 637 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124. www.codmanacademy.org

41a: 100% of the graduating seniors have been accepted to four year colleges. 42a: Students meet with Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick. 42b: Codman student at her internship.

Frederick Douglass Academy

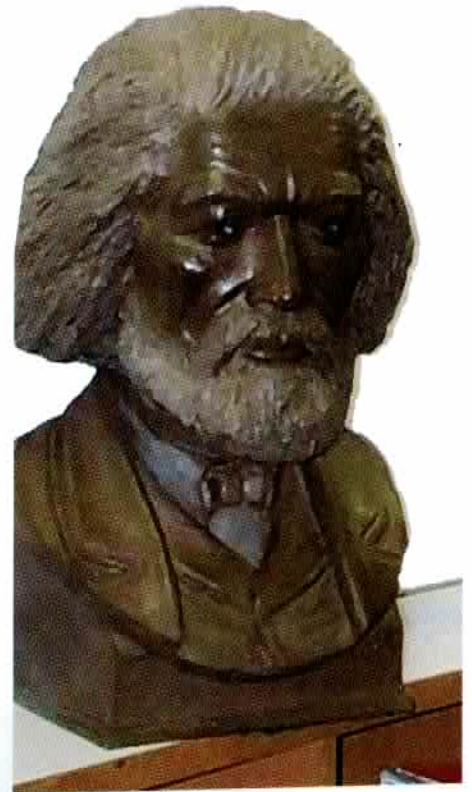
Harlem, New York City

Frederick Douglass Academy is located on the northern end of Harlem in New York City. Approximately 90 percent of the students graduate within four years of entering, compared to a city-wide average of about 50 percent. Open to all students, Frederick Douglass Academy and its founding principal have been featured on "60 Minutes," former Congressman John Kasich's television, Heroes, ESPN: Between the Lines, and Queer Eye for the Straight Guy.

KEY EDUCATIONAL FEATURES.

Frederick Douglass Academy enrolls 1,450 students in grades 6 through 12. Unlike some "exam high schools" in New York City, Douglass does not require students to score well on a test to enroll. The school is a monument to tough love—students wear uniforms and expectations are high. The school's goal is to "provide a rich, vigorous, and challenging academic curriculum that will enable our students to enter the college of their choice." The school is not just named for Frederick Douglass; it embodies his resolution. The school's motto—"Without struggle, there is no progress"—which appears at its front entrance, comes from one of his speeches. Douglass's picture is featured throughout the building.

Beginning with the sixth grade, the school is committed to preparing its students for college. The college



counseling office is open every day until 4:00 p.m. and from noon to 4:00 p.m. two Saturdays per month. The college counselor meets with seniors weekly to make sure they are following through with the college admissions process. The school's attitude, as explained by the college counselor, is "We know our children can succeed. We work with them and their families to make sure it happens."

The school also has tutoring until 6pm and is open 6 days a week. On Saturday, Science labs, math and science tutorials, SAT prep classes and sports are offered. Every year at least 98% of the graduating class goes to college and this far exceeds the city average. The key to Frederick Academy's success is a team of dedicated teachers who