Dear friends,

We are very pleased to share with you our annual report for the 2013-14 school year. It has been a remarkable year. With your help, we moved into two newly renovated school buildings and grew to serve over 1,100 predominantly low-income and predominantly black and Latino students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea.

On the 2014 MCAS tests, Brooke once again led the state in multiple grades and subjects, with proficiency rates at or near 100%. This year also marked the highest percentage of students scoring advanced in math and ELA in the history of Brooke Charter Schools.

Among the highlights at each school:

- 91% of our sixth graders in East Boston scored at the advanced level in math – the highest proportion of students scoring advanced on that test in any school in the Commonwealth over the last nine years.
- 86% of our fifth graders in Roslindale scored at the advanced level in math and 65% of them scored at the advanced level in ELA - higher proportions than at any other school in the Commonwealth.
- 100% of Brooke Mattapan seventh graders were proficient in ELA, making them the highest ranking students in the Commonwealth.

We are often asked how it is that our scholars are achieving at such a high level. The answer is the teaching. Educators have known for many years that the quality of a child’s classroom teacher is by far the biggest predictor of a child’s in-school success. And yet, too often, our schools don’t act on that knowledge.

Getting to excellence in teaching is an enormous challenge that requires all of our time and attention. Great teaching is a challenge of leadership, intellect, and all-out will. It requires teachers with extraordinary skill who are committed to constant improvement. It requires principals who are able to create instructional cultures of excellence and collaboration. It requires operational leaders and teams who are able to insulate instructional teams from the myriad of urgent non-instructional dilemmas schools are confronted with each day.

We think the Brooke experience is proof that when we have outstanding teachers and principals who are able to focus themselves completely on excellent teaching, all of our kids can soar. In the year ahead, we will continue to commit ourselves to that proposition.

Unfortunately, the biggest obstacle that stands in front of us is a political one. Today, there remains an arbitrary charter school cap that prohibits us from opening a Brooke High School, and prohibits us from opening another Brooke K-8 school for the 4,000-plus families on our waiting lists. We will continue to fight that fight in the year ahead.

In the meantime, thank you for your support and interest in Brooke. With your help, we know we can help transform public education in Boston and beyond.

Sincerely Yours,

Scott Oran, Board Chair
Jon Clark, Co-Director
Kimberly Steadman, Co-Director

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Jon Clark, Co-Director
Kimberly Steadman, Co-Director

Message From the Board Chair & Co-Directors
Founded in 2002, Brooke Charter Schools is a network of three high-performing K-8 public charter schools in Boston. Our mission is to provide an academically rigorous public education to students from the cities of Boston and Chelsea that will ensure that they are prepared to attend and succeed in college. Named after Senator Edward W. Brooke, the first African-American popularly elected to the U.S. Senate, our strategy is to focus relentlessly on developing excellent teaching to a detailed and extraordinarily rigorous set of K-8 learning standards. During the 2013-2014 academic year, Brooke served 1,140 students across three schools and currently has over 4,000 students on our waitlist.
Brooke’s Best Year Yet

Over the last few years, Brooke scholars have set a new bar for what is possible at an urban public school. On the 2014 MCAS, Brooke scholars earned a total of 15 first-place rankings including six first-place state-wide rankings for proficiency and five first-place state-wide rankings for advanced. In addition, for the second year in a row, students at the original Brooke Charter School in Roslindale had the highest performance (math and ELA combined) of any K-8 or middle school in the state. These results represent the extraordinary hard work of our scholars and their teachers.

**2014 MCAS HIGHLIGHTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English Language Arts</td>
<td>Brooke Roslindale</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>#1 Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>#1 Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brooke Roslindale</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>#1 Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>#1 Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brooke Mattapan</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>#1 Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Brooke Roslindale</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>#1 Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brook East Boston</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>#1 Advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>#1 Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brooke Mattapan</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>#1 Proficient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Growth</td>
<td>Brooke Roslindale</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>#1 in the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brook East Boston</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>#1 in the state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brooke Mattapan</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>#1 in the state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2006**

First year Brooke students earned a #1 ranking

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474 individual visitors to Brooke schools

98 unique organizations visited Brooke schools

6 #1 proficiency rankings on the 2014 MCAS

5 #1 advanced rankings on the 2014 MCAS
Brooke celebrated multiple milestones with seven staff members in 2013-2014. Three staff members from Brooke Roslindale, Jon’s Cardoso, 2nd grade teacher, Allison Friedmann, 6th grade ELA teacher, and Jorge Martinez, Dean of Students (pictured left-to-right on page 7), celebrated ten years as members of the Brooke team. All three were recognized and honored with a scholarship donation for their children’s college fund.

Brooke also awarded Master Teacher distinction to four educators across the network based on their performance in the 2013-2014 school year and prior years. These four educators joined five other Master Teacher designees recognized since Brooke’s founding in 2002.

Teachers qualify as Master Teacher only if they attain three years of exceptionally high achievement results and if they consistently demonstrate an ability to collaborate well and raise the teaching performance of their peers, as defined by our teaching standards. Master Teachers receive a minimum of a 10% raise annually and also bear additional responsibilities for mentoring new teachers and planning professional development.

2013-2014 Master Teachers:

- **Allison Godoff**  
  Southern Methodist University  
  Brooke teacher since 2010

- **Paul Friedmann**  
  Williams College  
  Brooke teacher since 2007

- **Emily Jacobson**  
  Washington University in St. Louis  
  Brooke teacher since 2010

- **Katherine Kirby**  
  Smith College  
  Brooke teacher since 2009
Building Deductions

The start of the 2014-2015 school year was marked with a huge milestone for Brooke Charter Schools. Both Brooke Mattapan and Brooke East Boston, after operating in temporary facilities for the last few years, began classes in their newly renovated permanent campuses at 150 American Legion Highway and 94 Horace Street respectively. At full enrollment, each school will serve over 500 students across grades K-8. Both campuses were officially dedicated in October 2014. As part of Brooke Mattapan’s building dedication, Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy III participated to re-dedicate the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Memorial Gymnasium, originally opened in 1960 as a part of the former YMHA-Hecht House. Also in October, Brooke East Boston welcomed supporters and other special guests in dedicating the new Brooke East Boston facility.

The Lasting Connection of Brooke

Eight years after completing 8th grade, Melissa Oquendo returned to Brooke Roslindale as an Associate teacher for training in summer 2014. Melissa was a member of Brooke’s first class of alumni to graduate in spring 2014. Melissa graduated from Bridgewater State University with a B.A. in Sociology and knew that she wanted to give back to the school that provided her with an excellent education as well as the skills to take her to and through college.

Natalya Faison, also a member of Brooke’s first class, completed her degree in Communication from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst this past spring. Natalya volunteered in many capacities at Brooke Roslindale after 8th grade, but wanted a way to connect with the students and teachers in a full-time capacity. Following graduation, Natalya joined Brooke Roslindale as the Student Services Coordinator and also serves in a mentorship capacity to 8th grade scholars across the network.

Until Brooke is able to expand beyond a K-8 school network and can bring students right up to (and through) the doorstep of college with a K-12 education, Brooke provides full-time high school placement support to ensure all 8th grade students enroll in college preparatory high schools. In 2014, 100 percent of 8th graders once again matriculated to college preparatory Catholic, public exam, independent, public pilot, and public charter high schools. Among several other high schools, students completing 8th grade at Brooke Roslindale in June 2014 are now enrolled at the following high schools:

- Milton Academy
- Noble and Greenough School
- Boston Latin School
- Boston Latin Academy
- Cathedral High School
- Fontbonne Academy
- City on a Hill Public Charter School I and II
- Codman Academy Public Charter School
### Financial Highlights

**Operating Revenue:**
- Commonwealth Per Pupil Tuition: $16,743,372
- Program Restricted Grants: $1,519,900
- Government Grants: $1,975,702
- Network/Central Office Income: $1,915,309
- In Kind Transportation: $1,512,175
- Nutrition Program & Misc. Income: $797,146
- **Total Operating Revenue:** $24,463,604

**Operating Expenses:**
- Personnel - Salaries & Benefits: $11,007,977
- Direct Student Costs: $4,121,729
- Facility Expenses: $3,611,012
- Other Operating Costs: $2,294,472
- Depreciation: $362,076
- **Total Operating Expenses:** $21,397,266

**General Revenues & (Expenses):**
- Interest Income: $1,928,859
- Grants & Contributions (unrestricted): $832,671
- Other Income: $333,389
- Financing Costs: $(950,828)
- **Total General Revenue:** $2,144,001

**Change in Unrestricted Net Position:** $5,210,339

Note: The FY 14 change in unrestricted net position allows Brooke Charter Schools to maintain 3.5 months of operating reserves, a key financial indicator evaluated by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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**2013-2014 Annual Report**

**Individual donors to Brooke:** 161

**Total contributions from individuals in 2014:** $779,329
2013-2014 Supporters

We gratefully acknowledge the following individuals, foundations, corporations, and volunteers for generously investing their time, expertise, and resources in Brooke Charter Schools and the Brooke Schools Foundation, Inc. from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

**$50,000+**
- Amelia Peabody Foundation
- Anonymous
- Anna and Senator Edward W. Brooke
- Charles Hayes Foundation
- Charter School Growth Fund
- Joanna and Jonathan Jacobson
- Mabel Louise Riley Foundation
- New Schools Venture Fund
- Richard and Susan Smith Family Foundation
- Shippity
- Strategic Grant Partners
- The Longfield Family Foundation
- The Louis Calder Foundation
- The Lynch Foundation
- The Mifflin Foundation
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**$10,000-$49,999**
- Bob Baldwin
- Boston Private Bank & Trust Company
- Kelley Bransome
- LeRoy Bransley
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**$500-$999**
- Anonymous
- Meryl Kessler and Scott Runion
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**$1,000-$4,999**
- Brett and Kate Alessi
- Bain Capital, LLC.
- Peter Muskenbeek
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