

## The Impacts of City Connects on Student Outcomes

City Connects addresses the comprehensive strengths and needs of each and every student in order to help promote healthy child development and learning. It is an evidence-based approach to integrated student support that empowers schools to intentionally and systematically leverage and coordinate the resources and relationships available in the school and in the surrounding community.<sup>1</sup> Below is a summary of City Connects' evidence of impacts on student outcomes:

### Higher Academic Achievement

- **Stronger performance on report cards:** City Connects students who had significantly lower report card scores in reading and math at the beginning of implementation outperformed comparison peers in reading and math in grades 3-5.<sup>2</sup>
- **Stronger performance on statewide assessments:** Students who experienced City Connects in elementary school significantly outperformed comparison peers on statewide assessments of English and mathematics in grades 6, 7, and 8.<sup>3</sup> In a large-scale study, students who were randomly assigned to City Connects schools in kindergarten scored significantly higher than their peers randomly assigned to comparison schools on fifth-grade statewide ELA and mathematics assessments. These findings suggest that the City Connects model leads to improvements in academic performance for elementary school students.<sup>4</sup>



### Improved Attendance, Effort, and Engagement

- **Stronger academic effort and behavior:** Students who were randomly assigned to City Connects schools in kindergarten were reported by teachers in elementary school to have better effort and behavior than their peers randomly assigned to comparison schools. These findings suggest that City Connects causes improvements in student behavior and effort in elementary school.<sup>5</sup>
- **Fewer days absent from school:** City Connects students were found to have a significantly lower total number of days absent than students from a comparison group beginning in grade 4 and continuing through grade 12.<sup>6</sup>





- **Less likely to be chronically absent:** Students who received City Connects during elementary school were significantly less likely to be chronically absent, meaning they missed 10 percent of school days or more, throughout middle school and high school than comparable students who never received City Connects.<sup>7</sup>
- **Less likely to repeat a grade:** City Connects students who were at the greatest educational risk demonstrated lower rates of retention (being held back in grade) than comparable students who never enrolled in City Connects.<sup>8</sup>

## Long-term Outcomes

- **Lower drop-out rates:** Students enrolled in a City Connects school from kindergarten through grade 5 were half as likely to drop out of high school than students who never experienced City Connects.<sup>9</sup>
- **Postsecondary enrollment:** Students who experienced City Connects in elementary school are more likely to enroll in postsecondary education after high school.<sup>10</sup>
- **Postsecondary completion:** Among students who enrolled in postsecondary education, students who received City Connects in elementary school had a significantly higher probability of completing postsecondary education than comparison peers, on average.<sup>11</sup>

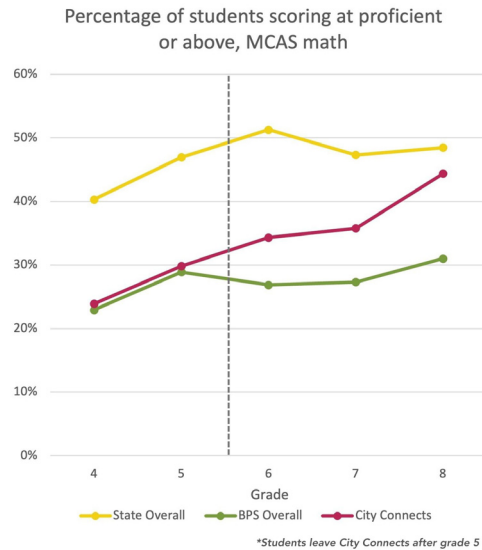
## Conclusion

There is evidence that City Connects has a long-term, positive effect on students' academic achievement and many indicators of thriving from elementary school through college.<sup>12</sup>

# Looking at Key Results

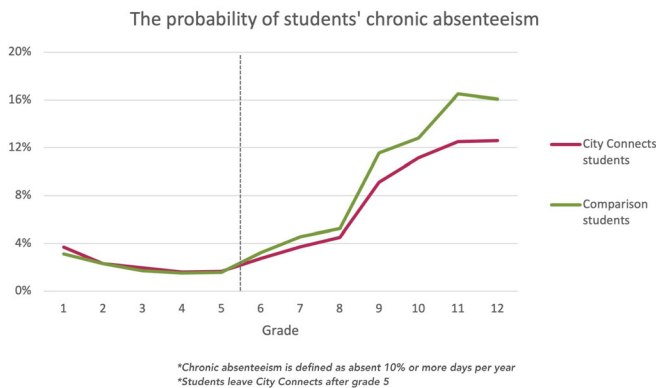
## Narrowing the Achievement Gap

In a study using data from a district with about 83% of students from low-income families, we found that regardless of the lower performance on Math assessment at grade 4 for both City Connects students and their comparison peers within the district, after leaving City Connects elementary schools, students who experienced the intervention in elementary schools achieved gains that moved them close to statewide levels of proficiency in Math by Grade 8.<sup>13</sup>



Source: City Connects and comparison schools: Boston Public Schools MCAS data, 2003-2009; Boston Public Schools and state data: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

## Reducing Chronic Absenteeism



Students who attended City Connects schools in elementary school are significantly less likely to be chronically absent (defined as being absent for 10% or more of the days within the school year) than students who never attended City Connects schools.

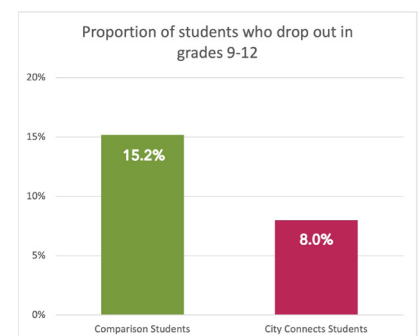
Although City Connects students start out with higher rates of chronic absenteeism in grade 1, rates of chronic absenteeism were significantly lower than comparison students in all middle and high school grades 6-12, except for grade 10.<sup>14</sup>



## Reducing Dropout Rates

City Connects dramatically lowers the likelihood that a student will drop out of high school. In grades 9-12, students who attended City Connects elementary schools beginning in kindergarten are ~50 percent less likely to drop out.

Students who attended City Connects schools are less likely to drop out at every grade level, as well as cumulatively. The difference at grade 9 — a key year for predicting high school graduation — is particularly notable: 3 percent for City Connects students, and almost 6 percent for others.<sup>15</sup>



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