

Open Opportunity Massachusetts *Massachusetts*

Economic Mobility

Economic mobility: the ability of an individual, family, or community to improve (or lower) their economic situation, most often through employment. The definition is simple; fulfilling the promise of this goal is far more complex. True economic mobility is contingent upon ready and equitable access to a constellation of resources and supports:

- Local jobs that are stable, safe, and offer a livable wage, benefits, and the potential of a career path;
- A high quality Pre-K-12 education that provides the fundamental skills all adults need to succeed in the workplace;
- Access to the post-secondary education, training, and/or credentialing opportunities that prepare workers with relevant skills;
- Social capital that allows people to build the networks that facilitate career pathways and other opportunities;
- Reliable and affordable transportation options;
- High quality, affordable childcare

Each initiative in this focus area offers a unique, comprehensive, and community-driven model designed to make economic mobility a reality for everyone.

Vision

All students will be self-sufficient, community-oriented, civic minded, adaptable, and innovative global citizens.

Overview of the Initiative

Open Opportunity – Massachusetts (OOMA) is a growing cross-sector network of 40+ like-minded organizations that have come together to transform our education system by tearing down the barriers that segregate students and their families by race and class. Together, *OOMA* represents communities, schools, labor, business, nonprofits, and government agencies and has a well-established track record of working together to improve student outcomes and achieve sustainable change.

OOMA strives to create space to coordinate and align grassroots and grass-tops efforts across the education field while elevating community members to lead improvement efforts. Through a network approach *OOMA* aims to identify and remove the barriers for community-level leadership in systems-wide change by investing in demonstration sites in local communities to pilot new approaches and inform local and state policy.

OOMA's goal is to advance a new system for learning that opens opportunities for all students to gain the knowledge, resources and relationships necessary to navigate the modern world. To make progress toward this goal, the *OOMA* network will activate four key leverage strategies.

1. Ensure all families are thriving
2. Educate the whole child
3. Empower educators to lead
4. Create a strong public narrative

Social Impact EXCHANGE

OOMA's initiative, *Campus Without Walls*, integrates aspects of all four strategies by leveraging the power of technology to break down the silos of traditional brick and mortar schools and promote greater equity, access, and opportunity for all students. Through a statewide cross-sector collaboration of schools, universities, businesses and community-based organizations, a *Campus Without Walls* combines traditional and remote learning to deliver a 21st century education that is meaningful, relevant and rigorous. The goal is for all students to be intrinsically motivated, gain greater access, and take full advantage of a wide range of learning opportunities that prepare them to thrive in a rapidly changing digital world.

Partners

The Leadership Team includes:

- BUILD
- Rennie Center for Education Research & Policy
- Wheelock College of Education and Human Development, Boston University
- Sociedad Latina
- Lawyers for Civil Rights
- Latinos for Education
- The Care Institute
- Teach Plus