

Open Opportunity Massachusetts

Massachusetts

Education, Children and Families

A young person who has been well-served by our education system is one who is prepared to thrive in life as a contributing member of society. This journey begins with early childhood care and education and continues into the K-12 system, but that is only part of the picture. Teachers and schools have a central role, but as part of a larger constellation of systems and supports that impact a young person's development. These include (but are not limited to) family stability and well-being, access to meaningful post-secondary opportunities such as college or skills-based credentials, and workforce development and community and economic development.

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

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

Social Impact EXCHANGE

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