THE SCITUATE METCO PROGRAM

HOST FAMILY PROGRAM

Scituate-Boston Partnership

The Scituate METCO Program is seeking "Scituate Host Families" for the Boston students attending Wampatuck. Host families provide a "safe home away from home" for METCO students during the school year. If you are interested in participating, please request an application in the main office.

What is a Scituate Host Family

A *host family* is a local family that provides support to a Boston METCO student while they are attending school in town. Support ranges from allowing an occasional afternoon visit at your home, to attending a school function on behalf of the Boston student. METCO students spend approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes in daily travel to and from Scituate. Students wanting to participate in after school activities must sometimes forgo these opportunities for increased socialization if they do not have host families. The level of commitment can be determined between the Scituate and the Boston families. Co-hosting with another Scituate family is another way to participate in the program. All hosting relationships must be updated annually so that the Scituate METCO office can provide continued support to all participants.

Qualitative data indicates that a wholesome host family partnership greatly increases the chance of social and academic success for Boston students. In many cases, lifelong bonds are formed between the host family and the student that carry over from their school days into their personal and/or business lives. The benefits to the host family include an increased awareness and acceptance of cultural and social diversity.

METCO- A Brief History

The ***Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity*** **(METCO**) is a state funded, voluntary educational desegregation program designed to eliminate racial imbalance through the busing of children from Boston & Springfield to suburban public school districts of the surrounding metropolitan areas. The METCO program is the second oldest voluntary desegregation program operating in the nation today. The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity was founded in 1966 and began with just six towns accepting Boston students. Today the program operates in 34 suburban communities with approximately 3,200 children attending school through the METCOprogram.

In 1968 the town of Scituate began participating in the METCO program. Since its inception, there have been 60 Boston students annually enrolled in grades 1-12 throughout the Scituate public school district. The METCO Program provides reciprocal benefits to the residents of Scituate as well as the students it serves by providing an opportunity for urban and suburban students to experience diversity, learn to respect human differences, and celebrate the richness of a multicultural educational setting. It also provides an opportunity to dispel the racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic stereotypes that can serve to divide people and promote understanding within the context of the public school setting.

Boston METCO families join the program seeking to provide exemplary educational experiences in safe environments for their children. Once a student is accepted into the program they are accountable to their teachers, school administrators and the District's METCO director. These students are expected to strive toward academic success at all times and become good stewards within their school communities.

"METCO FACTS"

- The METCO program has been a part of the Scituate Public School system since 1968.
- Former Superintendent W. A. Shannon and then members of the Scituate Public School committee requested METCO program participation for the town of Scituate.
- METCO participation is based on available seating in classrooms.
- The METCO program is funded annually by a state grant through the Racial Imbalance Act.
- Annually, the Scituate METCO program has received the support of our local legislators: Senator Robert Hedlund, Representative Frank Hynes, and Representative Garrett Bradley.
- Scituate METCO graduates have gone on to (or are currently studying for) careers in criminal justice, hair stylist, business management/ownership, early childhood development, construction, teaching, educational administration, retail sales, and law enforcement to name a few.
- Two former Scituate METCO students – brothers with proven talent on and off the basketball court; one with a degree in education – have been playing professional basketball internationally for over 4 years.