



## **Summer Mental Health Counselor Boston, Cambridge and Somerville**

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### **ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

#### **About Us and Our Philosophy**

Breakthrough Greater Boston (BTGB) is a transformative college access and teacher training program. BTGB offers six years of academic enrichment and college preparation to middle school and high school students with high potential but limited opportunities. Simultaneously, BTGB recruits, trains and inspires a diverse cohort of high achieving college students to become the next generation of urban teachers. Leveraging a Students Teaching Students model, BTGB provides engaging, tuition-free academic programming during the summer and after school. Our students gain the skills and motivation to succeed in rigorous high school courses and, ultimately, in college. Meanwhile, our teachers gain hands-on experience, research-based training and coaching from professional educators.

Over the past eight years, 97% of our graduating students have matriculated to college, and 82% of them have persisted through their undergraduate years. On average, more than 70% of our graduating teachers have gone on to pursue careers in education. After two decades of success at our original Cambridge site, BTGB embarked upon a significant program expansion and opened a second site in Boston in the summer of 2013 and a third site in Somerville in 2018. As an independent 501c3 nonprofit, Breakthrough Greater Boston is part of The Breakthrough Collaborative, a national educational movement working to improve educational outcomes for youth across 25 U.S. cities.

With a deep commitment to our mission, BTGB operates with the highest standards of integrity and best practices, while also enjoying the ability to be innovative and flexible to meet the evolving needs of our students, families and teachers. Our team is diverse, high-performing and dedicated. We continue to build an organizational culture that emphasizes our core values for every member of our community:

- **Spirit:** We cherish and embody the youthful energy and spirit of our students and teachers
- **Continual Learning:** Everyone in our community has something to learn and something to teach
- **Team Together:** We all chip in to accomplish whatever is needed for our teammates and the broader organization
- **Student Centered:** Our students are our first priority and our decisions center around what benefits our students
- **Equity and Opportunity:** We value diversity of identity, background and thought. We treat everyone with dignity and respect
- **Excellence in Everything:** We maintain high expectations for ourselves

*Breakthrough Greater Boston encourages individuals of all backgrounds to apply for this position, and we do not discriminate on any basis prohibited by applicable law. We celebrate the diversity of our world and our community, and we seek to build a team that reflects that diversity in every way. We welcome and encourage all qualified applicants who share that same vision, as we wish to engage all those who can contribute to our work and this mission.*

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## **THE OPPORTUNITY**

Professional staff members play an instrumental role in the success of our Students Teaching Students model. BTGB is seeking part-time Summer Counselors at each of our campuses: Boston, Cambridge and Somerville. At each campus the Summer Counselor will be responsible for supporting our students' social-emotional health. The Summer Counselor trains and supports our teachers and professional staff in that effort and reports directly to the Manager or Director of Student Services of their campus.

## **YOUR CONTRIBUTION**

### *Direct Clinical Service and Support*

- Provide individual counseling support to students
- Support and facilitate social emotional learning groups using curriculum from Harvard's PEAR institute
- Identify and appropriately support student mental health issues, making outside referrals as needed
- Observe in classes and during community times
- Keep accurate records of individual and small group counseling activity
- Write a brief end of summer report summarizing your work with each student
- Respond to urgent situations and work with professional staff members to manage mental health crises

### *Training and Ongoing Support of Teaching Fellows*

- Lead a pre-summer workshop(s) focused on adolescent development, trauma-informed practices and building relationships with students; provide ongoing coaching throughout the summer
- Co-facilitate weekly Student Support Team Meetings with Breakthrough staff and Teaching Fellows during Professional Development time from 3:00-4:30pm.

## **YOUR BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Experience as a counselor with public middle school or high school students in a diverse setting, preferably on a full-time basis for at least two years
- Excellent interpersonal skills, especially the ability to communicate and collaborate with college students
- Creativity, energy, flexibility, organization and strong work ethic
- Master's degree required
- Preferred licensures: LICSW, LCSW, LMHC, MSW, PhD
- Familiarity with the Breakthrough model or Cambridge, Boston or Somerville Public Schools a plus

## **LOGISTICS**

This role takes place at one of our three sites in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville. Programming **does not** take place at our central office in Kendall Square.

### **Locations:**

- Boston: New Mission High School (Hyde Park, Boston)
- Cambridge: Cambridge Rindge and Latin School (459 Broadway, Cambridge)
- Somerville: John F. Kennedy School (15 Cherry Street, Somerville)

### **Summer Program Hours:**

- Student Hours: Monday through Friday 8:15-3pm
- Faculty Meeting and Professional Development Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 3-4:30pm Wednesdays 1pm-4:30pm

### **Counselor Working Hours:**

- 25-35 hours per week from July 8th-August 9th
  - Exact hours will be mutually decided upon by the Summer Counselor and Senior Director of Student Services.
    - Example Schedule:
      - Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays (on site): 9 am – 2:30 pm
      - Wednesday (on site): 10am to 4:30pm
      - 1-2 hours of take-home work each week
- 10-20 hours outside of these dates
  - Late-June:
    - Pre-summer campus orientation
    - Teaching Fellow Orientation
    - Summer Kick-off
  - During the Summer:
    - Family Night
    - Celebration

## **COMPENSATION**

The Summer Counselor is a paid position. The hourly rate is \$40/hour. Applicants who are not licensed have an hourly rate of \$30/hour.

## **HOW TO JOIN OUR TEAM**

To apply, please email your resume and a cover letter detailing your interest in Breakthrough Greater Boston and relevant skills/experience to [jobs@btgbmail.org](mailto:jobs@btgbmail.org) with the subject line "Summer Counselor." If you are only interested in applying for one site (Boston, Cambridge or Somerville), please include that in your cover letter. Otherwise, your application will be considered for all sites. We are reviewing applications on a rolling basis and will begin to fill positions as early as March, so it is best to submit your application as soon as possible.

For more information, please visit [www.breakthroughgreaterboston.org](http://www.breakthroughgreaterboston.org).

**Thank you for your interest in Breakthrough Greater Boston!**