



2018 Student Application

Breakthrough Greater Boston is a free, year-round, academic enrichment program for TechBoston Academy, Neighborhood House Charter School, New Mission High School and Codman Academy students. We offer an exciting curriculum and small classes taught by trained college students. Students must apply during their sixth grade year and make a six-year commitment. We will also be admitting a small number of 7th graders as well!

We are now accepting applications for the 2018 incoming class!

Application Checklist	Submission Guidelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> General Student and Family Information (pink) Completed by parent or legal guardian<input type="checkbox"/> Parent or Guardian Statement (green) Completed by parent or legal guardian<input type="checkbox"/> Student Statement (white) Completed by student, working by herself or himself<input type="checkbox"/> Academic Release Record Form (yellow) Must be signed by parent or legal guardian<input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Feedback Form (blue) Completed and submitted separately by the student's teacher	<p>Submit your application by:</p> <p>New Mission students please mail your application to the following address</p> <p>P.O. Box 381486 Cambridge, MA 02238-1486</p> <p>TBA, Neighborhood House and Codman students can either mail their application or give to their 6th grade teacher</p> <p>For any help with the application or general questions about Breakthrough Greater Boston, contact Jocelyn or visit us online at breakthroughgreaterboston.org</p> <p>Jocelyn Coo Director of Student Services 603-312-7362 jcoo@btgbmail.org</p>

2018 Admissions Timeline

Early Action Deadline: Friday, December 15th

Phase 1: Application Deadline – Friday, April 13th

Phase 2: Interview Days – April 10th and April 12th

Phase 3: Decision Letter – Mailed by early May

2018 Breakthrough Greater Boston Program Calendar

Summer Orientation	Early June
Summer Program	Monday July 2 nd 2018 - Friday August 10 th 2018
After School Program	Breakthrough is a year-round commitment! During the school year, students participate in our weekly after-school program, where they work on homework, participate in fun activities, and take part in engaging, STEAM based workshops.
High School Program	Breakthrough has a lot to offer all the way through high school! Once students complete the Middle School Program, they become a part of our High School Program. Throughout all of high school, students continue to receive support to help make sure they are able to be successful in school. In 9 th and 10 th grade, students attend study hall and explore internships. In 11 th and 12 th grade, students will receive support with college and scholarship applications.

Reminders:

✧ Breakthrough Greater Boston is 100% free for all students. Students earn their participation through motivation, positive attitude, and hard work, while families contribute their time and support. **Only students and families prepared to uphold these commitments should apply.**

✧ Except in the case of illness or family emergency, **attendance is mandatory every day of the program.** If your child will miss more than 3 days this summer or school year for a family trip, alternate program, or other pre-existing commitment, he or she should speak with Breakthrough staff prior to applying.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is Breakthrough Greater Boston?

Breakthrough Greater Boston (BTGB) is a tuition-free, academically intensive program for motivated students. BTGB works closely with students starting in middle school to help them forge successful paths to college. By making learning fun and exciting with engaging, hands-on classes, BTGB encourages *all* students to achieve academic excellence. BTGB teachers are talented high school and college students who bring tremendous energy to their classrooms and serve as powerful mentors to their students.

During the Summer Program, students take five classes: literature, math, social studies, science, and writing. Our social studies courses are electives designed by BTGB teachers. Past examples have included *Eve of Revolution*, *Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*, and *Freedom Walkers*. Every day also includes time for enrichment, mentoring, homework help and a daily assembly called Community Meeting. Students also participate in fun academic field trips every week, from camping in tents to competing in Math Olympics. At the After-School Program, students take enrichment classes and receive help on their homework.

Accepted students make a **six-year commitment** to the program. They are required to attend for six weeks during the summers before 7th, 8th, and 9th grade, and one afternoon a week of after school sessions throughout 7th and 8th grade. After completing the Middle School Program, students continue to make a strong commitment to the program by utilizing a variety of resources through the BTGB High School Program. This includes attending Study Hall during 9th and 10th grade and the College Access Program in 11th and 12th grade.

Is BTGB for me?

BTGB students want to succeed academically, plan to attend college, and believe in their ability to make a difference in their community. BTGB students are motivated, hard-working, open to new ideas and experiences, excited to make new friends with their peers and learn from their BTGB teachers. Most BTGB students have demonstrated financial need or other area of need that may be an obstacle on the path to college. If this describes you, you might be a Breakthrough student!

How will my student get to Breakthrough?

School bus transportation is provided for students who live in designated neighborhoods; MBTA passes are provided for students that are not within walking distance of the school nor assigned a school bus stop.

How much does BTGB cost?

Breakthrough is 100% free for all students, including all after school and summer programming, transportation, field trips, breakfast, and lunch. **However, the true cost of BTGB is the student and family's commitment to the program, by attending every day in the summer, attending every after-school session, and staying involved throughout high school.**

Is there homework?

During the summer, yes! BTGB is an academic program for students who want to work hard, learn more, and have fun. Students will receive one to two hours of homework every weeknight in the summer. Completing all your homework is a requirement for being a BTGB student! During the school year, we never assign homework, but teachers will be available to help you with your homework from school.

Any important advice?

It is important to understand that applying to BTGB is very competitive. All of the applicants are talented students, but there are a limited number of spaces. While you may or may not be admitted, going through the application process will be a valuable experience. Remember to relax and have fun with the application. Write a rough draft first on a separate piece of paper so your writing is your best. Write the final draft on the application in blue or black pen, not in pencil. Follow all instructions carefully. Finally, be yourself!

General Student and Family Information

(to be completed by parent or guardian)

Student Name _____
(First, Middle, Last)

Gender _____ Date of Birth _____

Race (please check one)

- ☐ African/African American
- ☐ Caucasian/White
- ☐ Multiracial
- ☐ Latino/a
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Decline to Answer
- ☐ Other _____

Address

Street (please include Apt. #)

City/State/Zip Code

Email _____ Phone _____

Primary language(s) spoken at home _____

Is English the student's first language (Write Yes or No)? ____ If No, what is the student's first language? _____

Brothers and Sisters of the Applicant

Name	Age	School or Occupation	Attended BTGB?	
_____			Yes	No
_____			Yes	No
_____			Yes	No

Please list any additional members of your household, including parents.

Name	Age	School or Occupation	Relationship to Student

Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Status (please circle one) free reduced neither

Household Income (please circle one)

Less than \$10,000	\$10,001 to \$20,000	\$20,001 to \$30,000	\$30,001 to \$40,000
40,001 to 50,000	\$50,001 to \$60,000	\$60,001 to \$70,000	\$70,001 and above

If admitted, we may ask you to provide Breakthrough with a copy of your most recent 1040 or 1040A tax form or other relevant tax documents. Please bring all documents to Student Orientation.

Parent/Guardian Information #1

Name _____

(First, Middle, Last)

Gender _____

Race (please check one)

- ☐ African/African American
- ☐ Caucasian/White
- ☐ Multiracial
- ☐ Latino/a
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Decline to Answer
- ☐ Other _____

Highest Level of Education Completed (please check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> grade school | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high school or GED | <input type="checkbox"/> master's degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> some college | <input type="checkbox"/> professional degree (i.e., law school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> associate's degree | <input type="checkbox"/> doctoral degree |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

Country highest degree was completed in _____

Marital Status (please check one)

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Partnered

Relationship to Applicant _____

Lives with Applicant? (Circle Yes or No) Yes No

Address _____

Street (please include Apt. #) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Preferred Means of Contact _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Work Phone _____ Work Hours _____

Parent/Guardian Information #2

Name _____
(First, Middle, Last)

Gender _____

Race (please check one)

- ☐ African/African American
- ☐ Caucasian/White
- ☐ Multiracial
- ☐ Latino/a
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Decline to Answer
- ☐ Other _____

Highest Level of Education Completed (please check one)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> grade school | <input type="checkbox"/> bachelor's degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> high school or GED | <input type="checkbox"/> master's degree |
| <input type="checkbox"/> some college | <input type="checkbox"/> professional degree (i.e., law school) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> associate's degree | <input type="checkbox"/> doctoral degree |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____ |

Country highest degree was completed in _____

Marital Status (please check one)

- ☐ Single
- ☐ Married
- ☐ Divorced
- ☐ Widowed
- ☐ Partnered

Relationship to Applicant _____

Lives with Applicant? (Circle Yes or No) Yes No

Address _____
Street (please include Apt. #) City State Zip Code

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Preferred Means of Contact _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

Work Phone _____ Work Hours _____

Parent/Guardian Statement

(to be completed by parent or guardian)

Name of Parent/Guardian completing this form _____
(First, Middle, Last)

1. What are the top three reasons you believe Breakthrough is a good match for your child?

2. Admitted students must commit to attending **SIX full years** including three summers (7th-9th grade) and four after school programs (7th – 10th grade) with BTGB. Daily attendance is mandatory (see BTGB Program Calendar on page 2 of this application). Are you and your child willing and able to make the full commitment to BTGB? Why?

3. The success of students at Breakthrough, and of our program as a whole, depends on the continual support of family members. How will you support your child and contribute to the BTGB community?

4. Please describe any relationship stress your child has experienced in his or her life (for example, the death or serious illness of a parent, guardian, or sibling; the incarceration of a parent, guardian, or sibling).

5. Do you foresee any conflicts with the program’s summer or after school program?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, please explain why.

If admitted, I understand that attendance every day during the summer and after school program is mandatory (see BTGB Program Calendar on page 2 of this application). I agree to schedule appointments, family events, trips, and any other activities around these dates. I, or some other adult family member, will attend all scheduled family events, including Student Orientation, Family Night, and Celebration.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Student Statement

Breakthrough is a serious commitment. I am applying to participate in the program knowing that I will be expected to:

- ☐ Participate for 6 years
- ☐ Attend the program for three complete summers (the summers before 7th, 8th and 9th grade)
- ☐ Attend the After School Program during my 7th and 8th grade school years, Study Hall during 9th and 10th grade and the College Access Program in 11th and 12th grade
- ☐ Follow the Breakthrough code of conduct
- ☐ Attend Student Orientation in the spring and any other required Breakthrough events

Directions for Completing the Application

- ☐ Complete this statement by yourself
- ☐ Write this statement in blue or black ink, **not pencil.**
- ☐ Write in complete sentences.
- ☐ Attach additional pages if needed.

Name _____

1. What is your favorite subject in school? **Why?**

2. Describe something that you struggle with or that poses a challenge to you in school.

(Ex: completing homework, staying focused, etc.)

3. Describe the most interesting thing you’ve learned about, inside or outside of school.

4. What is your favorite book? **Why?**

5. Describe a time when you did something difficult or outside of your “comfort zone.” What was the outcome? What did you learn from the experience?

6. How much time do you usually spend on homework each night? _____

7. Your homework at school is (please check one):

- ☐ too easy
- ☐ too hard
- ☐ about right

8. Breakthrough students are required to complete homework during the summer program, which can take up to two hours per night. Explain why you are willing to do this much work during the summer.

9. What will you be doing in 15 years? **How will a good education help you get there?**

10. Breakthrough teachers invent their own elective classes to teach during the summer and after school programs. There have been all sorts of classes, such as “Women’s History,” “Build Stuff That Works,” “Grow Your Own Food,” and “African-American Youth in the 1950’s.” Invent a class that you would like to take at BTGB! Write down a title and a three-sentence description.

Title _____

Description _____

ESSAY

In **3-5 paragraphs**, tell us why you want to come to BTGB. How will it help you achieve your goals? What will be your greatest challenge? (Remember: This must be your own work! You may want to write a first draft on a different piece of paper and then write the final draft below. Continue on another piece of paper if your essay is longer than this page.)

[illegible]

Academic Release Form



First and Last Name of Student: _____

Release Form

Pease read carefully and sign below.

Grades and Activities Release (required)

I hereby give my permission for my child to participate in all activities of Breakthrough Greater Boston, and I agree to support the administrative rules of Breakthrough Greater Boston and to cooperate with staff to the fullest extent.

For advocacy and tracking purposes, I give Breakthrough Greater Boston permission to receive from my child's school district and school copies of my child's cumulative academic records, including report cards, progress reports, behavioral records, standardized test scores, special needs assessments and accommodation plans, demographic data, attendance, courses and programs, instructional language and parent/guardian and emergency contact information during each of his or her middle and high school years until he/she has graduated from both middle school and high school or left the Breakthrough Greater Boston program. I also give Breakthrough Greater Boston permission to access my child's real-time student records using any internet-based records systems employed by the school or district. Additionally, I give permission for Breakthrough Greater Boston to confidentially discuss my child's academic and behavioral records with his or her teachers and school officials. Finally, I give permission to Breakthrough Greater Boston to conduct classroom observations and provide in classroom support during the school hours.

By signing this Release Form and granting permission as stated herein, I am releasing my child's school district and school and their respective officers, directors, agents and/or employees from and against all claims arising out of the release of my child's student record information and any subsequent use of this information by Breakthrough Greater Boston and its respective officers, directors, agents and/or employees. I have read this Release Form and understand its terms. I sign it voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Teacher Feedback Form

(Please give this form to your teacher. Teachers will return the form directly to Breakthrough)

The student named below is applying to Breakthrough Greater Boston. Breakthrough students make a six-year commitment to the program, during which they study math, literature, science, writing and social studies in small classes of 6-8 students. They also receive personalized tutoring and mentoring during the school year. **The program seeks motivated students who show considerable academic potential and who are excited to learn, especially those who might not otherwise have excellent summer and after-school opportunities. Most Breakthrough students are at or above grade level.**

Keep in mind, Breakthrough classes are planned and taught by talented, creative and energetic high-school and college students under the supervision of professional educators. Please help us make an informed decision about this student's candidacy by completing this form as candidly as possible. Note that completing this form does not constitute an endorsement of a particular student's application. All feedback will be kept confidential. If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn at (603) 312-7362 or Jcoo@btgbmail.org. Thank you for your help in this process!

Please return this completed form to Jocelyn Coe:

Online: email jcoo@btgbmail.org to request a link to complete this form online

Scan/e-mail: jcoo@btgbmail.org

Fax: 617-349-6810

Mail: Breakthrough Greater Boston P.O. Box 381486 Cambridge, MA 02238-1486

Student _____
Teacher _____ Subject _____

Academic Achievement Levels

(Check one for each subject. If you are not the teacher for a given subject, please consult the appropriate teacher.)

Subject	below grade level	at grade level	above grade level	Comments
Reading				
Writing				
Math				

Academic and Personal Qualities

1 = low/struggling, 2=below average, 3=average, 4=above average, 5=outstanding

Homework Completion	1	2	3	4	5
Attendance	1	2	3	4	5
Organization	1	2	3	4	5
Class Participation	1	2	3	4	5
Effort	1	2	3	4	5
Intellectual Curiosity	1	2	3	4	5
Motivation	1	2	3	4	5
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
Concern for fellow students	1	2	3	4	5
Behavior	1	2	3	4	5
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5
Contribution to positive spirit in your classroom	1	2	3	4	5
Drive to challenge self	1	2	3	4	5

1. Please describe this student’s classroom participation. What are his/her strengths and challenges?
-
-
-
-
2. How does he or she respond to feedback or criticism?
-
-
-
-
3. Describe this student’s homework completion habits, in terms of punctuality, consistency, and quality.
-
-
-
-
4. Please describe this student’s classroom behavior and peer relationships.
-
-
-
-
5. Has this student been suspended or sent to the principal’s office for behavior issues? If so, why?
-
-
-
-
6. How supportive and involved are this student’s parents/guardians?
-
-
-
-
7. If you have any additional information that you feel would help us assess this student, please comment below.
-
-
-
-

Overall Evaluation of Applicant (please circle one): I recommend this student...

☐ I do not recommend this student

☐ I recommend this student with hesitation

☐ I recommend this student with confidence

☐ I recommend this student with enthusiasm

Signature

Date