

# Uncommon Schools

EXCELLENCE NORTH ★ STAR COLLEGIATE TRUE NORTH PREPARATORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Uncommon Schools Expands to Boston

*National non-profit announces local partnership with Roxbury Prep*

Uncommon Schools (Uncommon), one of the leading nonprofit charter management organizations in the country, is proud to announce that it will expand to Boston and welcome Roxbury Preparatory Charter School (Roxbury Prep) into the Uncommon family. Recognized nationally as one of the top performing public charter schools in the country, Roxbury Prep has been working to close the achievement gap for its students since 1999. This new partnership will build upon the work of Roxbury Prep's exceptional leadership and the school's consistent track record of success, enabling Roxbury Prep to serve up to 2,000 students across Boston. With the support of Uncommon, Roxbury Prep will grow from one middle school serving grades 6-8 to four middle schools and one high school, providing more high-quality educational opportunities for students in Boston.

Founded by Uncommon Schools CEO Evan Rudall, Roxbury Prep has a longstanding history of closing the achievement gap for its 240 students, 100% of whom are Black or Latino and 72% of which qualify for free or reduced price lunch. In 2009, its 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students ranked number one in the state on the Math exam with 96% scoring Advanced or Proficient, outperforming every public school in Massachusetts.

"The City of Boston is committed to giving all of Boston's students the very best education possible. Given the important steps taken by City and state leaders, and given the talented teachers, dedicated parents, and support from the philanthropic community, our partnership in Boston is a natural fit. We look forward to working with Roxbury Prep to provide more high-quality educational options for Boston students," said Uncommon Schools CEO, Evan Rudall. "Roxbury Prep is like family, and we can't imagine a better partner."

Dana Lehman, Co-Director of Roxbury Prep, will join the Uncommon management team as Managing Director of the Roxbury Prep Network. Prior to her role as Co-Director of Instruction at Roxbury Prep, Lehman served as eighth grade Science Teacher and Enrichment Coordinator at Roxbury Prep. Will Austin, the other Co-Director, will continue to run Roxbury Prep and be joined by Amy Zaffuto, the new Co-Director. As the network expands, Austin will become COO of the Roxbury Prep Network. Austin is a product of the Boston Public Schools and a life-long Boston resident. Austin taught sixth grade Math Problem Solving, and served as Enrichment Coordinator and Summer School Director at the school. Uncommon recognizes that dedicated passionate leaders are key to the successful growth of its networks; Lehman and Austin are the perfect leaders to manage its growth in Boston.

"Uncommon builds great schools and we're excited to join their team," said Lehman. "Roxbury Prep's talented teachers and leaders will ensure that our existing school continues to thrive as we replicate and bring new educational opportunities to families in Boston."

### ABOUT UNCOMMON SCHOOLS

Uncommon Schools is a nonprofit organization that starts and manages outstanding urban charter public schools that close the achievement gap and prepare low-income students to graduate from college. Uncommon builds uncommonly great schools by developing and managing regional networks that are philosophically aligned and highly accountable. Based in New York City, the organization has created a home office from which it provides management services that allow school leaders to focus on instructional leadership. Currently, Uncommon manages sixteen schools in New York City, upstate New York, and Newark, New Jersey. With the addition of Roxbury Prep, the organization will grow to encompass 38 schools, serving nearly 14,000 K to 12th grade students. For more information, please visit <http://www.uncommonschoools.org>.