Boston METCO, a program created and operated by the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, Inc, brings minority children from inner-city communities into suburban public schools with the intention of fostering positive interracial relationships among school-age children.

*The Line Item*

Line Item 7010-0012: “Programs to Eliminate Racial Imbalance – METCO”

*What is METCO?*

METCO was established in the Commonwealth under the Massachusetts Department of Education (MASS DOE) in 1965. METCO is a voluntary desegregation program that sends approximately 3300 urban minority students from Boston and Springfield to 37 receiving districts across the state.

*The Three Goals of METCO:*

1. Provide a multicultural and integrated learning environment for METCO students
2. Increase diversity in suburban public school districts
3. Provide a “closer understanding and cooperation between urban and suburban parents” (METCO inc: http://www.metcoinc.org/About%20METCO.htm)

*We Are The World: METCO Tackles Diversity*

You’ll notice that the goals of METCO do not include education in the traditional sense. That is, they say nothing of higher test scores, better grades or college admissions. Instead, METCO his focused on “education” in a larger sense—the kind of lessons learned from people of different races, religions or upbringings. Though the opportunities presented to urban minority children are fundamental piece in evaluating the program’s success over the last forty years, the program’s real triumphs are in the positive relationships built across racial lines. When families enter METCO, they are paired with a suburban family, called a host family. Through the course of the children’s education, both families will be given opportunities to work together and learn from one another. In the Wellesley school district, elementary and middle school children participate in a program called “Stay Day”. On the first Wednesday of every month, METCO children go home with their host families for play dates. These activities provide the children with a chance to develop friendships across racial lines. METCOs goal in the largest and loftiest sense looks something like this:

Urban minority students form ties and become comfortable living and operating in predominantly white suburbs as the move through the program. These children get a good education and go on to excel in college. After college they are able to get high paying careers that allow them to afford to live in communities like Natick, Brookline and Wellesley, thereby integrating these communities and making them more diverse.

*Update (September 2010)*

The line item was reduced from $18,491,758 in fiscal year 2010 to $17,642,582 for fiscal year 2011.

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*Note: due to the blog nature of Nora’s project, the following excerpts are slightly different than the other projects that followed the assignment format. Excerpted from her blog, Certain Glamour (http://certainglamour.tumblr.com).*

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**For more information**

**METCO**

- Nora’s blog: http://certainglamour.tumblr.com/page/2