BAM is a school-based group counseling and prevention program that creates a safe space for young men in 6th-12th grades to express themselves and develop the social and emotional skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond.

WHY BAM WORKS

**IT'S AN EVIDENCED-BASED PROGRAM**
that is backed up by a Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT) conducted by the University of Chicago’s Urban Labs.

**IT INTEGRATES CLINICAL THEORY AND PRACTICE**
men’s rites of passage work, and a dynamic approach to youth engagement.

**IT DELIVERS ON OUR MISSION**
of “meeting scholars where they are,” by providing ongoing basic, social-emotional, and mental health supports to our scholars.

HOW BAM WORKS

- Delivered via weekly 50 minute group counseling sessions in “Circles” of 12-15 scholars during the school day.

- Circles are led by BAM youth specialists, who are college-educated and Youth Guidance staff, many of whom are from the neighborhoods they work in and/or have shared lived experiences.

- Youth specialists maintain a caseload of ~55 scholars or 4-6 BAM Circles at one school and are accessible to scholars for individual sessions to ensure that all scholars’ needs are met.

- Youth specialists embed themselves into our partner sites’ ecosystem by joining school teams, including Behavioral Health Teams, and provide a level of scholar support that is uncommon in many urban school environments.

BAM IN GREATER BOSTON

In fall 2017, BAM launched in Boston Public Schools (BPS) and served 150 young men in its inaugural year. Since then, BAM has grown to serve 16 schools across Boston, Cambridge and Somerville Public School Districts. In school year 2022-23, BAM aims to directly serve almost 900 boys and young men across greater Boston, helping them to acquire the skills and systems of support to overcome trauma and thrive in school, the workplace, and in life.
BAM CORE VALUES

BAM’s curriculum is organized around six core values, which are explicitly aligned with academic-based social-emotional learning standards that include self-awareness, self-management, social-awareness, and responsible decision making.

→ **INTEGRITY**
  Scholars learn that a man is someone who is reliable, honest, and in touch with his virtues.

→ **ACCOUNTABILITY**
  Scholars learn that they should be responsible for the choices they make and take ownership for their feelings, thoughts and behaviors.

→ **SELF-DETERMINATION**
  Scholars learn the importance of focus and perseverance in reaching one’s goals and learn to deal with self-defeating feelings, thoughts and behaviors.

→ **POSITIVE ANGER EXPRESSION**
  Scholars learn anger management, coping skills and effective techniques to express anger.

→ **RESPECT FOR WOMANHOOD**
  Scholars are challenged to take a critical look at the values and actions that represent positive experiences and appreciation for women.

→ **VISIONARY GOAL-SETTING**
  Scholars learn to envision their futures and make clear connections between current behaviors, attitudes, values and visions.

“MY SONS BEGAN THE PROGRAM AS 6TH GRADERS THIS FALL AND IT HAS BEEN TRANSFORMATIVE—REACHING THEM IN A WAY THAT OTHER GROUP PROGRAMS AND PRIVATE THERAPIES HAVE NOT.

Both boys now regularly discuss their goals for the future and their personal responsibilities. Their teachers report a transformation of their behavior within the classroom and we have experienced the same at home.”

– PARENT OF BAM SCHOLARS ATTENDING ARTHUR D. HEALEY MIDDLE SCHOOL