The Other Boston Busing Story

What's Won and Lost

Across the Boundary Line

Susan E. Eaton

Brandeis University Press Waltham, Massachusetts

Brandeis University Press First published by Yale University Press 2001 Updated edition © 2020 by Susan E. Eaton All rights reserved Manufactured in the United States of America

For permission to reproduce any of the material in this book, contact Brandeis University Press, 415 South Street, Waltham MA 02453, or visit brandeis.edu/press.

The Library of Congress cataloged the previous edition as follows: Library of Congress Cataloging-in-publishing Data Eaton, Susan E. The Other Boston Busing Story: What's Won and Lost Across the Boundary Line / Susan E. Eaton p. cm. Includes bibliographical references and index. 1. Busing for school integration — Massachusetts — Boston — History. 2. Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (Boston Mass.) 3. Boston (Mass.) — Race relations. I. Title. [LC214.523.B67 E38 2001] 379.2'63-dc21 00-011667

ISBN for the Brandeis edition: 978-1-68458-029-3 Ebook ISBN for the Brandeis edition: 978-1-68458-030-9

54321

Contents

Acknowledgments ix Introduction xi

- 1 The Other Boston Busing Story 1
- 2 Why They Went 22
- 3 What Remains in Memory 38
- 4 The Gains

What Black Adults Say They Gained from Attending White Suburban Schools and How They Used What They Got 106

- 5 The Resolutions The Costs and Confusion of Suburban Schooling and Making Up for What Was Lost 143
- 6 What about Now? Balancing the Gains, the Losses, and the Realities of American Society 181
- 7 City Life and Suburban Schools
 What We Learn from the Grown-up Children Who
 Crossed Boston's Race Boundary 202

Bibliography 223 Index 235