



# Boston Public Schools

## 2014 K-8 Edition

### A Guide for Parents and Students

Choosing a school in Boston

All about the new Home-Based School Choice Plan

How, where, and when to sign up for school

Boston Public Schools programs and policies

Transportation services

Important phone numbers

And more!

### Our Mission

As the birthplace of public education in this nation, the Boston Public Schools is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with communities, families, and students to develop in every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.



**B**OSTON FAMILIES are fortunate to have more choices for their children's education than almost anywhere in the U. S. —and you will find some of our city's best and most exciting choices in the Boston Public Schools. From pre-kindergarten through middle school and continuing through high school, our schools offer academic, social, and cultural experiences that receive national recognition.

Among your many choices are:

- An extensive kindergarten program, with guaranteed full-day “K2” for all 5-year-olds, more than 2,200 seats for 4-year-olds, and extended day schools just for early learners, including a Montessori program.
- A growing number of kindergarten–grade 8 (K–8) programs, innovation schools, pilot schools, and in-district charter schools all over the city, in response to parents' requests.
- Schools with programs for talented and gifted students, English language learners, and students with disabilities.

We have great schools, and we are working harder than ever to make changes so that excellence is in every classroom, in every school, every single day. As you explore your school options, be sure to visit our schools and classrooms and talk to our principals, teachers, students and parents. You may find just what you're looking for!

## Welcome to Our Schools.

**W**E ARE PROUD to welcome you to America's first public school system — and one of the best among the nation's great cities. As the parent or guardian of a student in our schools, you are our most important and valued partner in our work to help your child achieve academic excellence. I invite you to read more about the Boston Public Schools in the following pages and (very important!) to visit as many of our schools as possible—especially if you are one of the thousands of families who will be choosing new schools for your children for the coming school year.

Here are a few of the great advantages of choosing the Boston Public Schools:

- We have **smaller class sizes**, comparable to many suburban school districts. In kindergarten through grade 2, the maximum class size is just 22 students.
- **Technology** is a part of daily learning, with an average of one digital device for every four students and Internet access in every classroom. Boston teachers are equipped with state-of-the-art laptop computers for instructional use in the classroom to support the district's goal of ensuring that all students are college-ready and success-bound. Parents can keep track of their child's academic progress on-line, and our Cyber Safety Campaign for students promotes a safe, online citizenry in today's digital world.
- We are fully committed to meeting the needs of our **English language learners**. Our ELL programs help every student learn English quickly, which will help them advance in their study of literature, math, science, and history.
- Most of our schools have **before and/or after school programs** which may include tutoring, homework help, enrichment, and sports. Some schools have longer hours to give students extra time in both academics and electives. We are expanding **athletic opportunities** for middle school students and are creating new partnerships at the elementary level to promote **health and wellness**.
- We are expanding **arts opportunities** for all students. The BPS Arts Expansion Initiative is working to ensure that every student in grades K-8 has weekly arts instruction in school. Each school offers unique programs, from visual arts and music to dance and theater.
- Our schools have strong, focused plans to teach **reading, writing, and math**, aligned to new curriculum standards set by the state. More students take Algebra 1 in grade 8, and we recently adopted a rigorous new reading program for students in K2 through grade 5. We are also expanding **pre-Advanced Placement programs** in 14 middle/K–8 schools to expose many more students to challenging college-level material.
- Many students need **extra help** to succeed in reading or math. Students who are not scoring at the “proficient” level on MCAS have a learning plan tailored to their particular needs, as well as more time to work on reading

and math during the school day. Some schools also provide after school tutoring.

- All our schools are guided by the **Boston Public Schools Acceleration Agenda** — an ambitious plan aimed at improving academic achievement and providing equal access to educational opportunities for all families.

This year, we are starting to use a **new plan to assign students to schools**. You will learn much more about this new “**Home-based plan**” in the following pages. This fall you will also have many opportunities to attend presentations on the plan, ask questions, and visit the schools on your customized list of choices. We value your feedback on this new plan, which was developed in partnership with the community to help students attend quality schools closer to home. If you are looking for information on our high schools, be sure to pick up a copy of **Discover BPS: High School edition**, available at all Welcome Centers and online: [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org).

Thank you for choosing the Boston Public Schools for your family. We look forward to exceeding your expectations and being your partner in preparing your child for success from kindergarten through high school and beyond.

John P. McDonough,  
Interim Superintendent

## Discover Boston Public Schools 2014

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This guide is intended as a general introduction to the Boston Public Schools. It is not a comprehensive policy manual. Some of the information in this guide may have changed since publication. For further information, call any Welcome Center, listed on page 12.

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SOMALI: *Qoraalada barashada Dugsiyada Dadweynaha Boston* waxa la helayaa iyagoo ku qoran Ingiriisi, Keb-feerde koroyoole, Shiine, Hayshiyay koroyoole, Boortaqiis, Soomaali, Isbaanish, iyo Fiyatnaamiis. Nuqul qoraalkaas ah iyo wixii kaalmo ah, wax ama soo booqo mid ka mid ah Xarumaha Soo-dhaweynta Waalidka ee ku qoran bogga 12.

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VIETNAMESE: Tập Khám Phá Trường Công Lập Boston được ấn hành bằng Anh Ngữ, Cape Verdean creole, Trung Hoa, Haitian creole, Bồ Đào Nha, Somali, Tây Ban Nha, và tiếng Việt Nam. Nếu quý vị muốn có tập này, hoặc cần sự giúp đỡ, vui lòng gọi điện thoại hoặc đến bất kỳ Trung Tâm Chào Đón nào, được liệt kê ở trang 12.

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# All About the New Home-Based School Choice Plan

**S**TARTING IN JANUARY, 2014, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) will begin to use a new school assignment plan for students in kindergarten through grade 8. The new plan moves away from the three large zones and helps students attend quality schools, closer to home. High schools will remain as citywide options for all students. (Please check out *Discover Boston Public Schools: High School Edition* for this information).

## What are the main features of the Home-Based Plan?

The Home-Based plan:

- Increases access to quality schools overall
- Ensures every incoming kindergarten child has quality schools from which to choose
- Cuts the average distance a child travels to school by 40 percent
- Offers sibling priority to help brothers and sisters attend the same school
- Offers additional, citywide choices for all families
- Allows currently-enrolled children to stay in their schools through the highest grade, regardless of where the school is located
- Pairs many schools in “pathways” so students are guaranteed assignment to their next school. Please see page 10 for details.

## How does the Home-Based Plan work?

- The Home-Based plan uses a student’s home address as the starting point.
- BPS will offer a customized list of school choices for every family based on their home address. The list includes every school within one mile of their home. If needed, we will add other nearby schools to ensure that every student can apply to some of the highest MCAS performers. This ensures every family has access to high quality schools, no matter where they live.
- The list may also grow, as needed, to include schools offering unique programming, such as pre-kindergarten, Advanced Work Class (AWC) and more, and to ensure we can offer every child using the new plan a seat in a school on his or her list. These are called “Option Schools.”
- Every family will have a choice of at least seven schools; most will have an average of 8-14 choices.
- Families may also select any citywide school. They are: Dudley Street Neighborhood Charter School, Hernández K-8, Timilty Middle, UP Academy Boston, and UP Academy Dorchester.

## The Home-Based plan matches as many students with a top choice as possible.

- While the plan increases the chances of being assigned to one of your top choices, we can’t guarantee an assignment to a specific school. Often, more

families select a school than the number of seats available. When that happens, we assign available seats by “random number,” a kind of lottery. (Please see page 6 to learn how it works.)

## How will “grandfathering” affect the Home-Based Plan?

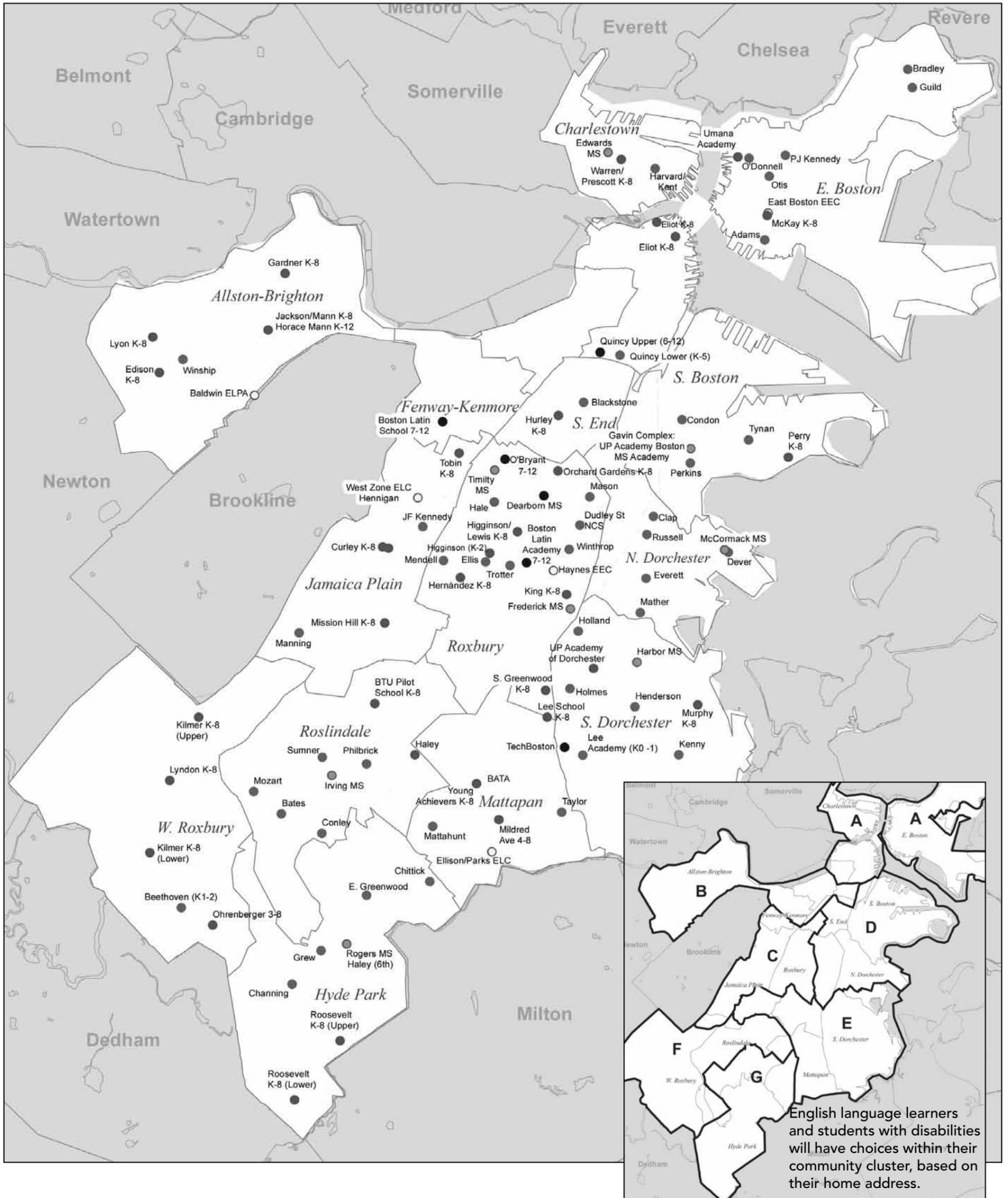
- For 2014-2015, students applying for K2 and grade 6 (the “transition grades”) are guaranteed assignment to a school on their customized list.
- Students applying for grades 1-5 and grades 7-8 may be assigned to a school on their customized list if a seat is available. If a seat is not available in any of those schools, the student will be assigned to the school closest to home in his or her former zone (East, West or North) which has an available seat.
- Due to a limited number of seats, as in past years, assignments to K0 and K1 are not guaranteed.
- Students who apply for kindergarten, grade 6 and 9 in January have the best chance of assignment to their top choice school.
- Non-transition grades begin registration in February. Registration and assignments happen in rounds. It does not matter when you register within a round (the first or last day), it’s only important to register in the first round for your grade. See page 6 for more information about grandfathering.

Home-based Plan, page 4 ►



# Boston Public Schools

Schools with programs for students entering K0 through grade 8



► Home-based Plan, from page 2

## The Home-Based plan makes sure every student has high performing schools on his or her customized list.

We have grouped our schools into four **MCAS Tiers**, according to how students performed on MCAS tests in a recent two-year period. Every family has at least two of the highest-scoring schools (MCAS Tier 1 – the top 25%) and at least four schools that are in the top half of MCAS performance and growth (MCAS Tier 1 and Tier 2) on their customized lists.

We know that families look at many factors beyond MCAS to decide whether to choose a school. BPS is working with the community this year to develop a more complete, long-term measure of quality.

The Home-Based plan offers **more predictability** and gives parents a better opportunity to get to know their school options in advance. This means families can learn more about schools earlier, which can strengthen connections among schools, students and families. More information about the Home-Based plan is available at [bostonpublicschools.org](http://bostonpublicschools.org).

## How does the plan help English language learners and students with disabilities?

For **English language learners** and **students with disabilities**, the Home-Based plan still starts with choices within a mile of the student's home, but also creates larger community clusters of school and program options to ensure that these students can enroll in schools that are best able to meet their needs.

## How can you get your customized list of school choices?

There are two ways to get your customized list:

- 1 **Use your computer.** Go to [www.bostonpublicschools.org/register](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/register) and select "DiscoverBPS." This website has easy-to-follow directions. It will ask you to enter information including your address, the grade your child is entering, and if there are other children in the family who already attend a BPS school. When you have completed the information, the computer will display your customized list. You may then sort and prioritize your list using new search features.

## School Choice Season

### November 2013 – January 2014

This is a great time for families to learn more about our schools before school registration begins. All our schools will have special opportunities to visit classrooms, tour the school, and meet the principal and teachers.

### Showcase In Our Schools for grades K-8

#### Saturday, November 16, 2013 – 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Every early education center, elementary, K-8 and middle school will welcome visitors on this special Saturday. It's your chance to check out several schools on your list, meet the principal, teachers and parents, tour the building, and see student work.

Are you also looking at high schools for your older children? Our **High School Showcase** will take place on Thursday, December 5 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Madison Park High School.

### Additional Preview Dates

All schools will be open to visitors at these times:

Tuesday, December 3	5:30-7:00 PM
Wednesday, December 11	10:00-11:30 AM
Thursday, December 19	7:00-8:30 AM
Tuesday, January 7	10:00 - 11:30 AM

Please contact schools directly to learn about any additional opportunities.

- 2 **Call or visit any BPS Welcome Center**, listed on page 12. Parent kiosks are available for use or ask the staff for assistance in printing your customized list.

Be sure to visit our website to read school profiles and learn more about the school choice registration and assignment process: [www.bostonpublicschools.org/register](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/register).

We encourage you to visit our schools during our special Showcase and Preview events. In addition, all schools are open during school hours to visitors who have appointments. If you want to visit classrooms and speak to the principal and staff, please call ahead.

## How do I know which schools may be best for my child?

Try to visit as many schools on your customized list as possible to get a sense of whether they could be a good fit for your student.

Our website, [bostonpublicschools.org](http://bostonpublicschools.org), has lots of information about each school. You will find detailed School Profiles—new fact sheets that you can print (or pick them up at any Welcome Center), and even reports on each school building.

Our Welcome Centers can really help, too. Staff can explain what each school offers, what your options are, and how to apply. They also have information about:

- Wait lists and transfers, if you want to change schools
- Programs for English language learners and for students with

disabilities

- Programs for high achievers
- Before and after school programs
- Summer programs
- Parent education and opportunities for family involvement
- Community resources
- ...and much more!

Our Welcome Centers are listed on page 12. Call or drop by.

If you are applying for kindergarten, **Countdown to Kindergarten** has lots of information on how to choose a program, how and when to register, and how to help your child get ready for his or her exciting first year of school.

☎ 617-635-9288

[www.countdowntokindergarten.org](http://www.countdowntokindergarten.org)

## Choosing a School: Some Things to Look For and Ask

- The school's philosophy and expectations for every student
- Student achievement, measured by test scores and performance on projects and written assignments
- The school's plans to help students achieve at higher levels
- The curriculum: what will your child learn in every subject?
- Resources that support active learning, including the library, science labs, and technology
- Home/school communication: Is there a regular school newsletter or e-mail bulletin? How does the school communicate with parents whose English is limited? Are

there regular times when parents can contact the teacher?

- Before and after school programs serving the school and neighborhood
- Opportunities for art, music, and physical exercise
- Support services available to students and their families, such as counseling and health services
- School uniforms and dress codes.

## Who needs to apply for school?

Students who already attend a Boston public school may stay in the school through the school's highest grade. They do not need to complete an application unless they want to request a transfer to another school.

## A student must apply for school if...

- The student attends a BPS school and is in the school's highest grade this year—for example, grade 5 in a K-5 school, or grade 8 in a middle school or K-8 school.
- The student is in a special program and must go to a different school for a new program.
- The student wants to transfer to another school.
- The student doesn't attend a BPS school now—even if the student applied and received a BPS assignment last year.

According to state law, every child must attend school beginning in September of the calendar year in which he or she turns six years old. Failure to send a child to school could result in legal action against the parent.

## Where to Register

Students who are currently enrolled in the Boston Public Schools will get their applications from their school. They do not need to apply in person at a Welcome Center.

Parents of new-to-BPS students may pre-register on the BPS website. But to complete the process, they must visit a BPS Welcome Center (see page 12).

## Registration for English Language Learners

All students entering K2 through grade 12 who are not native English speakers will be tested for English proficiency. When

registering for school at a Welcome Center, applicants complete a Home Language Survey. The results determine if a student needs testing. If so, the student will be given an appointment to go to the BPS Newcomers Assessment & Counseling Center. The multilingual staff will test the students' English language skills and help parents and students choose the education services that are best for them. The center's parent liaisons can also help families to connect with services in their child's school and in the community.

### Newcomers Assessment & Counseling Center

Madison Park Complex, 55 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury 02120  
617-635-1565

Open on school days, 8 am–5 pm.  
Please arrive at least one hour before closing time.

### Required Documents

When you go to register, bring all of these documents:

- 1 Child's original birth certificate (with raised seal), passport, or Form I-94
- 2 Child's up-to-date immunization record. See the list of required immunizations below for details. Contact BPS Health Services, 617-635-6788, if you have questions.
- 3 Parent/guardian photo identification
- 4 A transcript from the child's last school (grade 1-12, if applicable)
- 5 TWO proofs that you live in the City of Boston. Acceptable documents are in the Residency Requirement box on this page.

### Immunizations

The Boston Public Schools requires that students must have immunizations that are up-to-date for school entry at the time they register for school. This means that the following immunizations need to be in place at registration:

	K0 (age 3)	K1/K2 (ages 4-5)	Grades 1-6	Grades 7-12
Hepatitis B	3	3	3	3
DtaP/DTP/ DT/Td: Td booster:	≥4	5 DtaP/ DTP	≥4 DtaP/ DTP or ≥3 Td	4 DtaP/DTP or ≥3 Td; plus 1 Tdap for grades 7-10
Polio	≥3	4	≥3	≥3
Hib	1-4	0	0	0
MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	1	2	Gr. 1-3: 2 MMR Gr. 4-6: 2 measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella	Gr. 7-10: 2 MMR Gr. 11-12: 2 measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella
Varicella (chickenpox)	1*	2*	Gr. 1-3: 2* Gr. 4-6: 1*	Gr. 7-10: 2* Gr. 11-12: 1*

(\*or reliable history of chickenpox)

**NOTE:** If a child has turned 4 years old by the registration date, he or

she must have received the K1/K2 immunizations. However, if the child is only 3 years old at registration, he or she is NOT expected to have received the 4-year-old immunizations.

**Immunization requirements are complex.** To learn more, go to: [bostonpublicschools.org/healthservices](http://bostonpublicschools.org/healthservices). Contact BPS Health Services, 617-635-6643, if you have questions. In addition, we strongly recommend that your child have a Tuberculosis Risk Assessment.

When you register your child for school, you must submit a doctor's record stating your child has had the required immunizations. The record must include the month, day, and year when the immunizations were given. If you need a copy of the immunization record or have questions, contact your doctor or health center. If you don't have a doctor or health center, call the Mayor's Health Line, 800-847-0710. Please allow two to three weeks for your doctor or health center to copy records.

Keep in mind that school nurses review immunization records regularly.

By law, students whose immunizations are not up to date may be excluded from school.

**Special Situations.** Except in an emergency or epidemic, students may start school if a parent or guardian presents a written statement from a physician that their child has not been immunized for medical reasons, or a letter stating that immunization conflicts with his or her religious beliefs.

**Does your child have special health care needs?** At the time of registration, you will fill out a health form indicating if your child has asthma or allergies, is in a wheel chair, or has other special needs, to ensure that your child is assigned to a school that can provide appropriate health services. The form also asks for your health care provider's contact information in case the school needs to reach him/her.

**Physical Examinations.** Please see page 7.

### Completing the Application

Under the Home-Based plan, each applicant will receive his or her own personal application. The application form lists all the schools you may choose – the "customized list."

- Choose as many schools as you wish—but we encourage you to make at least FIVE choices.
- Number your choices in order of your preference.
- Save your copy of the application in case there's a problem.

## Student Residency Requirement

In order to register for and attend the Boston Public Schools, a student must live in the City of Boston. The residence of a child under age 18 is the legal, permanent residence of the parent(s) or guardian(s) who has physical custody of the child. Residence is defined as the primary place where a person dwells permanently, not temporarily, and is the place that is the center of his or her domestic, social, and civic life. A student who is age 18 or older may establish a residence separate from his or her parents or guardians for school attendance purposes.

Temporary residence in the City of Boston, solely for the purpose of attending a Boston public school, is not considered "residency."

This residency policy does not apply to homeless students. For questions regarding homeless students, please call the Office of Legal Advisor, 617-635-9320.

### Applicants must submit TWO of these documents when registering for school.

Documents must be pre-printed with the name and current address of the student's parent/guardian (or the student if 18 years of age or older). Items may not be from the same bullet.

- A utility bill (not water or cell phone) dated within the past 60 days
- A current lease, Section 8 agreement, or BPS landlord affidavit
- A deed or mortgage payment dated within the past 60 days, or property tax bill dated within the past year
- A W2 form dated within the year or a payroll stub dated within the past 60 days
- A bank or credit card statement dated within the past 60 days
- A letter from an approved government agency\* dated within the past 60 days

\* Approved government agencies: Departments of Revenue (DOR), Children and Family Services (DCF), Transitional Assistance (DTA), Youth Services (DYS), Social Security; any communications on Commonwealth of Massachusetts letterhead.

### NOTES:

- The exam schools also require these documents, but they have a separate application process and timeline. See page 9 for details.
- Legal guardianship or caregiver status requires additional documentation from a court or agency.
- These documents are also required for any change of address.

Any student found to be in violation of the residency policy will be dismissed immediately from the Boston Public Schools. The parent/guardian of a student dismissed for non-residency may appeal the decision. The student may be allowed to remain in school during the appeal procedure.

In addition to dismissal from school, the Boston Public Schools may impose penalties on the family such as legal action, a fine based on the cost of educational services received, and the withholding of certain scholarships and prizes.

- More information on the Residency Policy is available on the BPS website: [bostonpublicschools.org/residency](http://bostonpublicschools.org/residency)

### When to Apply

To increase the chances of receiving an assignment to a school of choice, students should apply in the first registration period for their grade. This schedule is for new registrations and transfer requests for the 2014-2015 school year.

#### FIRST REGISTRATION PERIOD

**January 6-31, 2014**  
Kindergarten, Grade 6 and Grade 9

To avoid long lines, we recommend the following schedule, based on the first initial of the parent's last name:

- A-I Register January 6-10
- J-Q Register January 13-17
- R-Z Register January 21-24
- All Register January 27-31

#### SECOND REGISTRATION PERIOD

**February 5–March 21, 2014**  
Kindergarten through Grade 12

#### THIRD REGISTRATION PERIOD

**March 24–May 9, 2014**  
Kindergarten through Grade 12

#### FOURTH REGISTRATION PERIOD

**May 12–June 13, 2014**  
Kindergarten through Grade 12

You will receive the notice of your child's assignment by mail. Assignments are usually mailed about six weeks after the close of the registration period.

## When to Apply, continued

All students who receive a new school assignment will receive an RSVP form to let us know if you will attend the Boston Public Schools in September. Please sign and return the form so we can assign another student from the wait list if you are not attending. You can also use the RSVP form to tell us if you want to stay on wait lists for other schools.

## How does the BPS assign students?

Students are assigned by a computerized lottery. The computer tries to assign students to their highest listed choice for which they have the highest priority.

## What are priorities?

Sometimes a school doesn't have room for every student who lists it as a choice. When this happens, the computer assigns students based on choice and priorities. Within each assignment period, students with the highest priority are assigned first.

## Sibling Priority

We try to assign children in the same family to the same school if the parent requests it. If you want your children to go to the same school, ask the Welcome Center staff how to apply for sibling priority. However, sometimes a school doesn't have room for all the siblings who apply for it; so we can't *guarantee* sibling assignments.

Be sure to list sibling priority the first time you apply.

## Additional Priorities

- Students completing the highest grade at our early education schools either have a guaranteed seat at a pathway school (see page 10) or have priority for the next grade in other schools on their customized list after siblings are assigned.
- Grade 5 students at the Bates, Conley, Mozart, Philbrick and Sumner schools have priority for grade 6 at the Irving Middle School after siblings are assigned.
- Students in dual language programs at the S. Greenwood, Hernández, Hurley and Umana Academy have priority for Margarita Muñoz Academy, a dual-language high school.
- Students eligible for Advanced Work Class have priority for AWC in their current school before students who apply from other schools.

## East Boston Assignments

Due to its unique location, East Boston general education students,

K2-12, are guaranteed an assignment in East Boston, if they so choose

How does this work?

- Customized lists for East Boston students will include all schools in East Boston. East Boston residents are given a priority over non East Boston applicants for those seats. These customized lists may also include some schools outside of East Boston, but the priority would not apply for these schools.
- Since this limits access for non-East Boston residents who also may have East Boston schools on their lists, these students will have priority to the remaining schools on their lists over East Boston students.
- Exceptions may include program seats for English language learners, services for some students with disabilities, and middle school-age students, because some East Boston elementary schools have pathways to middle schools in Charlestown.

## Random Numbers

The computer gives each application a random number. Random numbers are used to break "ties" between students who have the same priorities for the school.

How does this work? Let's say there is one seat left for K2 at the Hale School. All applicants with sibling priority have been assigned. Three additional students, all registered in the same round and without sibling priority, listed the Hale as their first choice. The student with the lowest ("best") random number will be assigned.

## "Grandfathering"

As we transition to a new school choice plan, students already enrolled in our schools may remain in their current school. The district will continue to provide transportation through 2019-2020 for students currently eligible. (See page 7 for transportation information.)

## Wait Lists

If you don't get your first choice, we will try to assign your child to one of your other choices. We will also place your child on up to three wait lists. Here are the rules for wait lists:

- The BPS will create wait lists for all schools where there are more applicants than available seats for a particular grade.
- A student's place on the wait list is based on the registration period when the student applied, sibling priority, the school choices selected on the application, and

## For a better chance of getting one of your top school choices...

- **Apply within your first registration period**—January 6-31, 2014 for the transition grades (kindergarten, grade 6, and grade 9), and February 5–March 21, 2014 for all other grades. All applications received within a registration period are processed at the same time, not in the order received. It doesn't matter if you apply on the first day or the last day of the registration period. (See pages 5 and 12 for registration schedule.)
- **Make at least FIVE choices.** (More is better!)
- **List your school choices in your true order of preference.** If you list a popular school first, you won't hurt your chances of getting your second choice school if you don't get your first choice.
- **Choose a variety of schools**—including schools for which you have sibling priority and schools that are easier to get into. For information about less frequently chosen schools that may be a good "fit" for your child, ask Welcome Center staff or check Countdown to Kindergarten, [www.countdowntokindergarten.org](http://www.countdowntokindergarten.org).

You may go to a Welcome Center any time during the year to register for school or to request a transfer—but the longer you wait, the fewer choices you will have. Many schools are full after the first registration period.

random number. No student will have a lower place on a wait list than any student who applied in a later registration period, regardless of priorities. However, within each period, a student's place on the wait list can change if his/her priorities change. This in turn may affect the place of other students on the wait list.

- Families registering for any grade, K0 through 12, may be placed on up to three wait lists. Families who are assigned to their second choice school may be on a wait list for their first choice school. Families assigned to their third choice school may be on wait lists for their first and second choices. And families assigned to their fourth choice school or a lower-ranked choice, or who are unassigned (kindergarten only) or administratively assigned, may be on wait lists for their top three choices.
- Any family placed on wait lists for certain schools but who would prefer to be on different wait lists may go to any Welcome Center to make new choices. However, students already on the maximum number of wait lists must go off one list in order to be added to another.
- Any student who remains a Boston resident may remain on a wait list after the beginning of the school year, regardless of whether or not the student attends the Boston Public Schools.
- All wait lists expire at the end of the second marking period (January of the following year).

When seats become available, students with sibling priority will be assigned from wait lists first, before other students who applied in the

same registration period. We assign students with other priorities after siblings but before students without a priority, within each registration period.

Random numbers will be used as "tie-breakers" among students with the same priorities.

You can find out your child's wait list status by calling any Welcome Center after receiving your assignment notice. In August and September, you can also call the School Hotline, 617-635-9046.

*BPS is currently reviewing its wait list policy. The policy and process as of October 2013 is described here. Please check the BPS website or ask about any changes when you visit a Welcome Center. Information on any new policy or process will also be included in the folder you receive during registration.*

## Administrative Assignments

State law says every child must attend school beginning in September of the calendar year in which the child turns six years old. If you don't receive one of your school choices, or if you don't return an application for a student age six or older beginning a "transition grade," we will assign the student to the school closest to home that has a seat.

If your child will be under age six through December 31, 2014, we will not assign your child to a school you did not choose. However, if your child is entering K2 kindergarten, you may request that we administratively assign your student if we cannot give you one of your choices. Otherwise, If you want your child to attend a BPS school, you must return to a Welcome Center and make more choices.

## Transfers

**If you want to change schools next school year**, you can apply for a transfer during the first registration period, January 6-31, 2014 (kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9), second registration period, February 5–March 21, 2014 (all grades), or later.

Students requesting transfers to grades 1-5 and 7-8 may choose from their customized list under the Home-Based plan — but due to grandfathering we cannot guarantee assignment to a school on their customized list. If we are not able to assign these students to a school they choose, they may remain in their current school.

All transfer requests received within each registration period are processed together. Requests received after September 30 will be processed in mid-November and late January.

**If you want to request a transfer for the current school year**, apply at any Welcome Center through the end of January.

We can't guarantee your transfer request will be approved.

The BPS limits the number of times students can transfer to a different school:

- **Elementary School:** Once per year in kindergarten–grade 5.
- **Middle School:** Only once in grades 6–8.
- **High School:** Only once in grades 9–12.

**Disciplinary Transfers.** Students in grades 6–12 who are transferred for disciplinary reasons will be assigned to an alternative program.

## Expulsion

Students who have been expelled from other school districts for possession of a dangerous weapon or controlled substance, assault on school staff, or a felony conviction may not enroll in the Boston Public Schools during their period of expulsion. If the BPS finds out that a student has been expelled from his or her previous school for any of these reasons, the student will be discharged from the Boston Public Schools in accordance with Massachusetts law.

Under a new state law, students may not be excluded from school for more than 90 school days except in the case of the serious offenses named above. Students must receive educational services during the period of expulsion.

## If You Move

- Bring the proofs of your new address (see page 3) to any Welcome Center right away. If you don't have proofs of your new address, call the Center for advice.

- We can't change your bus stop until you change your address.
- If you move, your child may have to change schools. However, your child may be able to stay in his or her current school if that school remains on your new customized list of home-based choices, or if you agree to provide transportation.
- Remember to give the school principal your new address and phone number.

## Homeless Students

If you move to a shelter, are doubled-up, or are living in any other temporary situation, go to any Welcome Center and give them your new address.

Children have the right to stay in their school of origin for the entire time they are homeless, even if they move to a different school district. Students have the right to stay at their school of origin whether or not they live with their parents. You may also choose to enroll in a school within the new zone, town, or city where you live temporarily. If you become homeless during the summer and have to move, your child can return to the school that he or she last attended. Transportation may be provided unless your new address is within the “walk zone” of your child's school.

If you move into permanent housing during the school year, your child may finish the year in the same school. However, transportation will not be provided unless your child is eligible for transportation to the school under BPS policy.

For help, call the Homeless Education Resource Network, 617-635-8037.

## Transportation

About two-thirds of our 58,000 students receive some type of transportation service: either school bus or MBTA pass. These students are eligible for transportation:

- Students who live one mile or more from their kindergarten and elementary school
- Students who live one and a half miles or more from their middle school
- Students who live two miles or more from their high school.

Most students who take a school bus are picked up and dropped off at a corner near their home. High school students and some middle school students get an MBTA pass or a combination of T pass and school bus.

When your child is assigned to school, we will tell you if your child is eligible for transportation. In late August, we will mail you information about your child's bus stop, bus number, and schedule.

## Transportation for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may receive corner-to-corner service, MBTA service, or door-to-door service, as required in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Some students with severe medical or physical conditions that prevent them from walking to school may receive transportation. Contact the school nurse to request this service. The nurse will give you the required health forms and will discuss your child's transportation needs with your child's doctor. Our Medical Services Office will decide if a student is eligible for transportation after reviewing documents from the doctor and input from school staff. During the summer, please call Medical Services, 617-635-6788.

Except for some medical conditions, medical transportation is not automatically renewed. You must reapply each year.

We cannot make special transportation arrangements for children whose parent or guardian is disabled—but we may be able to assign a bus stop closer to home. Please discuss these requests with the BPS Transportation Department.

## Alternative Transportation

You can request “alternative transportation” to or from a bus stop other than your home stop (such as an after-school program). Students who are not eligible for transportation to and from home may also request this service. Your request is subject to these restrictions:

- The stop you request must be on an existing bus route and must not add time to the route.
- There must be room on the bus for new students assigned to the bus route.

- You must request your alternative stop for the whole week, not just certain days.
- We do not provide door-to-door service unless it is required in an IEP.
- When students move, their current school may no longer be on their customized list of schools. (See “If You Move” on this page.) They may choose to remain in the current school—but they are NOT eligible for alternative transportation.

For more information and an application for alternative transportation:

- Go to: [www.bostonpublicschools.org/transportation](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/transportation)
- Contact the principal
- Call the Transportation Department, 617-635-9520
- E-mail: [schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:schoolbus@bostonpublicschools.org)

If you return a complete application for alternative transportation before August 1, you will receive a response by August 15. If the stop is approved, your child's alternative stop will be active by the first day of school. Requests received in late August and September may take several weeks to process.

## Transportation Tips

- We cannot guarantee that your child will get the alternative stop or service that you request.
- Do not apply for alternative transportation in order to change the bus stop if you have moved or are requesting a closer stop. You may complete a “change of address” form at any Welcome Center. The Transportation Department at Court St. does not process “change of address” information. When you submit your “change of address” form, we will automatically give your child a new bus stop near your new home if you are eligible for transportation.
- If you think your child's bus stop is too far from home or is dangerous, you may be able to change it. But keep in mind that students who do not receive transportation often walk up to a mile to their school.
- If we have determined that your child lives within the required distance to the school and you disagree, you can ask us to measure the distance.

## For help with transportation

Year-round 617-635-9520  
School Hot Line 617-635-9046

January 6–31, 2014 and mid-August through mid-September



## Boston Public Schools Programs

**FROM THE FIRST YEAR** of kindergarten through the last year of high school, we have high expectations for every student, in every subject.

- EVERY SCHOOL is implementing the **BPS Promotion Policy** that requires students to pass specific courses and tests. Most schools provide extra help during the school day and after school for students who are having trouble meeting the promotion requirements.
- EVERY SCHOOL is focusing on **literacy**—reading and writing. All elementary and K–8 schools are using materials aligned to the new Massachusetts Common Core English Language Arts & Literacy Standards (2011) to ensure that our students receive a solid literacy foundation.
- EVERY SCHOOL is focusing on **mathematics**. All students are taught the standards of the Massachusetts Common Core Math Standards (2011). Math instruction in all schools focuses on the balance of “math fluency” — knowing basic number facts such as addition and subtraction and being able to recall them quickly and accurately — and understanding math concepts in order to solve complex problems. All students in grades 1 through 8 have online First in Math accounts that support the development of strong math skills and provide extra practice with important mathematical content.
- EVERY SCHOOL is focusing on **science**. We engage students in science and engineering practices to better prepare them for college, for careers, and to make decisions as citizens about science in their everyday lives. We are moving toward the new Next Generation Science Standards and Massachusetts Science Framework that will raise expectations for all students.
- EVERY SCHOOL teaches **social studies**—the study of how people live together and organize themselves in society—to help students learn to make good decisions and be informed, responsible citizens. Social studies includes history, geography,

government, economics, and other topics.

For information on the courses students must take and pass to be promoted to the next grade, pick up a copy of the *Guide to the Boston Public Schools for Families and Students*. It is available at all BPS Welcome Centers, the central office at 26 Court St. downtown, and on the BPS website.

While high standards are the rule in all schools, each school offers unique programs, themes, and approaches to learning. When you are choosing schools, look for special classes and programs that match your child’s needs and interests.

### Kindergarten

We offer several options to get our youngest learners off to a successful start:

- **Kindergarten 2.** Our goal is to offer the best possible preparation for children entering grade 1. To meet this goal, we provide a six-hour K2 program for 5-year-olds in all elementary schools. We guarantee a school assignment for all children who apply for full-day K2. However, due to capacity limits, we can’t guarantee an assignment to a school you choose. To register for K2, children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2014.
- **Kindergarten for younger students.** K1 has grown! This September, we will have more than 2,200 seats for children who are four years old on or before September 1, 2014. We also have a very limited number of openings in K0 for children who are three years old on or before September 1, 2014. We regret that we cannot guarantee an assignment to these programs.
- **Schools for Early Learners.** We have several schools that offer full-day kindergarten (starting with K0 or K1) through grade 1 or grade 3, plus before and after school care from 7:30 am to 4:45 pm, all free. Seats are limited and wait lists can be long for these popular programs.

### “Countdown to Kindergarten”

This partnership among the BPS, City of Boston, and many community organizations is working to provide a positive transition into BPS kindergarten for students and their families. Pick up copies of their publications, available in many languages, at any Welcome Center, or call 617-635-9288 or visit their website:

[www.countdowntokindergarten.org](http://www.countdowntokindergarten.org)

### Important Kindergarten Notes

- All general education kindergarten students are guaranteed a seat through the highest grade of their assigned school, following the guidelines of our student assignment plan.
- We regret that we can’t make exceptions to our entry age policy, regardless of your child’s previous school experience.
- State law says each child must attend school beginning in September of the calendar year in which the child turns six years old. If your child turns six from September 2–December 31, we will assign him or her to K2.
- If you need a program for your three- or four-year-old, we encourage you to check out Head Start, Child Care Choices of Boston (phone numbers are on page 10), and other preschool options. While our K1 program for 4-year-olds has greatly expanded in recent years, we can’t guarantee an assignment for all applicants.

### English Language Learners

**617-635-9435 Information**  
**617-635-1565 Testing and Placement, K2–12**

More than 40% of our students speak a language other than English at home. We welcome these students in our schools and offer several programs and services to help them learn English while they also advance in their study of literature, math, science, technology, and social studies.

- **Sheltered English Instruction (SEI).** Most English learners will be placed in Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) classes with specially trained teachers. Once students are able to do regular schoolwork in English, they will transfer to English language classrooms.
- **Transitional Bilingual Education.** Students who do not benefit from an English-only program may obtain a waiver and receive transitional bilingual education or other language support. If you think your child is not ready for an English-only program, schedule a meeting with the teacher and ask how to apply for a waiver, or call the Office of English Language Learners, 617-635-9435.
- **Dual Language Programs.** Six schools—Dever Elementary, S. Greenwood K-8, Hernández K-8, Hurley K-8, Umana

Academy K-8 and Margarita Muñiz High School—offer dual language programs, where qualified students whose first language is either English or Spanish learn all subjects together in both languages.

- **Native Language Literacy.** This program is specially designed for students in grade 3 or higher who have had interruptions in their formal education. They receive intensive instruction in native literacy and ESL. These students may need more than four years of high school to graduate.

### Newcomers Academy

Newcomers Academy, a program of Boston International High School, welcomes English language learners ages 15–18 who are entering the United States school system for the first time and who have limited English proficiency, or who have gaps in their formal education. We work with these students to design a personalized plan so that they are informed and prepared to choose a district high school program. Students will receive ESL and mathematics, science, and social studies instruction in sheltered English. They may spend from a few months to two years in the program. Newcomers Academy also offers career counseling, orientation to American culture, and after school activities.

The opportunity to enroll will be made through the Newcomers Assessment & Counseling Center.

### Special Education and Student Services

**Schools Division,**  
**Campbell Resource Center**  
**617-635-8599**

**Services Division,**  
**Boston Latin Academy**  
**617-635-8030**

The Office of Special Education and Student Services provides guidance and assistance to families and schools in supporting the success of students with disabilities and students placed at risk.

The **Schools Division** provides support to schools regarding programs, including instruction that is adjusted to each child’s learning needs, specially designed instruction, and the continuum of placements ranging from full inclusion (see page 10) to partial inclusion, substantially separate and totally separate settings.

The **Services Division** provides support to schools regarding medical services, behavioral health services, occupational and speech therapy, vision and hearing support,

adaptive physical education, assistive technology, and other support services.

If your BPS student is at risk of failure in school and you suspect that he or she may have a disability, please contact the principal. If your student does not attend a Boston public school, please contact the Office of Special Education and Student Services, 617-635-8599.

## Advanced Work Class (AWC)

**617-635-9450 Testing**

**617-635-9512 Assignments**

**617-635-9202 Curriculum**

Advanced Work Class (AWC) is a full-time program in the Boston Public Schools that provides an accelerated academic curriculum for students in grades 4, 5 and 6. Students are expected to complete more school work and more home study. Programs are available in both English and Spanish. Students must be invited to participate. Invitations are based solely on the student's scores on an eligibility test: the Terra Nova (3rd edition) and, for English language learners, the Spanish-language SUPERA, given in the fall of grades 3, 4, and 5. All 5th graders, even those in AWC, must take the test to be invited to grade 6 AWC.

If your child is invited to participate in AWC, your school choice application form will include a combination of AWC and regular programs. To apply for an AWC program, you must choose the AWC option for a specific school. You may choose more than one AWC program. Students who do not receive any of their AWC choices may remain in their current school unless they are now in their school's highest grade.

## The Exam Schools

**617-635-9512**

We have three "examination schools" for grades 7–12 that admit students on a competitive basis:

- Boston Latin Academy in Dorchester
- Boston Latin School in the Fenway
- John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics & Science in Roxbury.

All three schools accept new students for grades 7 and 9. O'Bryant School also accepts a few new students for grade 10.

Admission is based entirely on a student's grade point average and test scores from the Independent Schools Entrance Exam (ISEE). The grade point average is based on final marks in English and math from the previous school year (grade 5 or 7) and the first two marking periods of the current year.



Test registration materials for students applying for the 2014-2015 school year were available in early September 2013 in all our middle schools and high schools, Welcome Centers, branch libraries, and Boys & Girls Clubs. The test is given on November 2, 2013. A make-up test is given on November 16.

Students who are not currently enrolled in the BPS—even if they have a sibling who *is* enrolled in BPS—must go to a BPS Welcome Center and prove that they are residents of Boston. They must do this by the first Friday in November in order to be considered for admission to an exam school. Information about where and when to prove residency is included in the test registration materials.

- ▶ More information:  
[bostonpublicschools.org/exam](http://bostonpublicschools.org/exam)

## AVID

**617-635-9202**

More than 30 BPS schools offer AVID — Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID targets students in the academic middle who want to go to college and are willing to work hard. AVID helps them reach their goals through tutorials, challenging course work, and motivational activities.

## Educational Options

**617-635-8035**

The Boston Public Schools offers a variety of schools and programs for middle school and high school students who are experiencing difficulty in a regular school setting. These programs offer small class size, intensive support services, and different approaches to learning. We cannot guarantee that every student who requests placement in an alternative program will get one.

## Family Involvement

**617-635-9660**

The Boston Public Schools recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the family, student, school and community. Research has demonstrated that when families are engaged and involved,



children achieve at higher levels and have more positive attitudes about school.

There are many ways you can participate in your child's education. At home, read to or with your child. Set a regular time and a quiet space to do homework. Limit TV time, and always be aware of what programs your child is watching. Monitor your child's use of the computer. Check all homework. Check backpacks daily for notices sent home by the school. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep.

At school, you can attend special events and parent/teacher conferences, volunteer in the classroom, and join the School Parent Council or the School Site Council.

The Special Education Parent Advisory Council (BostonSpedPac) supports families of children with disabilities. Call them at 617-297-7335 or visit [bostonspedpac.org](http://bostonspedpac.org).

You can even go to school yourself — to BPS Parent University! To learn more, call 617-635-1683 or visit [www.bpsfamilies.org/parentuniversity](http://www.bpsfamilies.org/parentuniversity).

## Physical Examinations

Under state law, students new to the Boston Public Schools must present results of a complete physical examination. During the first week of school, the school nurse will request results of a recent physical exam (within the past year) for each student, signed by a doctor or health center. No child can participate in school athletics without a recent physical and a clinician's documentation that the student is cleared to participate in physical activity.

The nurse will also review each student's record for health issues and medication needs. If medications need to be given during school hours, the nurse will provide forms to be signed by the parent/guardian and the child's clinician.

## School Meals

All our schools serve a healthy breakfast and lunch to all students at no cost, regardless of the family's income. Some schools also serve an after-school snack.

## School Uniforms

There is no required school uniform for all the Boston Public Schools. The School Site Council in each school decides if the school will have a mandatory uniform that all students are expected to wear, a voluntary uniform, or no uniform. For more information, call the schools directly or look at their "Report on Teaching & Learning" on the BPS website

## Attendance Policy

Good attendance is one of the most important ingredients in the "recipe" for school success—so be sure your child goes to school every day unless he or she is ill.

- By state law, students ages 6–16 must attend school. Students ages 6 and older who are absent without an acceptable excuse for more than five days during the year are subject to follow-up, which may include interventions and legal action.
- If a student does not report to school in the first eight days of the school year, or within eight days of being assigned, he/she will be removed from the school's rolls and will risk losing that assignment.
- Students with more than 12 unexcused absences during the school year may not be promoted to the next grade.
- Children need to be in school for the full school day. When they arrive late or leave early, they miss out on important learning and enrichment time. It is also very disruptive to the class. Please do not drop your children off late or pick them up early except when absolutely necessary. ★

## Words to Know

**Home-Based plan:** This year, BPS will begin to use a new Home-Based school choice plan for early education, elementary and K-8 schools. Under this plan, a student's home is the starting point. We offer families the school options within one mile of their home. Where we have concerns about the MCAS quality of schools nearby, this plan offers additional choices a little farther away, as well as schools with programs that would otherwise not be on their list. The new choice plan offers sibling priority as well as citywide choices for all families. Under the new Home-Based plan, elementary schools are connected to middle schools through voluntary pathways, guaranteeing assignment from kindergarten through grade 8.

**Clusters:** Many of our English language learners and students with disabilities (SWD) are assigned to a school that has a program designed specifically to meet their academic needs. The Home-Based plan creates **community clusters** of school options to ensure that these students can enroll in schools that offer quality programs closer to home.

**Customized List:** We offer a customized list of school choices for every family based on their home address. It includes every school within one mile of their home plus, as needed, nearby schools that have the highest levels of MCAS performance and growth. This ensures that every family has access to high quality schools, no matter where they live. Every family will have at least seven schools to choose from.

The customized list also may include more schools – called “option schools” – to make sure we can offer every child a seat in a program or school on his or her list. Families may also select any citywide school. As with the previous three-zone plan, we can't guarantee that an applicant will be assigned to one of his or her top choices.

We regret that we cannot guarantee a school assignment to K0 and K1.

**Extended Day:** The standard school day for grades 1-5 is six hours. For grades 6-8, it is six hours and 10 minutes. Some schools have longer hours, referred to as “extended day.” “Extended day” may also refer to kindergarten programs that are a full, six-hour day. Nearly all BPS kindergarten programs are now extended day. Just a few schools still offer the half-day kindergarten classes that were standard 20 years ago.

**General Education:** General education is the typical program for children who do not need special services in the classroom because of a disability or because they are English language learners. It may also be called “regular education.”

**Inclusion:** In an inclusion classroom, children with disabilities are placed in a general education class with non-disabled peers. The teacher, who is certified in special education, adjusts the curriculum to meet the individual needs of all children.

**MCAS Tier:** We have grouped our schools into four tiers according to how students performed on MCAS

tests for the past two years. We take into account both overall performance and improvement. Every family has at least two of the highest-scoring schools (Tier 1, the top 25%) and at least four schools that are in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 (the top half of MCAS performance) on their customized lists. MCAS Tiers 3 and 4 are in the bottom half. Tier 4 is the bottom 25%.

**Option Schools:** Every customized list includes all schools that are one mile or less from home, and, if there are not enough schools of high MCAS quality within that circle, other high quality schools nearby. It may also include “option schools,” which help balance the number of families living in an area with the number of classroom seats that are available. “Option Schools” may also provide access to a program that otherwise would not be available on the customized list of schools, such as Advanced Work Class and early education programs.

**Pathway:** We have a growing number of schools that offer guaranteed assignments for students coming from their paired pathway schools. This creates a smooth transition for students from kindergarten through grade 8 (and even through some high schools). It also eliminates the need for students to enter a lottery for their next assignment. For example, the Grew Elementary and Rogers Middle schools form a K-8 pathway: Grew 5th graders are guaranteed admission to the Rogers grade 6.

Students transitioning to their pathway elementary or middle school will be automatically assigned. If their families want to make other choices, they can complete an application at a Welcome Center.

To find out if your child's school is a pathway school, ask at the school, call any Welcome Center, or visit the BPS website.

**Regional School:** In an effort to provide more high-quality options to students, the Jackson/Mann K-8 School (located in Allston) will be an additional choice for students living in parts of Roxbury, Mission Hill and Dorchester.

**Strand:** This refers to a program that continues through all the grades in a school. For example, a small elementary school may have a single strand of general education classrooms. This means there is one general education classroom in each grade, kindergarten through grade 5. A larger school might have two or three (or more) strands (2-3 classrooms per grade). A school might also have special education or English language learner strands in addition to its general education or inclusion strands.

**Surround Care:** All elementary schools have an academic school day of at least 6 hours. A few schools, such as the Lyon and the early education schools, have free before-school and after-school care from early morning to late afternoon. This additional time beyond the regular school day is called surround care.

## Parents' Rights Under "No Child Left Behind"

The federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, called No Child Left Behind (NCLB), funds a number of grants. The largest of these is Title I, which aims to improve basic education for low income students. In the Boston Public Schools, all schools received Title I funding in 2013-2014.

Under this law, if your child goes to a Title I school, you have these and many other rights:

- 1 The school district must give you an annual Report Card for your child's school with information about assessment, accountability, and teacher quality.
- 2 At your request, the school must provide information about the qualifications of your child's teachers.

- 3 The school must inform you when your child will be taught by a teacher who is not considered “highly qualified” for longer than four consecutive weeks.
- 4 Districts and schools must involve parents/guardians of students in a Targeted Assistance program. For more information, visit [www.doe.mass.edu/apa/titlei/parta/family-engagement](http://www.doe.mass.edu/apa/titlei/parta/family-engagement).

To find out more about No Child Left Behind, pick up a copy of the *Guide to the Boston Public Schools for Families and Students 2013-14* at any Welcome Center, or read it on the BPS website.



# Resources for Families

## Boston Public Schools [www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org)

Main Number/All Departments .....	617-635-9000
Adult Education .....	617-635-9300
Attendance .....	617-635-8035
Boston School Committee .....	617-635-9014
Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) .....	617-635-8079 ext 104
Citywide Parents Council (CPC).....	617-635-9210
Communications .....	617-635-9265
Counseling Services.....	617-635-8030
Countdown to Kindergarten .....	617-635-9288
Early Childhood Programs (pre-kindergarten and kindergarten) .....	617-635-9701
Educational Options .....	617-635-8035
English Language Learners .....	617-635-9435
Enrollment Planning & Support (school assignments) .....	617-635-9516
Equity (discrimination and civil rights issues).....	617-635-9650
Family and Student Engagement (central office).....	617-635-9660
Field office .....	617-635-7750
Food and Nutrition Services.....	617-635-9144
Guidance Services .....	617-635-8030
Health and Wellness.....	617-635-6643
Homeless Education Resource Center .....	617-635-8037
Newcomers Assessment & Counseling Center.....	617-635-1565
Parent University.....	617-635-1683
Re-engagement Center.....	617-635-2273
Safety Services (School Police) .....	617-635-8000
School Hot Line (August, September, and January).....	617-635-9046
Special Education .....	617-635-8599
Special Education Parent Advisory Council (BostonSpedPac.org).....	617-297-7335
Student Records .....	617-635-9506
Superintendent's Office .....	617-635-9050
Title I Training Center (workshops for families) .....	617-635-7750
Transportation.....	617-635-9520
Welcome Centers:	
Dorchester .....	617-635-8015
East Boston (limited hours) .....	617-635-9597
Roslindale.....	617-635-8040
Roxbury.....	617-635-9010
Welcome Services .....	617-635-9085

## Community Organizations & Services

Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) .....	617-357-6000
GED, high school diploma, jobs programs, Head Start	
American Student Assistance (ASA) College Planning Centers .....	1-877-332-4348
Free information about higher education, financial aid and careers	<a href="http://asa.org/plan/centers">asa.org/plan/centers</a>
Boston Centers for Youth and Families (Community Centers) .....	617-635-4920
Youth programs, adult education, recreation, GED	
Boston Navigator .....	<a href="http://BOSTONnavigator.org">BOSTONnavigator.org</a>
Extensive, searchable database of out-of-school time programs	
Boston Parent Organizing Network (BPON) .....	617-522-2766   <a href="http://bpon.org">bpon.org</a>
Parent organizing and training for school improvement	
Boston Partners in Education .....	617-451-6145   <a href="http://bostonpartners.org">bostonpartners.org</a>
School volunteers, parent training	
Boston Plan for Excellence .....	617-227-8055   <a href="http://bpe.org">bpe.org</a>
Publications and support for school improvement	
Boston Public Library: main library at Copley Square, branches around the city.....	<a href="http://bpl.org">bpl.org</a>
Books, videos, use of computers, activities for all ages, museum passes	
Child Care Choices of Boston .....	617-542-5437 ext. 6641
Licensed day care centers and providers, operating Monday-Friday, 9:30 am-3:30 pm	<a href="http://childcarechoicesofboston.org">childcarechoicesofboston.org</a>
EDCO Youth Alternative .....	617-262-9562   <a href="http://edcoyouthalternative.com">edcoyouthalternative.com</a>
High school diploma and school to career program for out-of-school youth	
Federation for Children with Special Needs.....	617-482-2915   <a href="http://fcsn.org">fcsn.org</a>
Advocacy, information, and training	
Mayor's Health Line.....	1-800-847-0710
Information on immunizations and more	
Mayor's Youthline.....	617-635-2240   <a href="http://bostonyouthzone.com">bostonyouthzone.com</a>
Youth activities and information	
Parents' PLACE.....	1-877-471-0980   <a href="http://pplace.org">pplace.org</a>
Workshops, training, resources for families interested in getting involved in their children's education	
Steppingstone Foundation.....	617-423-6300   <a href="http://tsf.org">tsf.org</a>
Free academic preparation for exam and private schools	

## ABCD Head Start Pre-Schools and Day Care

[www.bostonheadstart.org](http://www.bostonheadstart.org)  
617-348-6272

For low-income families, accepting children ages 3–4 (some younger).

### Allston/Brighton

Allston/Brighton Head Start..... 617-783-1235

### Charlestown

JFK Family Service Center \*..... 617-241-7017

### Dorchester

Bradshaw Children's Learning Program .....

Dorchester Head Start..... 617-929-6200

Early Head Start @ Geneva Ave..... 617-929-6200

Franklin Field Children's Center..... 617-282-0946

Gertrude E. Townsend Learning Program .....

Horizons for Homeless Children \* .....

Yawkey Kombit Kreyol Center \*..... 617-506-6600

### East Boston

East Boston Head Start and

Early Head Start..... 617-567-8855

### Jamaica Plain

Horizons for Homeless Children \* .....

Jamaica Plain Head Start..... 617-522-5533

### Mattapan

Mattapan Family Service Center..... 617-298-1785

### Mission Hill

Associated Early Care & Education –

Ruggles/Gilday \* .....

### North End

North End Head Start..... 617-367-0532

### Roslindale

South Side Head Start .....

### Roxbury

Associated Early Care & Education –

Sunnyside \* .....

Horizons for Homeless Children \* .....

Parker Hill/Fenway..... 617-427-0464

Roxbury Head Start and Madison Park

Learning Program..... 617-541-6935

Walnut Grove Head Start..... 617-445-8202

### South Boston

South Boston Head Start..... 617-269-5160

### South End

Chinese Church Head Start..... 617-426-2855

Infants and Other People \* .....

South End Head Start and Early Head Start.. 617-426-2855

\* Head Start Affiliate

## Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)

[www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)

1-781-338-3300

Charter Schools..... 1-781-338-3227

[www.doe.mass.edu/charter/](http://www.doe.mass.edu/charter/)

Information about public schools

open to Boston residents that are not

part of the Boston Public Schools.

MCAS Parent Information Hotline..... 1-866-MCAS220

(1-866-622-7220)

## For more information...

...about school policies, programs, parent and student rights, and much more, pick up a copy of the Guide to the Boston Public Schools for Families & Students, available at all Welcome Centers and on our website:

[www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org)

# Register & Apply for School

## How

If you are registering for the Boston Public Schools for the first time, you must go to a BPS Welcome Center. ★ Please bring:

- At least two pre-printed proofs of your current address. See page 3 for details.
- Up-to-date immunization records. See page 3 for details.
- Your child's birth certificate (with raised seal), passport, or Form I-94
- Parent/guardian photo identification
- A transcript from the child's last school (grade 1-12).

### Pre-register on-line!

**On-line pre-registration** is a great way to save time during the registration process.

- Log on from any computer with an Internet connection.
- Complete your application form on-line in advance.
- Go to any Welcome Center with the required documents (see above) to complete the process.

[www.bostonpublicschools.org/register](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/register)

★ This does not apply to the exam schools admission process. See page 6 for details.

## When

### First Registration Period

#### ► January 6–31, 2014

Applicants for Kindergarten, Grade 6 and Grade 9 **ONLY**, new-to-BPS and transfers★

To avoid long lines, we recommend that you register at a Welcome Center on the following schedule, according to the first initial of the parent/guardian's last name:

**A-I** January 6-10    **R-Z** January 21-24  
**J-Q** January 13-17    **All** January 27-31

Assignments mailed mid-March 2014

### Second Registration Period

#### ► February 5–March 21, 2014

**All grades**, new-to-BPS and transfers  
 Assignments mailed early May 2014

### Third Registration Period

#### ► March 24–May 9, 2014

**All grades**, new-to-BPS and transfers  
 Assignments mailed mid-June 2014

### Fourth Registration Period

#### ► May 12–June 13, 2014

**All grades**, new-to-BPS and transfers  
 Assignments mailed mid-July 2014

## Where

### Go to any Boston Public Schools Welcome Center:

#### Dorchester ☎ 617-635-8015

Campbell Resource Center  
 1216 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester 02125  
 (next to Burger King)

► Help in Cape Verdean creole, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Turkish and Vietnamese

#### Roxbury ☎ 617-635-9010

Madison Park Complex  
 75 Malcolm X Boulevard, Roxbury 02120  
 (near Roxbury Crossing MBTA station)

► Help in Cantonese, English, Haitian creole, Mandarin and Spanish

#### Roslindale ☎ 617-635-8040

Jennie Barron Building  
 515 Hyde Park Avenue, Roslindale 02131  
 (near Cummins Highway)

► Help in Cape Verdean creole, English, French, Haitian creole, Portuguese and Spanish

#### East Boston ☎ 617-635-9597

Mario Umana Academy  
 312 Border Street, East Boston 02128

► School year: Tuesdays, 8:30 am–5:00 pm  
 ► January 7–30, 2014: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 am–5:00 pm; Wednesdays, 12:00–7:00 pm  
 ► Help in English and Spanish

### Hours of Service:

#### School Year:

**Regular hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 pm; Wednesday 12:00–7:00 pm

**Saturday hours:** The Dorchester Welcome Center will be open on January 11 and 25, 2014, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

#### School Vacations:

**February Vacation:** Only the Dorchester Center is open (normal hours)

**April Vacation:** Only the Roslindale Center is open (normal hours)

**June 30–July 11, 2014:** All Centers are closed

**July 14–August 1, 2014:** Only the Roxbury Center is open (normal hours)

**Closed:** Federal, state, and city holidays.

### Age Requirements to Register for School

Kindergarten 0 (K0)	3 years old on or before September 1, 2014 (very limited enrollment)
Kindergarten 1 (K1)	4 years old on or before September 1, 2014 (limited enrollment)
Kindergarten 2 (K2)	5 years old on or before September 1, 2014
Grade 1	6 years old on or before September 1, 2014

We are sorry, but there are no exceptions to these requirements, including the child's previous school experience.



### My Customized List of School Choices

School Name:

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ |

## School Hotline

617-635-9046

January 6–31, 2014

Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–5:00 pm

Call with questions about school registration, residency requirement, transfers, transportation, wait lists, school programs, and more.