

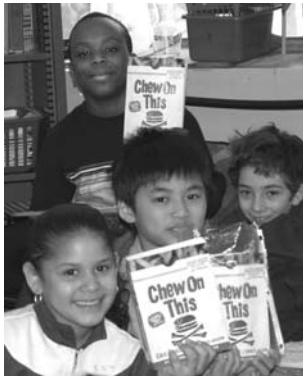
About Advanced Work Class

Advanced Work Class (AWC) is a full-time program in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) that provides an accelerated academic curriculum for highly motivated and academically capable students. Course work is challenging, and performance standards are high. Students are expected to complete more school work and more home study.

Student participation is by invitation only.

Participation in AWC provides your child with many benefits. If your child is highly motivated and a capable learner, s/he will enjoy being with other students having the same interests and passions. Students who successfully complete AWC are well prepared to compete for admission to the three BPS exam schools or to other accelerated programs.

Students entering grade 5 Advanced Work Class are invited to attend the **A+ Summer Academy** for two weeks of acceleration and the **A+ Saturday Academy** for mentoring in writing, research, and advanced math in order to reach the highest levels of achievement. By the end of each school year, a child's performance should be at the Advanced or Proficient level as measured by the Citywide Task Descriptions and standardized test results.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for Advanced Work Class?

All students in grades 3, 4 and 5 are tested for eligibility using the Terra Nova 3, Basic Survey test. Spanish-speaking English language learners are tested in their native language for the Spanish AWC program using the SUPERA test.

When are students tested?

Tests are given in late September or early October each year. These tests—in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics—are multiple choice and timed.

How will I know if my child is eligible for the AWC program?

BPS will mail to you a letter with your child's test results so that you may know how s/he performed on the test. A separate invitation letter will be sent later to children whose test scores are high enough to qualify for AWC, followed by school choice applications in January (grade 5) and February (grades 3 and 4).

How is my child assigned to a school with an AWC program?

BPS follows the same process for AWC assignments as it does for regular assignments. Families need to complete the school choice application, following the instructions on the form, to indicate their choices. For the best chance of receiving an assignment of their choice, families should return the forms by the stated deadlines for their grade level. Assignments are computer generated. They are typically mailed home in mid-March for grade 6 and late April for grades 4 and 5.

What if my child is an English language learner?

The Hennigan Elementary School and Timilty Middle School offer citywide AWC programs for Spanish-speaking English language learners.

May I visit the AWC schools?

Yes! Visitors are welcome. We recommend contacting the school in advance to schedule a visit. All schools have visiting hours during School Preview Time, from November through late January. A list of schools offering AWC appears on the back of this brochure.

When will I know where my child is going to school?

Grade 5 students will receive their assignment in mid-March. Grades 3 and 4 students will receive their assignments in late April.

What if I want my child's eligibility reconsidered?

The AWC Review Committee meets as needed to reconsider the eligibility of students. Call the AWC program coordinator for details, 617-635-9202.

Once my child has a seat in the AWC, why does he or she take the test each year?

Tests are administered to fill seats that may become available and to compare student performance from year to year.

Is my child guaranteed a seat each year?

Continuation in the program is not guaranteed. Grade 4 students may continue in grade 5 AWC if they make satisfactory academic progress. All grade 5 students, including those already attending an AWC program, take a test in the fall to determine eligibility for grade 6 AWC classes.

May students take the test if they don't attend the Boston Public Schools?

Yes. The Office of Enrollment Services provides applications and information to all of Boston's private and parochial schools. Test dates and sites are scheduled by the BPS Office of Research, Assessment and Evaluation.



- ▶ Information about Advanced Work Class is also available on the Boston Public Schools website, www.bostonpublicschools.org/awc.
- ▶ For more information about the assignment process, please contact the Office of Enrollment Services at 617-635-9512.
- ▶ For information regarding AWC curriculum, please contact the AWC program coordinator at 617-635-9202.

**“My child is eligible for
Advanced Work Class.
How do I know if it’s the
right choice?”**



Visit the AWC programs available to your child and talk with the teacher. Do the activities and classroom atmosphere seem like a good match for your child’s interests, abilities and learning style? You may also ask yourself these questions about your child. If the answer to many of them is “yes,” then AWC may be right for your child.

- ▶ Does your child solve problems by seeing connections or by delving deeply into the subject matter?
- ▶ Is your child chosen by others to help or lead?
- ▶ Does your child have a large vocabulary in his/her first language?
- ▶ Does your child understand jokes?
- ▶ Did your child read at an early age?
- ▶ Is your child curious about ideas?
- ▶ When your child is alone, would your child rather read than play?
- ▶ Does your child complete homework on his or her own or after gentle reminders from you?
- ▶ Does your child seek endless explanations about how things work?

Schools Offering AWC in 2010–2011

**NORTH ZONE
Grades 4 & 5**

- Bradley
☎ 617-635-8422
- Edison K–8
☎ 617-635-8436
- Farragut
☎ 617-635-8450
- Jackson/Mann K–8
☎ 617-635-8532
- Quincy
☎ 617-635-8497
- Winthrop (grade 4)
☎ 617-635-8379

Grade 6

- Dearborn
☎ 617-635-8412
- Edison K–8
☎ 617-635-8436
- Jackson/Mann K–8
☎ 617-635-8532
- Quincy Upper
☎ 617-635-8940
- Umana
☎ 617-635-8481

**EAST ZONE
Grades 4 & 5**

- Channing
☎ 617-635-8722
- Condon
☎ 617-635-8606
- Lee
☎ 617-635-8687
- Murphy K–8
☎ 617-635-8781
- Taylor
☎ 617-635-8731

Grade 6

- McCormack
☎ 617-635-8657
- Murphy K–8
☎ 617-635-8781
- Rogers
☎ 617-635-8700

**WEST ZONE
Grades 4 & 5**

- Bates
☎ 617-635-8064
- Curley K–8
☎ 617-635-8239
- Hennigan ★
☎ 617-635-8264
- King K–8 (grade 4)
☎ 617-635-8212
- Ohrenberger
☎ 617-635-8157

Grade 6

- Curley K–8
☎ 617-635-8239
- Irving
☎ 617-635-8072
- King K–8
☎ 617-635-8212
- Ohrenberger
☎ 617-635-8157

CITYWIDE

- Timilty Middle ★
☎ 617-635-8109

★ These schools also offer citywide AWC programs for English language learners (Spanish)

Students may apply for schools in their zone of residence as well as for schools within their “walk zone” that may be outside their zone of residence.

Important Phone Numbers

AWC Program Coordinator	617-635-9202
Assignments and Test Administration	617-635-9512
Family Resource Centers:	
East Zone (Dorchester)	617-635-8015
North Zone (Roxbury)	617-635-9010
West Zone (Roslindale)	617-635-8040

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Carol R. Johnson, Superintendent

Boston School Committee

Rev. Gregory Groover, Chairperson
Marchelle Raynor, Vice-Chairperson
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Advanced Work Class (AWC)

Yu-Lan Lin, Program Director ■ Judy Berkowitz, Program Coordinator

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January 2010

**Boston Public Schools
Advanced Work
Class**



**Accelerated Academic Curriculum
for Grades 4, 5 and 6**

