
BPS FACTS

No. 13

October 2008

Published by the BPS Communications Office • October 27, 2008



Boston Public Schools

Boston Public Schools at a Glance 2008–2009

OUR MISSION

We welcome the children of this city into the Boston Public Schools, where effective teaching and learning prepare all of our students to achieve at high levels, and where the entire community works together to focus on children.

SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

There are **143 schools** in the BPS:

- 6 early learning centers (K–grade 1)
- 60 elementary schools (K–5)
- 18 elementary & middle schools (K–8)
- 16 middle schools (6–8)
- 1 middle & high school (6–12)
- 30 high schools (9–12)
- 3 “exam” schools (7–12)
- 6 special education schools (K–12)
- 3 alternative (at-risk) programs

Of these, 18 are pilot schools (1 early learning center, 3 elementary, 4 K–8, 2 middle, 8 high); 2 high schools are Horace Mann charter schools approved and funded by the BPS; and 1 high school is a Commonwealth pilot school.

Projected SY09 enrollment is 55,800 (a decrease of 730 from SY08), including:

- 25,850 students in kindergarten–grade 5
- 11,340 students in grades 6–8
- 18,610 students in grades 9–12

Student demographics:

- 39% Black 9% Asian
- 37% Hispanic 2% Multi-racial, non Hisp.
- 13% White <1% Other

72% of BPS students are eligible to receive **free & reduced-price meals** in school (62% free, 10% reduced).

Students who don’t attend the BPS¹:

Of the **75,500** school-age children living in Boston, about **18,900** (25%) do not attend Boston public schools. They are:

- 46% Black 3% Asian
- 38% White <1% Other
- 12% Hispanic

Of these students:

- 7,100 go to parochial schools
- 3,660 go to private schools
- 3,030 go to suburban schools through METCO
- 4,420 go to public charter schools
- 510 are placed by the BPS Special Education Dept. in non-BPS schools and programs
- 200 are home schooled

¹As of 3/20/08

PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE

In Oct. 2008, **Supt. Carol R. Johnson** presented eight districtwide goals for high-quality schools, stronger communities, and academic success for all students.

Targets by 2012 include:

- **Grade 1 reading:** 80% at or above grade level
- **Grade 3 reading:** 100% passing MCAS
- **Skillful, analytical writing in Grade 7**
- **Algebra:** 30% non-exam 8th graders take Algebra 1
- **“On-track” to graduate** by the end of Grade 10
- **SAT I scores** 1650+; at least one AP or Honors course for all students in high school
- **English Language Learners (ELLs)** acquire academic language mastery and fluency
- **College-ready and success-bound:** Dropout rate ≤3%; 80% 4-year graduation rate; 70% 4-year graduation rate for ELLs and special ed. students

Please see www.bostonpublicschools.org/pathways/ for additional goals and information.

STAFF

The 2008–09 BPS budget (all funds) includes **9,455** staff positions (FTE), a decrease of 202 positions from 2007–08. Here is a comparison of budgeted positions:

FY08	FY09
5,003	4,894 teachers
778	749 administrators
500	491 support personnel
1,260	1,241 aides and monitors
367	365 secretaries and clerical staff
1,230	1,203 custodial/safety/technical
521	513 part-time and summer staff

Demographics:	Black	White	Hispanic	Asian
Teachers	23%	62%	10%	5%
Principals	47%	36%	14%	3%

Qualifications of BPS Teachers (SY08):

- 97.5% are licensed in their teaching assignment
- 93.9% of core academic classes are taught by teachers who are highly qualified

BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The BPS is governed by a 7-member **School Committee**, appointed by the Mayor from among nominees recommended by a broad-based Nominating Committee. Members serve 4-year terms. Current members, appointed by Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and term expiration dates are:

- Dr. Elizabeth G. Reilinger, *Chair* 1/4/10
- Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover, *Vice-chair*..... 1/3/11
- Helen M. Dájer 1/4/10
- Alfreda J. Harris 1/3/11
- Claudio Martinez 1/2/12
- Michael D. O’Neill 1/5/09
- Marchelle Raynor 1/2/12

In 1989, in a non-binding referendum, residents voted to replace the 13-member elected School Committee with an appointed committee. In 1991, the state legislature approved Boston’s home rule petition establishing the 7-member, Mayor-appointed committee. The appointed committee took office in January 1992. In a 1996 referendum, residents voted overwhelmingly to retain the appointed committee.

THE SEVEN ESSENTIALS

To ensure that all students achieve academic proficiency, instruction in the BPS is organized around **Seven Essentials for Whole School Improvement**:

1. Use effective and culturally relevant instructional practices and create a collaborative school climate that improves student learning, promotes student engagement, and builds on prior knowledge and experiences
2. Examine student work and data to drive instruction and professional development
3. Invest in professional development to improve instruction
4. Share leadership to sustain instructional improvement
5. Focus resources to support instructional improvement and improved student learning
6. Partner with families and the community to support student learning.
7. Maintain high levels of effectiveness, efficiency, and equity in our operations

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SPECIAL EDUCATION

About 11,140 students with disabilities (20% of total) are enrolled in special education programs, including:

- 5,290 students with mild to moderate disabilities
- 5,050 students with more severe disabilities who attend special BPS schools and programs
- 410 students with severe disabilities who attend private day and residential schools
- 380 students ages 3–4 in Early Childhood programs

In addition, about 310 students enrolled in non-BPS schools receive some special education services in BPS schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

For 24,140 BPS students, English is not their home language. Of these:

- 10,040 are English-language proficient
- 3,090 are Former Limited English Proficient (FLEP)
- 11,010 are Limited English Proficient (LEP) or English Language Learners (ELL)

All ELL students receive English language support from highly qualified teachers of English. Approximate ELL enrollment by program, grades K–12, is:

- 5,250 Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) programs
- 430 Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs
- 460 Two-way programs: Students whose first language is Spanish and whose first language is English learn together in both languages
- 4,870 Non-SEI: student's family has opted out of all BPS ELL programs

The five most common home languages of ELL students are:

Spanish	6,150
Chinese.....	890
Cape Verdean creole.....	820
Haitian creole.....	820
Vietnamese.....	670

BPS English language learners come from more than 40 different countries.

CLASS SIZE

Under the contract (9/1/06–8/31/10) between the BPS and the Boston Teachers Union, the maximum numbers of students per teacher in regular education classes are:

K1–Gr. 2	Gr. 3–5	Gr. 6–8	Gr. 9–12
22	25	28	31

Many classes are smaller than this. As reported by the Mass. Dept. of Education, the BPS's FY08 ratio of all students to all teachers was 12.8 to 1. The Mass. ratio was 13.6 to 1.

HISTORY: FIRST IN AMERICA

- Boston Latin School: first school, 1635
- Mather: first elementary school, 1639
- BPS: first public school system, 1647
- English High: first public high school, 1821
- Horace Mann School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing: first public day school for the deaf, 1869

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & OUTCOMES

Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System

(MCAS). On the 2008 statewide tests, the % of students who "passed" (performed at *Needs Improvement*, *Proficient* and *Advanced* levels) and % change from 2007 were:

Grade	Test	BPS % Change	State % Change
3	Read	74% – 4%	87% – 4%
3	Math	68% + 1%	86% + 2%
4	ELA	73% – 2%	87% – 3%
4	Math	77% + 4%	87% 0%
5	ELA	80% 0%	91% 0%
5	Math	67% 0%	82% 0%
5	Science	63% – 6%	88% 0%
6	ELA	80% – 1%	91% – 1%
6	Math	61% + 1%	82% + 2%
7	ELA	82% 0%	92% 0%
7	Math	56% 0%	76% 0%
8	ELA	85% 0%	93% 0%
8	Math	60% + 2%	76% + 1%
8	Science	48% + 2%	78% + 1%
10	ELA	91% + 4%	96% + 1%
10	Math	84% + 2%	91% 0%

MCAS Competency Determination (CD). As of February 2008, 83% of the BPS Class of 2008 and 76% of the Class of 2009 had passed MCAS in English language arts (ELA) and math.

SAT Results. Average scores on the SAT Reasoning test for the Class of 2008 were:

	BPS	Mass.	US
Critical reading	438	507	497
Mathematics	457	520	510
Writing	436	505	488

Dropout Rates, Grades 9–12:

% of students who dropped out in one year:

SY05: 8.4% SY06: 9.4% SY07: 7.9%

% starting grade 9 who dropped out over next 5 years:

2000/04: 21.6% 2001/05: 24.2% 2002/06: 23.7%

Class of 2006 & 2007 4–year graduation rate:

Outcome	2006 ▲	2007 ■
Graduated in 4 years	59.1%	57.9%
Still in school	16.8%	18.5%
Dropped out	20.3%	19.5%
GED	1.8%	2.2%
Non-graduate completers	1.5%	1.6%
Expelled	.6%	.3%

▲ N = 4,759. Students who entered grade 9 in fall of 2002 + transfers in – transfers out and deaths.

■ N = 4,940. Students who entered grade 9 in fall of 2003 + transfers in – transfers out and deaths.

After high school. Nine months after graduation, 75% of the **Class of 2006**, or a family member, responded to a survey for the Boston Private Industry Council on education and employment. They reported:

- 37.2% are in school and not working
- 36.4% are in school and working
- 17.3% are working only
- .6% are in the military
- 6.0% are jobless but looking for work
- 2.5% are 'none of the above'

SCHOOL CHOICE

Elementary and middle schools are organized in three geographic zones. Students can apply to schools in their zone of residence and to schools outside their zone of residence that are in their "walk zone." School assignments are based on choice, certain priorities, and availability of seats. All high schools are citywide. Fifty percent of a school's seats are set aside for applicants with "walk zone" priority. Remaining seats are open to all applicants.

In 1999, the BPS eliminated race-based assignments, a policy that had been in place since 1974.

BUDGET, SALARIES & PER PUPIL COSTS

FY09 General Fund: \$832,036,229 ★

Program	Budget	% of total
Instruction	\$477,685,740	57.4%
Regular education	\$269,302,383	32.4%
Career & tech. ed.	\$5,076,013	0.6%
Special education	\$166,707,891	20.0%
English lang. learning	\$35,929,804	4.3%
Adult ed.	\$393,450	0.1%
Summer session	\$276,199	0.0%
Support Services	\$354,350,489	42.6%
Student/school support services	\$58,824,088	7.1%
Safety	\$4,409,766	0.5%
Physical plant	\$71,614,767	8.6%
Transportation	\$76,777,661	9.2%
General admin.	\$26,131,167	3.1%
Employee benefits	\$116,593,040	14.0%

★ As of October 1, 2008.

FY08 Per Pupil Expenditure (% change from FY07):

Regular ed.	ELL ed.	Mod sped (.3)	Sub sep sped (.4)	Private sped (.5)
\$11,090 (+6%)	\$13,051 (+11%)	\$17,010 (+3%)	\$26,212 (+1%)	\$59,533 (+4%)

The average FY08 per pupil expenditure was about \$13,849 (+6%).

FY09 External Funds (est.): \$121,472,792

Includes **formula** grants (e.g. No Child Left Behind), **reimbursement** grants (National School Lunch, Impact Aid), and **competitive** grants (e.g. National Science Foundation).

FY09 Average Salaries:

Central administrators	\$129,697
Principals & headmasters▲: 0–500	\$105,000
501–800.....	\$110,000
801–1,200....	\$115,000
1,200+.....	\$120,000
Instructional coaches.....	\$88,949
Nurses	\$80,903
Teachers (regular education)◆	\$76,751
Secretaries/clerical staff.....	\$49,761
Custodians.....	\$43,965
Substitute teachers, <i>per diem</i> ▶	\$120–\$241

▲ Base salary, Step 1, based on school enrollment.

◆ Range: \$44,498–\$89,029 (9/1/08–1/31/09)

▶ Superintendent's Schools: \$138–\$278