



# Pathways to Excellence

**High-quality schools,  
stronger communities, and  
academic success for all students**

Presentation to  
**Families, staff and the community**  
October 2008

**Dr. Carol R. Johnson**  
Superintendent

# Pathways to Excellence

Recap: Intersection and alignment of two key areas

## ACADEMICS



High-quality programs providing educational excellence to all

## OPERATIONS



Responsible management of fiscal and capital resources

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Recap: Guiding principles and priorities

- Expand **excellence**
- Increase **access**
- Ensure **equity**

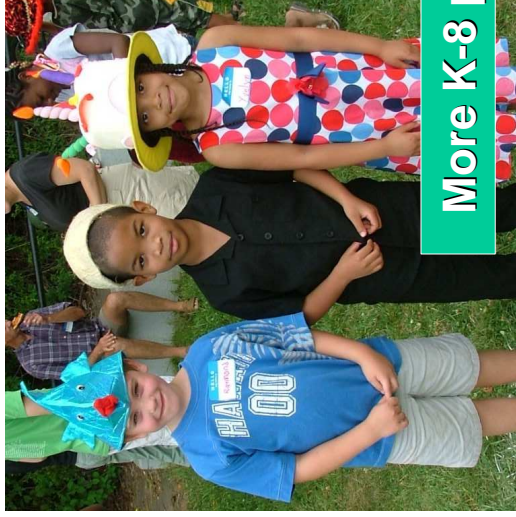


The new Jeremiah E. Burke High School, Dorchester

for **ALL** Boston Public Schools students and families.

# Pathways to Excellence

Recap: Stronger schools for families and the community



More K-8 programs



Graduation for all



More pilot schools



Innovation and enrichment

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## Recap: Driving factors



Why undertake this process?

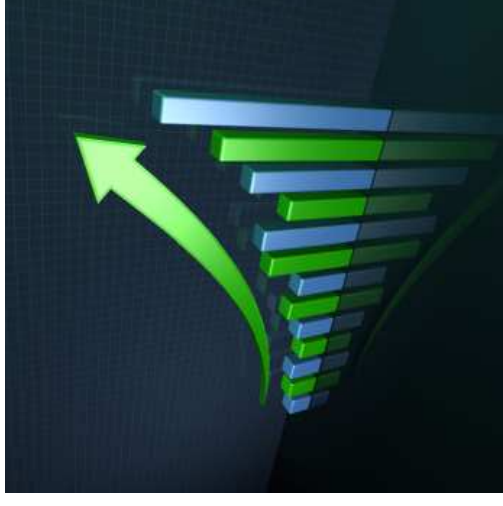
- to meet the needs of families
- to carry out the academic agenda
- to respond to enrollment pressures
- to address economic realities

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Recap: Proposals tied to academic priorities

## System-wide academic goals

- Reading by the end of Grade 1
- Reading to learn in Grade 3
- Skillful, analytical writing in Grade 7
- Algebra 1 in Grade 8
- “On-track” to graduate by the end of Grade 10
- SAT I scores 1650+ and Excellence for All
- ELLs acquire academic language mastery and fluency
- College-ready and success-bound



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Data analysis: Measuring the viability of programs and facilities

## Overarching consideration:

Equitable distribution and access

### Academic Performance

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) status

MCAS scores: performance and improvement

### Operational Factors

Choice data

Utilization rates (under- or over-enrolled)

Efficiency: operational costs per pupil

### Building Conditions

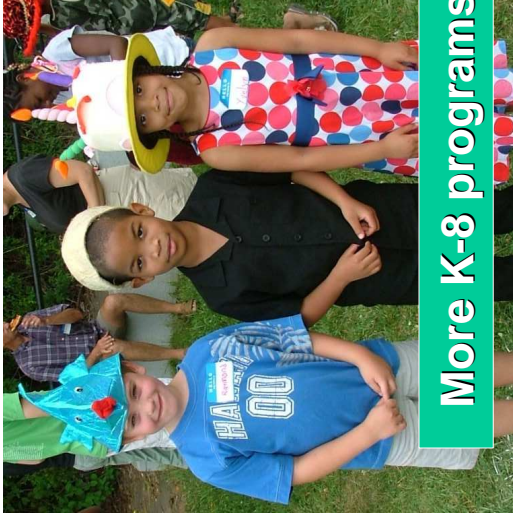
Facility Condition Index (FCI)

Utility costs (per square foot)

Anticipated maintenance and repair costs

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**Proposals:** What does the plan offer families?



## New K-8 schools

- 1995: Three K-8 programs citywide
- Today: 21 programs serving 9,700 students
- Proposed: 8 new K-8s, 1 expanded K-8
- **6,000 more students in K-8 programs**
- **60% increase**

## Specifics:

- Beethoven / Ohrenberger K-8
- Boston Teachers Union Pilot K-8
- Edison K-8 (with Garfield & Hamilton)
- Ellison-Parks / Mildred Ave. K-8
- Grew / Rogers K-8
- Holmes K-8
- King K-8 (with Dickerman)
- Lewis K-8 (with Higginson)

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**Proposals:** What does the plan offer families?



More pilot schools

## More pilot school seats

- Today: 21 pilots serving 7,300 students
- Proposed: 2 new pilots, 4 pilot expansions
- **1,900 more students in pilot schools, K-12**
- **25% increase**

## Specifics:

- Boston Teachers Union Pilot K-8
- Harbor expansion (9-12)
- Lyon expansion (9-12)
- TechBoston Academy expansion (6-12)
- Timilty Early College (6-12)
- Young Achievers expansion

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**Proposals:** What does the plan offer families?



Graduation for all

## Ensuring “graduation for all”

- Need to eliminate the dropout rate
- Safety net and intervention services
- Rigorous, personalized high schools
- More emphasis on Advanced Placement

## Specifics:

- New single-gender schools: Young Men’s Academy, Young Women’s Academy
- Transition / Truancy Center
- Newcomers Academy
- O’Bryant renovation
- Consolidation: Dorchester Ed. Complex
- Consolidation: South Boston Ed. Complex
- English HS: environmental science, TeachBoston, citywide marching band

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Proposals: What does the plan offer families?



Innovation and enrichment

## Innovation and enrichment

- New approaches to quality education
- More opportunities in arts and music
- Investment in science labs
- Support for English Language Learners

## Specifics:

- International Baccalaureate
- Montessori schools
- Two-way bilingual school

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## Transportation: potential policy changes

Estimated reduction in transportation costs through **school consolidation** plan: **\$953K** next year, **\$4.7m** over five years

### Also to be considered:

- Increasing the percentage of seats reserved for students who live within the walk zone – from **50% to 60%** -- on all new assignments, giving more families access to schools near their home
- Examining the location of **special education and ELL programs** throughout the city to place programs closer to the students who need them, reducing the need for longer bus rides (Current cost of cross-zone ELL and special ed. transportation: **\$2.8 million**)
- Modifying policies that allow some students to receive both “walk zone priority” for student assignment and yellow bus transportation, based on the distance between home and school (Current cost of transporting students who also receive walk zone priority: **\$2.85 million**)



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## Timeline: community engagement process

<b>October 1</b>	Meeting of all <b>Principals / Headmasters</b> Meeting with <b>Boston Teachers Union</b> Proposals presented to <b>School Committee</b> and the <b>community</b> and posted on <b>website</b>
<b>October 6 – 24</b>	Meetings at <b>individual schools</b> proposed for expansion, reprogramming, relocation or closing
<b>October 7</b>	Community meeting: <b>North Zone</b> (Orchard Gardens)
<b>October 14</b>	Community meeting: <b>East Zone</b> (Mildred Avenue)
<b>October 15</b>	<b>School Committee</b> meeting
<b>October 16</b>	Community meeting: <b>West Zone</b> (English High)
<b>October 29</b>	<b>School Committee</b> meeting (recommendation)
<b>November 5</b>	<b>School Committee</b> meeting (vote)
<b>December 13</b>	Citywide <b>Showcase of Schools</b>

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

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**Feedback:** comments, questions, suggestions

**E-mail:** [feedback@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:feedback@bostonpublicschools.org)

**Letters:** Pathways to Excellence  
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Boston, MA 02108

Or speak to the **principal** of your child's school.

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