

# Pathways to Excellence

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

Update to the  
**Boston School Committee**  
October 1, 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

## Pathways to Excellence

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

## Pathways to Excellence

### 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

## Pathways to Excellence

### Recap: Proposals tied to academic priorities

#### **System-wide goals, with yearly targets 2008-2012**

- 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:** major themes and highlights

#### New K-8 schools

- Three K-8 programs in 1995, 21 today
- Under this plan: 8 new K-8s, 1 expanded K-8
- 6,000 more students served in K-8 programs (60% increase)

#### Pilot school expansion

- Two new pilot schools, four pilot school expansions
- Nearly 2,000 new pilot school seats (25% increase)

#### “Graduation for All”

- Prevention and intervention for students at greatest drop-out risk
- New single-gender leadership academies for young men and women

#### Innovation and enrichment

- International Baccalaureate
- Two-way bilingual
- Public Montessori 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**)

## Pathways to Excellence

### Timeline: community engagement process

<b>October 1</b>	Meeting of all <b>Principals / Headmasters</b> Meeting with <b>Boston Teachers Union</b> Preliminary proposal 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 (vote)
<b>November 3</b>	Beginning of <b>school choice</b> season

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