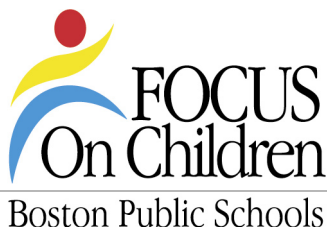


A Guide for Students and Families

# 2007–2008 Superintendent's Schools



A new network of Boston Public Schools  
dedicated to innovation and high achievement  
among all students





# Contents

Overview ..... 3

Schools in the network

    Louis Agassiz Elementary School ..... 5

    Curley K–8 School ..... 6

    The English High School ★ ..... 7

    Elihu Greenwood Elementary School ..... 8

    Solomon Lewenberg Middle School ..... 9

    John Marshall Elementary School ..... 10

    Michael J. Perkins Elementary School..... 11

    William E. Russell Elementary School ..... 12

    William Monroe Trotter Elementary School ..... 13

    John Winthrop Elementary School ..... 14

For more information ..... 15

★ *Commonwealth Pilot School*



*John Marshall Elementary School*



## Overview

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The contract ratified in March 2007 between the Boston Public Schools and the Boston Teachers Union includes an innovative approach to transforming schools in need of improvement. The contract allows for the designation of up to 20 **Superintendent’s Schools** over the next three years — ten in the first year and five in each of the subsequent years.

In order to accelerate student achievement to meet the improvement goals established by the federal No Child Left Behind law, these schools have been granted autonomy from many union and district regulations. In other words, the school communities have greater freedom to design and execute **ambitious school improvement plans** tailored to the particular needs of their students and families.

Designation as a Superintendent’s School comes with approximately **\$1.2 million per school in additional resources and support**. Special features of Superintendent’s Schools include the following:

- ▶ Superintendent’s Schools offer **smaller class size** to provide students with more personalized attention through a lower student-to-teacher ratio. The maximum number of students in each classroom is reduced by two in these schools.
- ▶ Parents and other family members are key to the success of every student. Therefore, every Superintendent’s School has a **full-time Family and Community Outreach Coordinator (FCOC)** to build strong connections between home and school. The FCOC works closely with school staff to ensure that families support their students in achieving academic excellence through workshops, phone calls, parent council meetings, and other activities.
- ▶ The goal of every Superintendent’s School is to provide **outstanding classroom instruction** so that every child achieves or exceeds academic proficiency. The principals of these schools are empowered to hire the most qualified teachers. To help attract and

retain the best teachers in the district, Superintendent's Schools may offer salary incentives, as well as performance incentives for gains in student achievement.

- ▶ All teaching staff in these schools participate in at least 20 additional hours of **professional development**. The principals all are participating in a new intensive training program through the National Institute for School Leadership. Every Superintendent's School has a full-time literacy coach and a full-time math coach on staff to provide support to new and veteran teachers in their classrooms.
- ▶ To provide students with additional instruction and support, Superintendent's Schools have an **extended school day** of one additional hour. That means that over the course of a school year, students in these schools will receive nearly 180 additional hours of instruction — the equivalent of six extra weeks of school time. The additional hour in the school day is used for more learning time in English, mathematics, science, the arts, or other subject areas identified in the school reform plan. Beginning in September 2007, some of the schools will start an hour earlier, while others will dismiss an hour later. (See the school profiles in this booklet for each school's new hours.)
- ▶ Each Superintendent's School also will receive a \$50,000 allocation for **additional student support services**, such as "safety net" and intervention programs to help meet students' non-academic needs.
- ▶ All of the Superintendent's Schools participate in the **Step UP** initiative, which partners each school with one of the five largest universities in Boston for additional resources and ongoing support.
- ▶ The Superintendent and other district officials will closely **monitor and evaluate** these schools to measure the impact of the investment and ensure student achievement is improving at an accelerated pace.

The Superintendent established this initiative in order to ensure that this network of schools receives the additional freedom, resources, and support needed to take bold new approaches to school transformation.

## Louis Agassiz Elementary School

20 Child Street ■ Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 ■ 617-635-8198

Alfredo Nuñez, Principal

Grades: K2 – Grade 5

Enrollment: 580 students

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- A positive, joyous learning environment, with colorful walls, open spaces, many displays of student work, and enthusiastic support from the whole staff
- Before and after school programs
- An environmental science program with City Year
- ALERTA enrichment program for Latino students
- Specialists for music, theater, and character education
- One of 12 BPS schools participating in the Reading First initiative, a federal program that aims to have students reading on grade level by grade 3
- Parent involvement on the School Parent Council, as classroom/office volunteers, and in workshops on math and literacy
- Regular communication with families through newsletters, flyers, progress reports, award certificates, telephone calls, Open Houses, and Orientation Nights, and surveys to monitor progress and discover needs
- School partners: Agassiz Community Center, Arnold Arboretum, Brookside Health Clinic, City Year, Hellenic College, and South Jamaica Plain Health Center



## Curley K–8 School

493 Centre Street ▪ Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Lower School: 617-635-8239 ▪ Upper School: 617-635-8176

Mirna Vega-Wilson and Michelle Madera-Cepeda, Co-Principals

Grades: K1 – Grade 8

Enrollment: 790 students

Hours: 8:35 a.m. – 3:35 p.m.

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*The James M. Curley Elementary School and Mary Curley Middle School will merge and become the Curley K–8 School in September 2007.*

- Advanced Work Class for eligible students in grades 4–6
- America’s Choice in grades 6–8, with a writer’s and reader’s approach to literacy instruction
- Literacy collaborative in the elementary grades with Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop and word study approach to literacy instruction
- After-school programs: YMCA for K1–grade 5 and Hyde Square Task Force for grades 6–8
- After school tutoring provided by the Hyde Square Task Force and Supplemental Education Services (SES) Tutoring
- Sheltered English Instruction for English language learners
- Dance, theater arts, visual arts, computer labs
- Sports teams: basketball, track, and soccer
- School partners: Northeastern University, Lesley University, Family Service Center of Greater Boston, Harbor Island Outdoor Education, Hyde Square Task Force, Rally Program, Tenacity, Wheelock College, Boston Nature Center, and SCCAT counseling

## The English High School

144 McBride Street ■ Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 ■ 617-635-8979

Jose Duarte, Headmaster

Grades: 9 – 12

Enrollment: 800 students

Hours: 7:45 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

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*The English High School is one of four new Commonwealth Pilot Schools in Massachusetts but is included in the Superintendent's Schools network to receive additional resources and support.*

- The first public high school in the United States, founded in 1821
- Organized into two small learning communities, in which students receive personal attention from caring adults in small advisory groups
- A rigorous, well-supported college preparatory curriculum
- A variety of intervention programs (including Read 180, Ramp Up, and Ramp Up Algebra) to accelerate student progress and ready all students for Advanced Placement Language and Literature in senior year
- The AVID Program (Advancement Via Individual Determination), designed to give students the skills and support they need for academic success in high school and college
- Extended instructional time to expose students to a variety of interesting and challenging electives (including Television and Radio Production)
- Extensive extracurricular programs, including an award-winning student magazine, dramatic productions, sports, and many other clubs
- Comprehensive English Language Learner (ELL) program that includes literacy courses in Spanish
- On-site health center that addresses the medical and emotional needs of our students, and offers parent seminars
- Student Support Team that provides academic and counseling assistance
- Peer mediation and conflict resolution program
- School partners: Boston University, Ai New England, Boston College, Brookside Community Health Center, Harvard Graduate School of Education, John Hancock, National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Simmons College, Suffolk University, State Street Bank, and the Boston Private Industry Council

## Elihu Greenwood Elementary School

612 Metropolitan Ave. ■ Hyde Park, MA 02136 ■ 617-635-8665

Ida Weldon, Principal

**Grades:** K2 – Grade 5  
**Enrollment:** 360 students  
**Hours:** 9:20 a.m. – 4:20 p.m.

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- Safe school in a quiet, residential neighborhood
  - Math and science specialists
  - Art program for all students
  - School based before and after school programs operated by the Hyde Park YMCA, and an after school tutorial program at the Hyde Park Municipal Building
  - Full-time nurse, on-site counselors and a private psychologist
  - Reading Recovery, an effective, short-term intervention for struggling first grade readers
  - Many third, fourth and fifth grade students invited to Advanced Work Class each year
  - Active Parent Council under the leadership of the Family & Community Outreach Coordinator
  - Family activities such as book fair and Healthy Kids/International Fair
  - An active Parent Volunteer Program through which parents help in classrooms, the office, and the playground
  - Three field trips per year for students in K2 through grade 5
  - Full computer lab that is used to provide additional support to students in reading, writing, and math
  - A full physical education program with competitive sports
  - School partners: Hyde Park YMCA, Hyde Park Community Center, Hyde Park Community Development Association, Hyde Park Art Initiative, Boston Public Library Hyde Park Branch, Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD), Home for Little Wanderers
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## Solomon Lewenberg Middle School

20 Outlook Road ■ Mattapan, MA 02126 ■ 617-635-8623

Myrtleene Mayfield, Principal

Grades: 6 – 8

Enrollment: 390 students

Hours: 7:20 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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- A school where all children and adults receive respect, feel safe, and strive for excellence in teaching and learning
  - Our goal: improve student proficiency in mathematics, literacy, science, and social studies as well as in computers, Spanish, health education, and gym
  - A committed, award-winning staff, including seven Golden Apple Award winners and three National Reader's Digest Award winners
  - Weekly meetings of teachers and coaches to discuss and plan instructional strategies needed for students to succeed
  - Project Adventure RESPECT program
  - Academic, enrichment, cultural, and athletic activities after school, on Saturdays, and in the summer
  - Field trips and activities, including an "outdoor classroom" trip to the mountains in New Hampshire for 6th graders
  - Citywide champions in track and double-dutch, and additional athletic programs, including basketball
  - A safe school in a quiet, residential neighborhood
  - School partners: Big Sister Association, Boston Learning Center, Center for Health and Development, Inc., Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, Families First, Home for Little Wanderers, Northeastern University, Operation Hope, Project Adventure, Inc., and SCCAT counselors

## John Marshall Elementary School

35 Westville Street ▪ Dorchester, MA 02124 ▪ 617-635-8810

Teresa Harvey-Jackson, Principal

**Grades:** K1 – Grade 5  
**Enrollment:** 690 students  
**Hours:** 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

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- Large school divided into “Families” (spanning kindergarten through grade 5) to create a smaller learning environment for all children. Each “Family” houses K through grade 5. Children from the same household are assigned to the same school “Family” to ensure that all children are well known and supported
  - Provides staff with targeted professional development to ensure that children receive high-quality instruction every day
  - After school care, as well as several enrichment programs including Alerta, New England SCORES soccer and writing program, and a collaboration with Walnut Hill School for the Arts
  - Student point of view infused in school community through Student Council (grades 3–5) and students serving as Principal for the Day (grades 4–5)
  - Family events including a Back-to School Barbeque for families and staff, Family Dance, Curriculum Night, MCAS Night, reading and math parent workshops, Technology Goes Home, etc.
  - Full-time Family & Community Outreach Coordinator and a Manager of Extended Learning Services who work to connect families with resources that will strengthen and support them
  - Therapeutic services, behavior specialist, Student Support Coordinator, and social worker on staff
  - New computer lab where students and families develop skills in technology
  - Offers art, science, computers, swimming, physical education, and music to all children during the regular school day
  - Both Children’s and Faculty Chorus perform several times a year
  - School partners: Children’s Hospital, Friends of the Children, Generations, Inc., New England SCORES, ReadBoston, UMass Boston – Alerta, and Walnut Hill School for the Arts
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## Michael J. Perkins Elementary School

50 Burke Street ■ South Boston, MA 02127 ■ 617-635-8601

Barney J. Brawer, Principal

Grades: K2 – Grade 5

Enrollment: 220 students

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- 
- A small school that sees each child as a thinker, reader, writer, mathematician, artist, and scientist
  - A rich, carefully-planned, and diverse curriculum designed to bring out the best in every young person and teach the higher order thinking skills
  - Regular communication between parents and teachers about the curriculum and other home-school issues
  - The “Everyone Does Math! Program” that encourages families to practice MCAS questions with their children
  - A literacy program that teaches students the phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills they need to be successful readers and writers
  - Resource Room and Title 1 programs for children who need extra help to meet high standards of achievement
  - Math program that teaches children to understand essential math concepts, to solve challenging math problems, and to be confident in their math skills
  - Hands-on science, computer education, visual arts, and music for all grades
  - School partners: ReadBoston, Biomedical Modeling Inc., Chobee Hoy Associates Real Estate, Inc., Grand Circle Foundation, Putnam Investments, South Boston Neighborhood House, The Gillette Company / Procter and Gamble, The Jerome and Linda Paros Family, The Mollusca Foundation, and Wediko Children’s Services

## William E. Russell Elementary School

750 Columbia Road ▪ Dorchester, MA 02125 ▪ 617-635-8803

Norman Townsend, Principal

Grades: K1 – Grade 5  
Enrollment: 360 students  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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- Guiding principles: respect, achievement, and pride
  - Literacy support programs: Reading Recovery and Read 180
  - Math Games Nights to involve parents with the Investigations math curriculum
  - Russell Scholars after school academic remediation program for grades 3–5
  - Full-time instructors in science, computer, art, and physical education
  - Music programs taught by performing artists from Community Music Center of Boston
  - Chorus, recorder, and violin ensembles in grades 4–5
  - EarthWorks science and environmental program in grades 2–3
  - Up-to-date computer lab and Internet connections in all classrooms
  - Library program that includes use of computer mini-lab
  - “Just Right” library with books for K–grade 2 which parents can borrow
  - Reading tutoring and mentoring programs provided by Generations Inc., and Foothill Capital
  - Open Circle Program, where students and teachers discuss positive ways of problem solving
  - Strong commitment to parent involvement
  - Award-winning double dutch team
  - New outdoor learning center and schoolyard with a planting area, basketball, volleyball and two play structures
  - Other school partners: Boston Partners in Education, Edgerly Foundation, and Emmanuel and Wheelock Colleges
-

## William Monroe Trotter Elementary School

135 Humboldt Avenue ■ Dorchester, MA 02121 ■ 617-635-8225

Corrinna Horton, Principal

Grades: K2 – Grade 5  
Enrollment: 430 students  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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- A Reading First school, with intervention for struggling readers in the early grades
  - Science and math curriculum enhanced by specialists who provide students with a hands-on, fun approach to learning
  - Project ASPIRE, Open Circle, and Safe and Healthy Schools Initiatives to build community and trust and improve school climate
  - Volunteers and foster grandparents who serve as mentors, tutors, and teacher assistants
  - Outdoor classroom for science, math, and writing activities
  - Technology Goes Home @ School: parents and their children take computer classes together and may buy a computer with a no-interest loan
  - TechBoston Engineering for grades 1–3, and First Robotics for grades 4–5
  - New England SCORES soccer and writing program
  - After school program with BELL Foundation
  - Parent/Family Outreach Center which hosts a Dad’s Club, monthly coffee hours, and workshops
  - Math classes for parents
  - Communication between families and the school through monthly newsletters, e-mails, Connect-Ed phone calls, letters, and flyers
  - Additional school partners: SCCAT counseling and Wediko

## John Winthrop Elementary School

35 Brookford Street ■ Dorchester, MA 02125 ■ 617-635-8379

Emily Shamieh, Principal

Grades: K1 – Grade 5  
Enrollment: 300 students  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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- Before and after school homework help
- After school enrichment clubs, including martial arts, drumming, basketball, and competitive double dutch
- Musical instrument lessons for grades 4–5
- Named an Exemplary School by the National African-American Parent Involvement, 2002
- A \$350,000 grant to support after school and vacation programming, including tutoring, homework help, and child care
- Active, committed School Parent Council
- Many activities to engage parents, including Curriculum Nights, weekend family field trips, classroom and school-wide newsletters, take-home math games, and take-home videos of lessons



- Library with a large collection of books and magazines
  - A part-time counselor who works with individuals and small groups of students
  - School partners: Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, Emmanuel College, Foundation for Children's Books, Simmons College, Sisters Working in Real-Life Situations, Strong Women/Strong Girls, Wheelock College, and YMCA Central Branch
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## For more information

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To learn more about the Superintendent’s Schools initiative, please contact:

**Dr. Janie Ortega**  
Assistant Superintendent  
☎ 617-635-6662  
☎ 617-212-4577  
jortega@boston.k12.ma.us

To learn more about a particular Superintendent’s School, please contact the appropriate **principal or headmaster** listed on each school profile page in this booklet, or visit **[www.bostonpublicschools.org](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org)**.

To learn more about the **school registration process**, please visit [www.bostonpublicschools.org/register](http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/register) or contact any Family Resource Center (FRC):

**East Zone FRC**  
Campbell Resource Center  
1216 Dorchester Ave., Dorchester  
☎ 617-635-8015

**North Zone FRC**  
Madison Park Complex  
55 Malcolm X Blvd., Roxbury  
☎ 617-635-9010

**West Zone FRC**  
Barron Building  
515 Hyde Park Ave., Roslindale  
☎ 617-635-8040

# Boston Public Schools

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Superintendent's Schools

**Joseph Shea**  
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## 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.

*The Boston Public Schools does not discriminate in its programs, activities, facilities, employment, or educational opportunities on the basis of race, color, age, disability, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.*

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Thomas Brown, and Chris Horan*



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