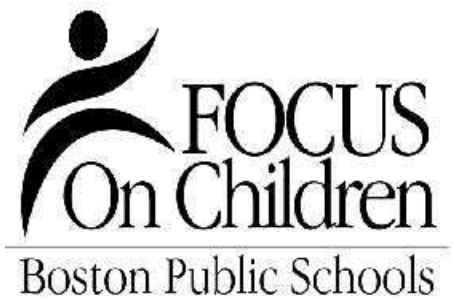


# BACK-TO-SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS 2009



## Start dates for students

- Thursday, September 10 – Grades 1-12
- Monday, September 14 – Kindergarten

## Summer accomplishments: Academic support / enrichment programs

For the first time, BPS held summer academic programs for K1 and K2 students, while the Summer Transition Program was extended to students in Grades 4 and 5, serving more than 4,000 students.

Summer Review Program for high school students served almost 900 students, with most earning credit for one or two academic courses. Additional students just a few credits short of graduation participated in online Credit Recovery programs.

Two hundred BPS high school students graduated this summer as a result of making-up coursework through Credit Recovery and other summer programs. Mayor Thomas M. Menino, the Boston School Committee and Superintendent Carol R. Johnson honored the students, representing 24 schools, at a special citywide graduation ceremony on August 27 at White Stadium. An additional 200 students were able to graduate in June with their class, thanks to Credit Recovery services offered at 10 sites and in partnership with community-based organizations.

## Welcoming Families / Supporting Parents

**Back-to-School Events:** BPS continues to welcome and engage families and students through two-dozen welcome events in the weeks leading up to the start of school, including the highly successful and popular **Countdown to Kindergarten** celebration at the Children's Museum (8/31) and the **Back-to-School Jamboree** (9/5).

**New Middle School Orientation:** This year for the first time BPS held a special orientation for new sixth grade students to help prepare them and their parents for the transition to middle school. Hundreds of families attended the **Middle O!** event, held in mid-August at Fenway Park, where they met the middle school principals, took advantage of health screenings, panel discussions and other resources designed to help them successfully make the transition from elementary to middle school.

**Parent University:** This October, BPS will launch Parent University, a learning experience specifically designed to help parents increase their understanding of how children learn and develop; what their child should be learning; how to help your child get what they need to succeed and how bring other parents together to work for school improvement. Parent University will also provide opportunities for parents to build their own leadership skills.

## Pathways to Excellence: Expanding high-quality options for families

### **New / expanded K-8 programs: 6,000 more seats**

- Edison – *Brighton*
- King – *Dorchester*
- Higginson / Lewis – *Roxbury*
- Mildred Ave. – *Mattapan*
- Beethoven / Ohrenberger – *West Roxbury*
- Grew / Rogers – *Hyde Park*

### **New / expanded pilot schools: 2,000 more seats**

- Boston Teachers Union – *Jamaica Plain*
- Haley – *Roslindale*
- Lyon (9-12) – *Brighton*
- TechBoston Academy – *Dorchester*
- Young Achievers – *Mattapan*

### **New programs**

- Public Montessori at East Boston Early Education Center
- Dual language (Spanish/English) at the Dever Elementary – *Dorchester*

- Dorchester Academy – a new merged high school to prepare students for college and careers in public service, business and law
- Discovery Schools: Two BPS schools – the Hernández in Roxbury and the Rogers in Hyde Park – will open as the district’s first “Discovery Schools.” Discovery Schools are similar to pilot schools in that they have flexibility and autonomy from some district policies and regulations, but, unlike pilot schools, are designed to adhere to the contractual language in the collective bargaining agreement.

**New initiatives / strategic investments**

**Investing in Literacy** – Using funds from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act, BPS has purchased a new elementary literacy program, *Reading Street* from Pearson, for students in kindergarten through grade 5. Reading street is designed to support students at all levels – including students who are on-level, struggling and at-risk learners, proficient and advanced readers, students with disabilities, and English language learners.

**English Language Learners** – For SY 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 BPS will invest \$4.2 million per year to address the ELL access gap Funds will be used for materials, formative assessments, school-based translation services, ESL Specialists and ESL Teachers, professional development. BPS has also this year expanded Newcomers Academy, for ELL students entering BPS in high school, and Boston International High School.

**Re-Engagement Center** – Opening in September 2009, the BPS Re-Engagement Center will help students who have dropped out of school return to complete their education.

**Improving Operational Leadership** – This year BPS will hold a new Management Institute to strengthen skills among mid-level managers.

**Health and Wellness: “Living Well, Learning Well”**

Expansion of **Chef in Schools** program to five new sites (total of 8 sites, 3,100 students served)

- Edison K–8 School – *Brighton*
- Higginson / Lewis K–8 School – *Roxbury*
- TechBoston Academy - *Dorchester*
- Boston Arts Academy/Fenway High School - *Fenway*

**Boston Scholar Athlete Program:** In August Mayor Thomas M. Menino and John Fish, CEO of Suffolk Construction, announced the creation of the Scholar Athlete Program. The Boston Scholar Athlete Program, a public-private partnership will bring together the significant resources of the city to help all BPS students excel on the field, in the classroom and after graduation. The program will be designed to foster growth in five key areas: mentorship, training, coaching, conditioning, and successful interaction.

**Influenza prevention, training, awareness:** The Boston Public Schools, along with colleagues at the Boston Public Health Commission, have been and continue to work closely to develop a plan to deal with any possible outbreak of flu within our schools. BPS continues to encourage students/staff to sneeze and cough into their sleeve (rather than their hands) and to wash hands frequently. The district will send letters home to families to remind them of prevention methods they can take to avoid catching and spreading influenza. Additional materials, including hand sanitizer for school buildings and surgical masks for school nurses are being sent to schools.

**Boston Schoolyard Initiative:** Three new schoolyards and five new outdoor classrooms will open this fall.

New Schoolyards:  
 Bradley – *East Boston*  
 Curley – *Jamaica Plain*  
 Lyndon – *West Roxbury*

Outdoor Classrooms:  
 Conley – *Roslindale*  
 Everett – *Dorchester*  
 Mason – *Roxbury*  
 Otis – *East Boston*  
 Winship – *Brighton*