



22+ AGE MAXIMUM UPDATE

*Cindie Neilson, Assistant Superintendent,
Office of Special Education*

*Priya Tahiliani, Assistant Superintendent,
Office of English Learners*

Tommy Welch, Academic Superintendent

Presentation to Boston School Committee
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BPS Enrollment Policy

- School Committee policy approval in 1999 established a maximum student age of 22
- The policy is aligned with state and federal laws that govern the rendering of services to students with disabilities
- Historically the maximum age policy was not uniformly implemented across the district
- In SY 17-18 BPS identified students exceeding the age of 22 without being appropriately served
- This led to an audit of placements, including Special Education and Alternative Education, which led to the district's commitment to more consistent enforcement of the age policy beginning in SY17-18

Review of Prior School Committee Discussion (1/16/19):

- The BPS team presented the current challenges facing the population of students turning 22 years old this semester
- The impact of the maximum age policy on a current school was shared through the context of BATA
- We examined the program placement categories of the 97 students who are turning 22 years old this semester, across multiple schools/programs
- Two potential paths forward for addressing the maximum age policy were presented:
 - 1) Allowing all students turning 22 to finish their final school year
 - 2) Creating an adult school hybrid program at BATA

Number of Students Turning 22 by School Type

Enrollment Type	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Out-of-District Special Ed	35	37	33	20	28	26
BPS School*	328	311	332	355	300	217
<i>BPS Diploma Bound</i>	<i>251</i>	<i>254</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>BPS Non-Diploma Bound</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>57</i>
Re-Engagement Center	8	12	14	13	12	5
Total	371	360	379	388	340	248

Includes all students enrolled at any point during each school year if they turned 22 or were older than 22. School type is determined by last enrolled school of the student in each year.

**BPS School includes students enrolled at Horace Mann charter schools*

A Deeper Dive into Option 2: Creating an adult school hybrid at BATA

Draft Concept: Introduce a hybrid alternative education / adult education program, under the auspices of BATA and Boston Central Adult High School, allowing for dual rosters for BATA teachers to support 22 year old students to finish the semester or school year.

this proposal must be assessed for impact on multiple student subgroups:

- **at BATA - turning 22 years old**
- **at BATA - during intake & counseling**
- **in other BPS Alt Ed or General Ed HS programs**
- **in Special Education, who are in specialized strands and their IEP indicates that they are non-diploma bound based on their level of need**
- **in the SLIFE program, or who formerly participated in SLIFE**

Request for authorization to waive policy

- The BPS team requests temporary authority be conferred upon the superintendent to grant waivers to the maximum age policy, permitting students' requests through a review process to remain enrolled in their current schools through June 30th, or August 31st, 2019 (if participating in the summer session).
- Students wishing to continue at their school beyond age 22 must request a waiver through said review process to be facilitated by designated central office staff and the school leadership team.

Process & Criteria for Waiver

- This waiver option will be available to all students turning 22 years old in all schools/programs.
- Central office will coordinate with schools to facilitate the waiver process.
- Requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis to determine if the criteria to waive the maximum age policy has been met. Specifically, the review will determine:
 - whether a student is more likely than not to graduate by the conclusion of the academic year (or summer program immediately following the current academic year); and/or
 - specific educational objectives may be met by continuation at the school.

Request for authorization to waive policy (cont.)

- Temporarily permitting the superintendent to grant waivers of this policy when deemed to be in the best interests of an individual student based on the aforementioned criteria will provide additional time for BPS to carefully examine the impact to all subgroups of students, including non-diploma bound Special Education, SLIFE, and others enrolled in BPS alternative education and traditional high schools.
- BPS will designate a working group consisting of school leaders, teachers, and central office administrators to refine a proposal that will update the district's maximum age policy.
- BPS will present a proposal for a permanent solution by July 2019.

Equity Analysis

- A multidisciplinary team met to assess the waiver extension proposal for this school year regarding equity for our students of color, English learners, and Special Education students
- The key conclusion of this conversation is that this waiver expands opportunities for some of the district's highest needs students by:
 - Extending equal opportunities for students over age 22 across the district to access a waiver
 - Increasing the likelihood they will earn a diploma
 - Actively contacting eligible students to ensure that they understand their options

Appendix

Current Status of 21.5+ year old students in BPS

- The district currently has **97** students who are 21.5+ who are active at 16 schools across the district
 - **34** of the 21.5+ year olds have IEPs that outline the reasons a student is required to stay in K-12 through 21 and are not diploma bound
- Of the remaining **63** students, **7** are at BDEA (and are allowed to stay until they are 23 years old due to Horace Mann Charter status)
- Of the remaining **56** students, **29** are at BATA
 - **25** students will turn (or have turned) 22 years old from Jan 1st through June 30th, 2019
 - **8** students turned 22 in December and January (still in ASPEN as active students)

Outline of Waiver Review Process for SY18-19

- 1) BPS Office of Data and Accountability notifies the Headmaster and Academic/Operational Superintendents of any students turning 22 years old with a minimum of 8 weeks notice prior to their birthday. The district will issue notification letters to eligible students and families.
- 2) School leadership teams will reach out to eligible students to determine their interest in requesting a waiver.
- 3) If requested, a case review will be held by selected team members: the school's Academic Counselor, Headmaster, Academic/Operational Superintendent, a teacher, and/or a member of the BPS Welcome Services team.
 - a) Transcript review
 - b) Attendance review
 - c) MCAS review
 - d) Additional relevant information
- 4) If a waiver is approved, the student, parent/guardian, and headmaster will be notified in writing by the BPS Welcome Services team.
- 5) If a waiver is not approved, the student, parent/guardian, and headmaster will be notified in writing by the BPS Welcome Services team, with an explanation of the ramifications and alternative options to continue their education.

10 BPS Schools with the highest enrollment of students turning 22 or older

*Includes all students enrolled at any point during each school year if they turned 22 or were older than 22. School represents the last enrolled school of each student.
* BDEA's charter allows students to remain until age 23.*

School	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Boston Adult Tech Acad	160	145	118	129	130	71
Charlestown High	30	33	29	27	23	28
Boston Day/Evening Academy*	16	22	42	39	35	25
Greater Egleston High	16	26	29	41	16	6
East Boston High	21	12	15	13	12	8
Comm Acad Sci Health	9	2	14	13	6	12
English High	12	8	7	7	7	6
Boston Collaborative HS	0	0	10	11	13	15
Brighton High	10	10	8	10	5	3
Boston International	11	2	10	6	7	5