

MEMORANDUM

TO: School Committee

FROM: Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent

CC: Andrea Zayas, Chief Academic Officer
Monica Hogan, Senior Executive Director, Data and Accountability
Lindsa McIntyre, H.S. School Superintendent
Elia Bruggeman, H.S. School Superintendent
Mary Dillman, Chief of Staff
Megan Costello, Senior Advisor

DATE: March 24, 201

RE: CCLR School Committee Presentation

Tonight's presentation focuses on many areas that impact BPS effectiveness in ensuring our students are College, Career, and Life Ready (CCLR) when they leave BPS. We will start with a review of recent data around graduation and dropout rates for students attending BPS. As you can see, the data indicate that we have a lower percentage of students dropping out of school, while we see an increase in the rate of students graduating. These data are something to celebrate. However, the information on attendance, GPA, access to rigorous coursework, and anytime, anywhere learning indicates that only 43% of our recent graduates are prepared for life after graduation. When we break these data out by race, we see evidence of an expanding opportunity gap for our historically marginalized students.

One way to improve the CCLR for BPS students is to set the MassCore course of study as the BPS graduation requirement. By setting MassCore as the bar for graduation, we will provide transparency for graduation requirements at every BPS high school. MassCore offers the opportunity to ensure that every student has access to rigorous courses throughout the District. The policy will also close opportunity gaps regarding MassCore completion that are persistent for our historically marginalized students.

During the engagement process, we received feedback from our school leaders regarding the adoption of MassCore and its implications on funding, students who are overaged and



under-credited, English Learners, and students with disabilities. In response to this feedback, we will share our initial plans on supporting our students and ensuring MassCore is not an unfunded mandate.

In addition to MassCore, the H.S. team will present data on advanced courses, course grades, the impact of panorama, and MyCap and Postsecondary readiness.

Moreover, we will take some time to celebrate the highest graduation rate that our district has experienced to date, at 75.4%. This increase includes growth across multiple student groups, including Black and Latinx students. We intend to discuss the many strategies and initiatives that have supported the work in this area, as we know there is no one silver bullet.

Lastly, we will address future opportunities to continue our progress while remaining open to addressing any challenges that linger and remain from the Pandemic. Options will include a clear articulation of our vision, mission, and values outlined in our Strategic Plan and our Return, Recover and Reimagine Framework. We will continue to engage in a process that amplifies all voices to achieve continuous growth and progress in our graduation rate. This will be done while caring for how people interact and work collectively, highlighting positive relationships, trust, empathy, and listening to the amplified voices.