

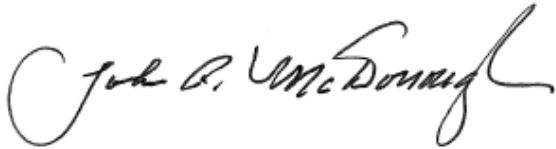
# BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairperson and Members  
Boston School Committee

FROM: John P. McDonough  
Interim Superintendent 

DATE: October 31, 2014

SUBJECT: ELL Overlay Proposal to Combine Clusters F & G

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On October 15, Kim Rice, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on Home-Based implementation through the first year. Within her presentation she asked the committee to approve the BPS recommendation to merge clusters F and G in the English Language Learners overlay.

Currently, the overlays for ELL and Students with Disabilities do not utilize the same cluster boundaries for West Roxbury, Roslindale, Hyde Park, and Mattapan. In the ELL overlay, the boundary separating Clusters F and G cuts through Roslindale and along the Hyde Park/West Roxbury neighborhood lines. However, the SWD overlay already combines clusters F and G, due to the lower numbers of students with disabilities living in those areas.

In looking at updated data, clusters F and G also have the lowest number of ELL students across the district. Merging the clusters would provide students in this area with greater access to SEI programming compared to right now where students are confined to their cluster. Under the current cluster structure, it is possible for a student with disabilities who is also an English language learner to be limited in his/her school options, given that as an SWD they would access programs in a wider geographical location, but given his/her ELL needs, would be confined to only what exists in either F or G, depending on the home address. Merging the two clusters would expand opportunities for ELL students and be aligned with offerings provided to students with disabilities.

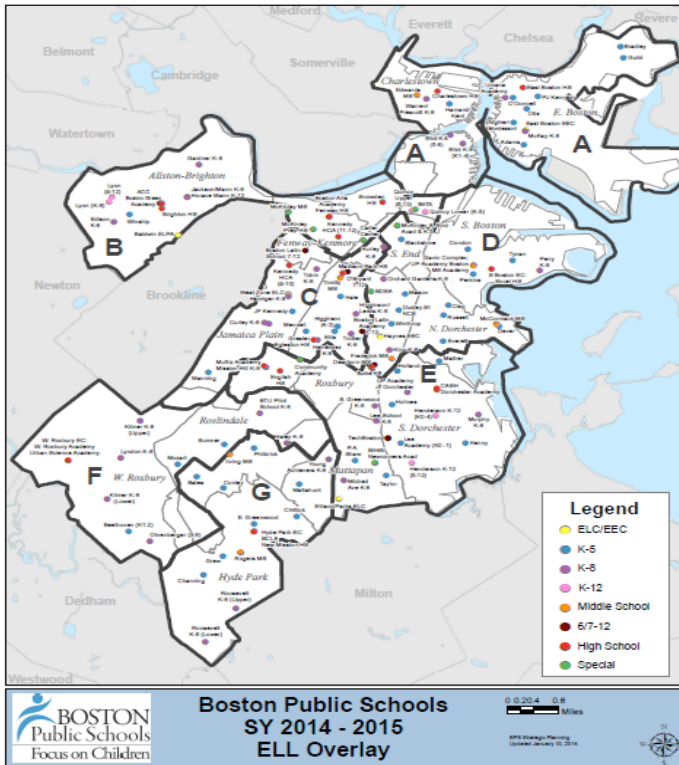
While the proposal will mean that students may travel a little further to access programs, it will give them access to more choices when selecting a SEI program and, as noted, is the cluster model already in use for students with disabilities.

If approved, communication about the change will be shared in the following ways: BPS Welcome Services will share the change at the 19 information sessions it is conducting over the next 2 months. In addition, Discover BPS functionality this year will provide families with their possible SEI options, so new cluster options will be transparent for impacted families. Moreover, the staff in Welcome Centers will be trained on the new overlay, and additional information will be available on [bostonpublicschools.org](http://bostonpublicschools.org).

BPS recommends that the School Committee approves the recommendation to merge Clusters F and G in the ELL Overlay on November 5.

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## Old Overlay



## Proposed Overlay

