

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** School Committee

**FROM:** **Eva Mitchell, Chief Accountability Officer**

**CC:** Superintendent Brenda Cassellius  
Deputy Superintendent Drew Echelson  
Chief of Staff Mary Dillman  
Senior Advisor Megan Costello

**DATE:** **August 27, 2021**

**RE:** Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding Plan

As discussed at the June 30th presentation to the School Committee, Boston Public Schools (BPS) will be receiving \$400 million from the federal Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund over the next three years.

Currently we are in the last stages of finalizing our ESSER II plan that we released on July 8, 2021 for public comment. That plan was designed to serve as a blueprint for accelerating efforts to return students safely, recover from the impact of the pandemic, and simultaneously reimagine how we serve students and the community in the process. Our ESSER II plan is grounded in the community-driven, five-year BPS Strategic Plan. We leveraged additional feedback received from engagements with over 1500 stakeholders, including 35 sessions with families and our broader BPS community, 6 meetings of the ESSER Commission, and 4 meetings of the Student Commission. Informed by this series of engagements, we have continued to shape the ESSER strategy.

We submitted our ESSER II funding application to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Schools (DESE) on July 30, 2021, with the option to amend the budget pending finalization of the Plan. We expect to receive a \$123 million disbursement in ESSER II funds in September 2021.

In preparation for a September 22nd School Committee vote to receive DESE funds to implement ESSER plan, we will provide an update to you at the September 1st School Committee meeting.

The update on September 1 will include information about the evolution of the ESSER II Plan, the upcoming engagement process for ESSER III, and how we are working to ensure transparency, accountability and effectiveness to return, recover and reimagine BPS. We are looking for any feedback before moving forward with (1) our final *ESSER II Return and Recover Plan*, (2) potential budget amendments to the July 30 DESE application, (3) our application to release ESSER III funds that we will submit to DESE by October 4, 2021, and (4) our ESSER III *Recover and Reimagine Plan*.