



Equity Impact Statement: Mass. School Building Authority Core Program 2024 Submission

Title: 2024 Mass. School Building Authority Core Program Submission

Date: February 28, 2024

Was the [Racial Equity Planning Tool \(REPT\)](#) used? Yes No

If yes, insert date(s) of REPT meetings and link to completed REPT:

Did a member of the Division of Equity, Strategy and Opportunity Gaps review this statement? Yes No

BPS Racial Equity Planning Tool Sections	Summary/Rationale
<p>1. Proposal/Presentation & Impact <i>What are the proposal's/effort's desired outcomes, including in eliminating disparities? Who led this work/planning, and do they reflect BPS students' and families' group identities (key groups include individuals who are Black, Latina/o/x, Asian, indigenous, immigrant, multilingual, and have Special Education experience)?</i></p>	<p>The Office of Capital Planning, in collaboration with the City of Boston (COB) Public Facilities Department (PFD), plans to submit a Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Core Program to renovate the Boston Community Leadership Academy (BCLA)-McCormack building. If the MSBA approves the project, the new building will be transformational for the BCLA-McCormack school community and the surrounding Dorchester and South Boston communities. By renovating a school in alignment with BPS' commitment to inclusion and its vision for secondary schools, the new building will help close opportunity gaps, particularly for Black and Latina/o/x students, students with disabilities (SWDs), multilingual learners (MLs), and students from low income families.</p> <p>Currently 1,848 BPS high school students live in North Dorchester (02125) and South Boston (02127), but only 21% attend a nearby high school. Many students travel well outside their neighborhoods to attend high school. By investing in a comprehensive 7-12 high school that is deeply connected to UMass Boston, we believe there will be higher demand for high school seats closer to home from North Dorchester and South Boston students – and others across the city. This MSBA SOI is the first step toward renovating the building.</p> <p>The BPS Capital Planning team developed the MSBA proposal with support from the COB PFD and the Mayor's Office, as well as other BPS departments. It is shaped by the BCLA-McCormack community's efforts to join together around shared objectives and pursue exciting pathways and partnerships.</p> <p>The BCLA-McCormack community has been vocal in advocating for the need for facilities that support their shared academic and extracurricular aspirations. By forming a University-Assisted Community Hub School in partnership with UMass Boston, they will take a holistic approach to serving the whole child with essential new facilities such as a full library and space for holistic health services and community gatherings.</p>
<p>2. Alignment with the Strategic Plan <i>How does the proposal/effort align with the district's strategic plan?</i></p>	<p>The District is committed to accelerating the pace of school construction to create school communities that are safe, healthy, and inclusive, with the supports, services, and resources that each student needs to thrive. This project follows through on the commitment outlined in the Long-Term Facilities Plan published in January 2024.</p> <p>By applying to MSBA for a Core project, we intend to plan, design, and deliver a campus for BCLA-McCormack – connected to opportunities at neighboring UMass-Boston, and embedded in the Columbia Point community. Deeply grounded in the four pillars of the BPS secondary school vision (academic rigor, partnerships to support schools, college and career pathways for all, and state-of-the-art facilities), the vision for BCLA-McCormack is to create a University-Assisted Community Hub school with a seamless pathway to UMass Boston in a 21st century building.</p>



	<p>Submitting the MSBA SOI is the first step toward a new building for the merged BCLA-McCormack that will open opportunities for students, and align with the Green New Deal for BPS. The driving purpose behind all BPS Capital Planning efforts is an imperative that all Boston students have access to a High-Quality Student Experience close to home.</p>
<p>3. Analysis of Data <i>What data was analyzed? Was it disaggregated by race and other key groups? What did it show regarding disparities?</i></p>	<p>Current BCLA-McCormack enrollment (569 students) includes 28% Black students, 61% Latino/a/x students, 41% MLs, 33% SWDs, and 83% students from low income families. Nearly all of these demographics are higher than the District as a whole (the percentage of Black students is almost identical).</p> <p>The current building requires improvements to provide a high-quality experience according to the Conditions Assessment. The current building’s condition is in the bottom tenth of the district and has insufficient space to support a full continuum of services and moving to a full inclusion model. However, a BCLA-McCormack renovation will be able to support all aspects of the High-Quality Student Experience, and expand access to that experience to more students.</p>
<p>4. Stakeholder Engagement <i>Who was engaged (quantity, key groups, and roles) and how, and what did that yield? What did students/families most impacted by this proposal say?</i></p>	<p>Staff from various BPS departments, PFD, COB Office of Budget Management, and Mayor’s Office met to determine the cost-sharing components of this grant, if selected. The school leader was notified and the school community will be sent a letter ahead of the School Committee presentation.</p> <p>If the project is approved by the MSBA, the school community will be extensively involved in planning, design, and construction. The project would also align with the BPS Education Specifications and Architectural and Design Standards, both of which were deeply informed by community input.</p>
<p>5. Racial Equity Strategies <i>How does this proposal/effort mitigate disparities and increase racial and other equity? What are possible unintended consequences? What complementary strategies will further advance equity?</i></p>	<p>Renovating the BCLA-McCormack building will expand opportunities for students by creating a larger school community and constructing the physical space for athletics, art, and music; community-centered programming and resources; and other enrichment. A renovation, specifically designed for the BCLA-McCormack’s unique vision of a University-Assisted community hub school, will be transformational for this school community, 28% of whom are Black and 61% of whom are Latina/o/x.</p> <p>The new building will advance environmental justice by ensuring that students learn in a safe, healthy, and energy-efficient building with access to clean air and water and the outdoors, and creating a community space for families and residents to gather.</p> <p>While the REPT was not used to select this proposal for submission, the Office of Capital Planning will use the REPT to center the next phase of the process in racial equity.</p>
<p>6. Budget & Implementation <i>What are the budget impacts? How will implementation ensure all objectives, particularly equity-related objectives, are met? What are the group identities of the implementation team,</i></p>	<p>At this time, the MSBA SOI has no budget implications. If BPS is invited into the MSBA’s eligibility period, we will continue to work with our City partners to dedicate capital funds to begin design and then construction. We developed this SOI in consultation with the COB PFD, COB Office of Budget Management, and Mayor’s Office. We are grateful for strong City support for future funding of this project.</p> <p>The Capital Planning team (60% Black, 10% Latina/o/x, and 30% White) and a group from the Mayor’s Office (33% Black, 33% Latina/o/x, and 33% White), in partnership with others across the district and City, are deeply committed to bringing an equity lens to this large project.</p>



<p><i>and will they bring an equity lens?</i></p>	
<p>7. Accountability & Communication <i>How will impacts be assessed, documented and communicated to stakeholders? Who will be responsible?</i></p>	<p>Throughout the planning, design, and construction phases, the Capital Planning team will be responsible for continuously communicating with and incorporating feedback from community members including the BCLA-McCormack school community, partners at UMass Boston, neighboring schools, and broader neighborhood.</p> <p>After the completion, the Capital Planning team will work across BPS departments to refine intended outcomes and measure impact, including availability of high-quality seats for students in Dorchester and South Boston, particularly for MLs and SWDs; academic and operational improvements; and environmental quality indicators.</p>