



Boston Public Schools

## **Withdrawal from the MA Inter-district School Choice Program for SY 2024– 2025**

---

*Dr. Ana Tavares, Deputy Superintendent of Equity, Community and  
Family Advancement*

*Magaly Sanchez, Chief Family Advancement Officer*



## What is the MA Inter-district School Choice Plan?

The Educational Reform Act of 1993 amended the Massachusetts School Choice Law and established a presumption that each school committee will admit non-residents under the Choice Program unless there is a vote to the contrary by June 1st each year.

The law requires that a public hearing be held and that the reasons for withdrawing from the school choice program be shared with DESE as part of the resolution not to participate. The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, May 22nd followed by a School Committee vote.



## Why should Boston opt out?

Boston considers the following each year when considering its recommendation to the School Committee:

- Impact on the student assignment process
  - Late registrants will have a disadvantage
  - Newcomers will have a reduced chance of getting their top choice
  - District cannot set aside seats for non-resident students at specific schools/specific programs
- Cost implications:
  - Per pupil spending
  - Specialized services
  - Transportation, etc.
- Decisions of school committees in neighboring communities
- Space limitations



## Do Boston's neighbors participate in school choice?

During the 2023–2024 school year, 145 Massachusetts school districts, including Boston, **did not** participate in the Choice Program. **None** of the communities surrounding the City of Boston participated including:

- Brookline
- Cambridge
- Chelsea
- Dedham
- Needham
- Milton
- Somerville
- Revere



# What does a yes/no vote mean?

Each year, school committees in Massachusetts decide whether or not their district will participate in the Inter-district School Choice Program in the upcoming school year. If a district chooses **not** to participate, a vote must be taken prior to June 1.

A **Yes** vote means:

That the School Committee votes in favor of participation in the Massachusetts Inter-district School Choice program and will begin to accept students from outside of the city beginning in SY2024-2025.

A **No** vote means:

That the School Committee votes not to participate in the Massachusetts Inter-district School Choice program and BPS will continue to enroll students who reside in Boston.