

To: Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent  
From: Monica Hogan, Senior Executive Director, Data and Accountability  
CC: Drew Echelson, Deputy Superintendent of Academics  
Denise Snyder, Acting Chief of Family and Community Advancement  
Subject: SY22-23 Exam School Invitation Summary  
Date: May 4, 2022

On Friday, April 29, 2022, the BPS Office of Welcome Services sent out invitations for students enrolling in exam schools in SY22-23. This memo summarizes the applicant pool and invitations sent. In June 2022, a more comprehensive review of the exam schools policy, as applied in school year 21-22, will be presented to the School Committee.

### **Executive Summary**

The desired outcome of the Exam School Admissions Task Force was to “create an admissions process that will support student enrollment at each of the exam schools such that rigor is maintained and the student body better reflects the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of all students (K-12) in the city of Boston.” The policy broadly accomplishes the goals it set out to achieve.

#### **Grade 7**

- **Invitations:** 1,000 invitations were distributed, an increase of 26 invitations from SY21-22. 78% of eligible applicants received an invitation to an exam school. Overall, 67% of applicants received an invitation to their first-choice school, 8% to their 2nd choice school, 3% to their third-choice school, and 22% did not receive an invitation.
- **Tiers:** Students from every socioeconomic tier received an invitation to each exam school, with each tier receiving between 9% and 16% of available seats at each school, based on student preference.
- **Student Groups:** Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY21-22 (the interim zip code policy) continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY22-23, including students experiencing homelessness, in the care of DCF, and living in BHA housing (7%); economically disadvantaged students (45%); English learners (6%); and students with disabilities (6%). Approximately 76% of invitations went to students of color, an increase of 16 percentage points from SY20-21 invitations.
- **Additional Points:** Students in every tier received an invitation to each school based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received additional points ranged from 58% in tier 8 to 98% in tier 3. Overall, 81% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

#### **Grade 9**

- **Invitations:** 424 invitations were distributed, an increase of 94 invitations from SY21-22. 43% of eligible applicants received an invitation to an exam school. Overall, 28% received an invitation to their first-choice school, 8% to their second-choice school, 7% to their third-choice school, and 57% did not receive an invitation.
- **Tiers:** Students from every socioeconomic tier received an invitation to each exam school, with each tier receiving between 5% and 21% of available seats at each school, based on student preference.
- **Student Groups:** Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY21-22 (the interim zip code policy) continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY22-23, including students experiencing homelessness, in the care of DCF, and living in BHA housing (11%); economically disadvantaged students (63%); English learners (13%); and students with disabilities (6%). Approximately 89% of invitations went to students of color, an increase of 4 percentage points from SY20-21 invitations.
- **Additional Points:** Students in every tier received an invitation to each school based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received additional points ranged from 55% in tier 8 to 100% in tiers 1, 3, and 5. Overall, 90% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

### Applicant Pool

To be eligible for exam school consideration, a student needed to have a B or higher GPA and have ranked at least one exam school. This was the second year requiring a B GPA and the first year of adding Science and Social Studies to the GPA used in exam school admissions.

Table 1. Number of Applicants by Grade and School Type

School Type & Grade	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Grade 7	2,833	1,666	1,283
BPS, Grade 7	2,133	1,287	953
Non-BPS, Grade 7	700	379	330
Grade 9	1,177	760	984
BPS, Grade 9	780	618	756
Non-BPS, Grade 9	397	142	228
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,010</b>	<b>2,426</b>	<b>2,267</b>

Of eligible grade 7 applicants, 63% of students received 10 additional points based on their prior-year school, and 6% of students received 15 points because they are experiencing homelessness, in the care of the Department of Children and Families or are living in housing owned by the Boston Housing Authority. Students in every tier received either 10 or 15 points. Of eligible grade 9 applicants, 71% of students received 10 additional points, and 10% received 15 additional points.

Table 2. Applicants by Tier and Additional Point Status

Tier	Grade 7			Grade 9		
	Applicants	Percent Receiving 10 Points	Percent Receiving 15 Points	Applicants	Percent Receiving 10 Points	Percent Receiving 15 Points
1	116	70%	18%	139	68%	22%
2	99	94%	4%	151	80%	11%
3	110	85%	9%	130	82%	6%
4	134	72%	8%	96	78%	14%
5	115	74%	6%	110	83%	4%
6	155	72%	5%	121	67%	15%
7	234	63%	3%	152	65%	3%
8	320	32%	2%	85	36%	4%
All	1283	63%	6%	984	71%	10%

### 7th Grade Invitations

In 7th grade, 1,000 invitations were sent for SY22-23 admissions, an increase of 26 invitations from SY21-22. The increase in invitations is primarily due to an increase in the number of invitations for the O'Bryant School. Additionally, with the SY22-23 admissions cycle, each school will maintain a waitlist of up to 100 students until November 30, 2022.

Table 3. Number of 7th Grade Invitations by School

School Name	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Boston Latin Academy	336	320	321
Boston Latin School	484	465	462
O'Bryant School	205	189	217
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>1,000</b>

78% of eligible applicants received an invitation to an exam school, with 67% receiving an invitation to their first choice school, 8% to their 2nd choice school, 3% to their third choice school and 22% not receiving an invitation.

In order to distribute invitations, students are assigned to a socioeconomic tier based on the census tract in which they reside. Census tracts are grouped into equally-sized tiers based on socioeconomic factors from the U.S. Census Bureau's

American Community Survey. The policy seeks to assign invites evenly across the 8 tiers. With 1,000 Grade 7 invites, the policy thus seeks to assign 125 invites per tier. While the tiers are designed to have the same number of children in grades 5-8 living in each tier, eligible applicants were not equally distributed across tiers. For instance, there were 116 eligible applicants from Tier 1 as compared to 320 from Tier 8. Invitations that were not distributed in tiers without enough eligible applicants (less than 125) were re-distributed to tiers with remaining applicants in an 11th and 12th round in order to distribute 1,000 invitations. Students in every tier received an invitation to each school, based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received points ranged from 58% in tier 8 to 98% in tier 3. Overall, 81% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

**Table 4. Number of 7th Grade Applicants and Students Invited by Tier and School**

Tier	Applicants	Invitations	BLA	BLS	O'Bryant	Percent of Invitees Receiving Points*
1	116	115	36	59	20	88%
2	99	99	28	43	28	98%
3	110	110	40	48	22	94%
4	134	133	47	61	25	80%
5	115	114	32	60	22	81%
6	155	143	37	65	41	80%
7	234	143	49	65	29	77%
8	320	143	52	61	30	58%
All	1,283	1,000	321	462	217	81%

\*Points is inclusive of invitees receiving 10 and 15 points

Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY21-22 (the interim zip code policy) continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY22-23.

**Table 5. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Student Group**

Student Group	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Homeless Students and Students in the Care of DCF*	1%	5%	7%
Economically Disadvantaged	35%	43%	45%
English Learners	1%	7%	6%
Students with Disabilities	3%	4%	6%

\*In SY22-23, this category also includes students living in BHA housing. This group of students received an additional 15 points on their composite score.

Compared to SY21-22, the percentage of students receiving invitations in individual zip codes increased in some zip codes (Dorchester 02122 +3.1; South End 02118 +1.8; Chinatown 02111 +1.5) and decreased in other zip codes (West Roxbury 02132 -1.8; Mattapan 02126 -1.5; Dorchester 02121 -1.4). Because socioeconomic tiers and census tracts do not map exactly to zip codes, fluctuation from the zip code policy was expected.

**Table 6. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Zip Code**

Zip Code	Neighborhood	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
2108	Beacon Hill	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%
2109	Downtown	0.7%	0.2%	0.3%
2110	Downtown	0.7%	0.1%	0.4%
2111	Chinatown	2.3%	0.7%	2.2%
2113	North End	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%
2114	Beacon Hill / West End	1.9%	0.7%	0.7%
2115	Longwood/Fenway	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%
2116	Back Bay	2.6%	1.3%	1.5%
2118	South End	3.5%	2.8%	4.5%

2119	Roxbury	2.6%	5.1%	5.2%
2120	Roxbury	1.6%	1.1%	1.8%
2121	Dorchester	2.6%	6.9%	5.5%
2122	Dorchester	6.1%	4.9%	8.0%
2124	Dorchester	8.2%	11.2%	10.7%
2125	Dorchester	4.6%	6.1%	6.1%
2126	Mattapan	2.0%	5.2%	3.7%
2127	South Boston	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%
2128	East Boston	5.6%	7.7%	8.9%
2129	Charlestown	5.5%	3.6%	4.1%
2130	Jamaica Plain	7.5%	5.5%	5.7%
2131	Roslindale	9.2%	6.9%	7.6%
2132	West Roxbury	13.0%	7.1%	5.3%
2134	Allston	1.7%	1.1%	1.6%
2135	Brighton	5.1%	3.0%	3.8%
2136	Hyde Park	6.5%	6.9%	5.9%
2163	Allston	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
2199	Back Bay	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2210	South Boston Waterfront	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
2215	Fenway/Kenmore	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%
2467	Chestnut Hill	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%
9999	Homeless/DCF	<i>Not used</i>	5.4%	<i>Not used</i>

Approximately 76% of invitations went to students of color, an increase of 16 percentage points from SY20-21 invitations. The percentage of Asian (+3), Black (+1), and Latinx (+3) students receiving invitations increased from SY21-22, while the percentage of white students receiving an invitation decreased by 6 percentage points.

*Table 7. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Race*

Race	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Asian	21%	18%	21%
Black	13%	23%	24%
Latinx	21%	23%	26%
Other	5%	6%	6%
White	40%	31%	25%

The racial breakdown of the incoming class at each exam school has changed over the last three admissions cycles, with the largest increase for Black students at Boston Latin School, from 6% to 22%.

*Table 8. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Race and School*

Race	Boston Latin Academy			Boston Latin School			O'Bryant School		
	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Asian	14%	11%	12%	27%	24%	29%	20%	13%	15%
Black	16%	30%	24%	6%	17%	22%	27%	28%	27%
Latinx	25%	28%	29%	12%	15%	21%	34%	32%	31%
Other	5%	7%	7%	5%	6%	5%	3%	4%	6%
White	40%	24%	28%	50%	38%	23%	17%	23%	22%

### 9th Grade Invitations

In 9th grade, 424 invitations were sent for SY22-23 admissions, an increase of 94 invitations from SY21-22. The increase in invitations is primarily due to an increase in the number of invitations to Boston Latin Academy and the O'Bryant School. Additionally, with the SY22-23 admissions cycle, each school will maintain a waitlist of up to 100 students until November 30, 2022.

Table 9. Number of 9th Grade Invitations by School

School Name	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Boston Latin Academy	89	82	123
Boston Latin School	58	41	43
O'Bryant School	261	217	258
Total	408	340	424

Students are assigned to a socioeconomic tier based on the census tract in which they reside. The policy seeks to assign invites evenly across the 8 tiers. With 424 Grade 9 invites, the policy seeks to assign 53 invites per tier. Students in every tier received an invitation to each school, based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received points ranged from 55% in tier 8 to 100% in tiers 1, 3 and 5. Overall, 90% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

Table 10. Number of 9th Grade Applicants and Students Invited by Tier and School

Tier	Applicants	Invitations	BLA	BLS	O'Bryant	Percent of Invitees Receiving Points*
1	139	53	19	3	31	100%
2	151	53	13	5	35	94%
3	130	53	16	6	31	100%
4	96	53	19	4	30	94%
5	110	53	16	7	30	100%
6	121	53	13	7	33	92%
7	152	53	14	9	30	83%
8	85	53	13	2	38	55%
All	984	424	123	43	258	90%

\*Points is inclusive of 10 and 15 points.

Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY21-22 (the interim zip code policy) continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY22-23.

Table 11. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Student Group

Student Group	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Homeless Students and Students in the Care of DCF*	4%	6%	11%
Economically Disadvantaged	52%	63%	63%
English Learners	7%	12%	13%
Students with Disabilities	2%	7%	6%

\*In SY22-23, this category also includes students living in BHA housing. This group of students received an additional 15 points on their composite score.

Compared to SY21-22, the percentage of students receiving invitations in individual zip codes increased in some zip codes (Dorchester 02122 +4.3; Dorchester 02125 +2.6; Dorchester 02124 +1.6) and decreased in other zip codes (Hyde Park 02136 -2.8; Jamaica Plain 02130 -2.2; Mattapan 02126 -2.0). Because socioeconomic tiers and census tracts do not map exactly to zip codes, fluctuation from the zip code policy was expected.

Table 12. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Zip Code

Zip Code	Neighborhood	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
2108	Beacon Hill	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
2109	Downtown	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
2110	Downtown	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%
2111	Chinatown	2.2%	0.6%	0.5%
2113	North End	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%
2114	Beacon Hill / West End	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%
2115	Longwood/Fenway	2.7%	1.5%	1.7%
2116	Back Bay	2.0%	1.2%	0.9%
2118	South End	2.7%	3.2%	3.5%
2119	Roxbury	6.1%	5.9%	6.1%
2120	Roxbury	3.2%	1.2%	2.1%
2121	Roxbury	5.4%	6.8%	7.8%
2122	Dorchester	7.8%	5.9%	10.1%
2124	Dorchester	10.5%	12.4%	13.9%
2125	Dorchester	7.8%	5.9%	8.5%
2126	Mattapan	4.2%	7.9%	5.9%
2127	South Boston	2.7%	3.5%	4.0%
2128	East Boston	5.1%	8.2%	8.7%
2129	Charlestown	3.4%	2.6%	2.6%
2130	Jamaica Plain	4.9%	5.0%	2.8%
2131	Roslindale	6.1%	5.3%	5.7%
2132	West Roxbury	5.4%	3.5%	3.5%
2134	Allston	2.5%	1.2%	1.4%
2135	Brighton	4.2%	2.9%	3.8%
2136	Hyde Park	8.6%	7.1%	4.2%
2163	Allston	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2199	Back Bay	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2210	South Boston Waterfront	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%
2215	Fenway/Kenmore	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%
2467	Chestnut Hill	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
9999	Homeless/DCF	<i>Not used</i>	5.9%	<i>Not used</i>

The percentage of students receiving invitations by race in grade 9 has fluctuated over the last three admissions cycles.

*Table 13. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Race*

Race	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Asian	20%	13%	17%
Black	31%	27%	29%
Latinx	33%	44%	38%
Other	2%	3%	4%
White	15%	14%	11%

The racial breakdown of the incoming class at each exam school has changed over the last three admissions cycles, with the largest changes at Boston Latin School. Due to the smaller number of invitations for grade 9 at Boston Latin School, percentages fluctuate more.

*Percentage 14. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Race and School*

Race	Boston Latin Academy			Boston Latin School			O'Bryant School		
	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23
Asian	21%	13%	20%	24%	12%	40%	18%	12%	12%
Black	24%	24%	27%	21%	22%	26%	35%	29%	31%
Latinx	35%	43%	39%	17%	34%	28%	35%	46%	39%
Other	1%	1%	2%	9%	10%	2%	1%	2%	5%
White	19%	18%	11%	29%	22%	5%	10%	11%	12%