

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) entered into a voluntary Resolution Agreement with the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) on January 30, 2018. As part of this Resolution Agreement, BPS agreed to develop a Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) Policy to ensure that it meets its obligations under federal law with regard to students with sickle cell disease.

### **Sickle Cell Disease Proposed Policy**

BPS acknowledges that SCD is a disability that substantially limits a major life activity, and qualifies students with SCD for a comprehensive evaluation and consideration of eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) to determine the services and accommodations they may need to attain a free appropriate public education. As part of BPS' commitment to maintaining an educational environment that is welcoming, inclusive and encouraging, such that all students are able to flourish, all schools must follow established protocols and procedures for addressing the needs of children with SCD and regularly evaluate the implementation of these plans.

BPS acknowledges that the successful implementation of this Policy at the district and school levels relies on fostering and maintaining a culture of awareness and acceptance regarding SCD through acknowledging the history of SCD and the unique challenges students with SCD face. With this in mind, BPS recognizes that:

- People with SCD have long faced harmful stigmas, many with racially charged origins.
- People with SCD are often challenged about their disease's seriousness or even existence.
- Students with SCD have long experienced barriers to their health and success at school.