



**Division of Student, Family and Community Advancement**

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To: Boston Public Schools, School Committee Members  
From: Monica Roberts, Chief of Student, Family and Community Advancement  
Devon McCarley, Senior Director of Welcome Services  
Date: July 17, 2020  
RE: Exam School Admissions Test RFP

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This memo is to share an update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) processed used to select a new test provider to administer an exam to be used for admissions into the district's three Exam Schools. The district began planning in the spring of 2019 as the contract with the previous provider was expiring in June 2020. With the support of Superintendent Cassellius, an RFP Working Group was convened to develop the RFP. The work of this committee was guided by the existing district Exam School Admissions policy, and importantly, by community feedback that was provided during SY 2018-2019 and during Dr. Cassellius' 100-day tour. The goal was to identify and secure an anti-bias, standards aligned test.

The selected proposal was submitted by NWEA for administration of its Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessment. NWEA's proposal was rated advantageous by the RFP review committee and more effectively demonstrated that it was aligned to MA standards, valid for us with a diverse student population, and had built in supports for English learners and students with disabilities.

The identification of an assessment that met the goals of testing what our students are learning and is anti-bias, is one of three key measures being taken by the district to support BPS students, particularly Black and Latinx students, with accessing and enrolling in the district's Exam Schools.

