
MEMORANDUM

TO: Boston School Committee
FROM: Monica Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Engagement
DATE: September 29, 2017
SUBJECT: ISEE Residency Verification Data and Update
CC: Superintendent Tommy Chang
Boston School Committee Members

At the September 6th meeting of the Boston School Committee (BSC), the Office of Engagement (OOE) recommended a modification to the exam school portion of the Residency Policy Verification, Enforcement and Penalties. The change would align the residency verification deadline to the exam school testing deadline. The current residency verification deadline is the first Friday in November, two weeks before the final date that students are allowed to take the ISEE. The recommended change to the third Friday in November would allow students to complete the verification process up until the day before the testing deadline and extend the verification period from 17 business days to 27 business days. Currently, students that miss the verification deadline cannot test even though the testing window is open for two additional weeks.

As BPS submits policy change recommendations, we are working to adhere to the goal of closing the opportunity and achievement gaps. The recommended change to the residency verification process will support the goal of closing these gaps by increasing the number of Black and Latino students that take the exam school test and apply for entrance. Increasing the population of these underrepresented (in exam schools) students applying for exam schools increases the probability of exam school diversification.

BPS data on residency verification confirms the qualitative and anecdotal data from staff regarding the racial composition and school enrollment of students who miss the verification deadline. The majority are Black and Latino and come from Charter schools. The following data outlines these findings and provides the comparative analysis of non-BPS students failing to verify residency as requested by the School Committee.

Please contact Lisa Harvey should additional information be required, lh Harvey3@bostonpublicschools.org and (857) 334-0673.

**BPS ISEE Testing: Comparative Analysis
SY 2012/13 – 2016/17**

From the school year 2012-2013 to school year 2016-2017, 20,926 students registered to take the test for exam school admission. Two-thirds of registered students were enrolled in BPS (66%; n=13,841) and the remaining was from non-BPS schools (34%; n=7085) including charter, private/parochial, and METCO.

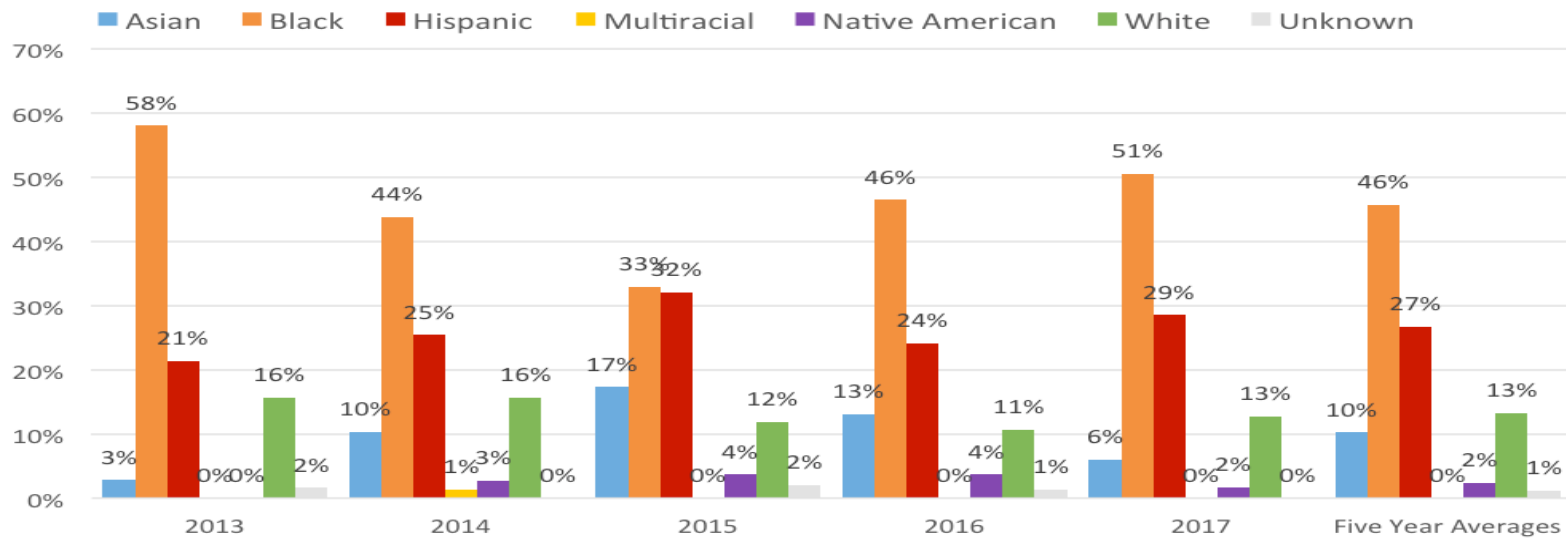
Table 1. Distribution of BPS and Non-BPS Exam Registrants by Year

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	All Years
Total	4405	4288	4322	3987	3924	20926
BPS	2992	2888	2858	2490	2613	13841
Non-BPS	1413	1400	1464	1497	1311	7085
% of all registrants NOT BPS students	32%	33%	34%	38%	33%	34%

Twenty-two percent (n=1566) of the 7085 non-BPS students registered to take the ISEE failed to verify their Boston residency by the deadline, thereby making them ineligible to test and apply for admission. Over the five-year period, 73% of the students who did not verify residency were Black (46%) or Latino (27%).

**BPS ISEE Testing: Comparative Analysis
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Chart 1: Five Year Distribution of Exam School Registrants without Residency Verification by Race/Ethnicity. (Percent within race/ethnicity)



Race/Ethnicity	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Five Year Totals
Asian	7	31	61	39	22	160
Black	144	131	116	139	186	716
Hispanic	53	76	113	72	105	419
Multiracial	1	4	0	2	1	8
Native American	0	8	13	11	6	38
White	39	47	42	32	47	207
Unknown	4	2	7	4	1	18
Yearly Totals	248	299	352	299	368	1566

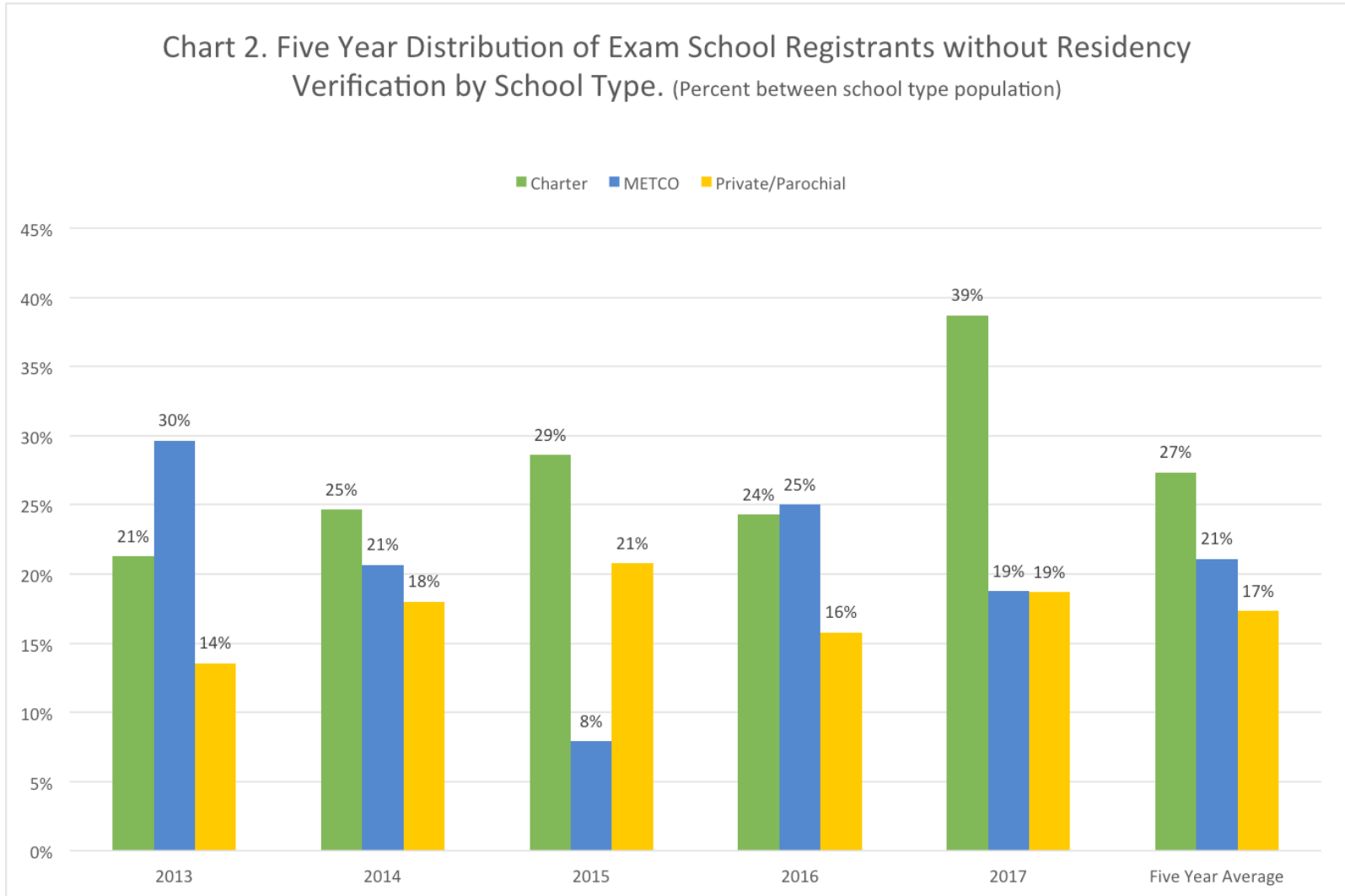
This chart shows the race/ethnicity breakdown by year for non-BPS registrants who did not verify residency (e.g. in 2013, 58% of non-BPS registrants who did not verify residency were Black. Looking at five-year averages, 27% of non-BPS registrants who did not verify residency were Latino).

**BPS ISEE Testing: Comparative Analysis
SY 2012/13 – 2016/17**

Table 2. Distribution of Registrants by School Type, Year and Residency Verification Status

	Verification Status	BPS	Charter	METCO	Private/Parochial	Total	% NonBPS registrants who did not verify
2013	BPS	2,992				2,992	18%
	NonBPS verified		489	38	638	1,165	
	NonBPS not verified		132	16	100	248	
	Total NonBPS		621	54	738	1,413	
2014	BPS	2,888				2,888	21%
	NonBPS verified		517	50	534	1,101	
	NonBPS not verified		169	13	117	299	
	Total NonBPS		686	63	651	1,400	
2015	BPS	2,858				2,858	24%
	NonBPS verified		482	35	595	1,112	
	NonBPS not verified		193	3	156	352	
	Total NonBPS		675	38	751	1,464	
2016	BPS	2,490				2,490	20%
	NonBPS verified		530	27	641	1,198	
	NonBPS not verified		170	9	120	299	
	Total NonBPS		700	36	761	1,497	
2017	BPS	2,613				2,613	28%
	NonBPS verified		377	26	540	943	
	NonBPS not verified		238	6	124	368	
	Total NonBPS		615	32	664	1,311	
Five Year Totals	BPS	13,841				13,841	22%
	NonBPS verified		2,395	176	2,948	5,519	
	NonBPS not verified		902	47	617	1,566	
	Total NonBPS		3,297	223	3,565	7,085	

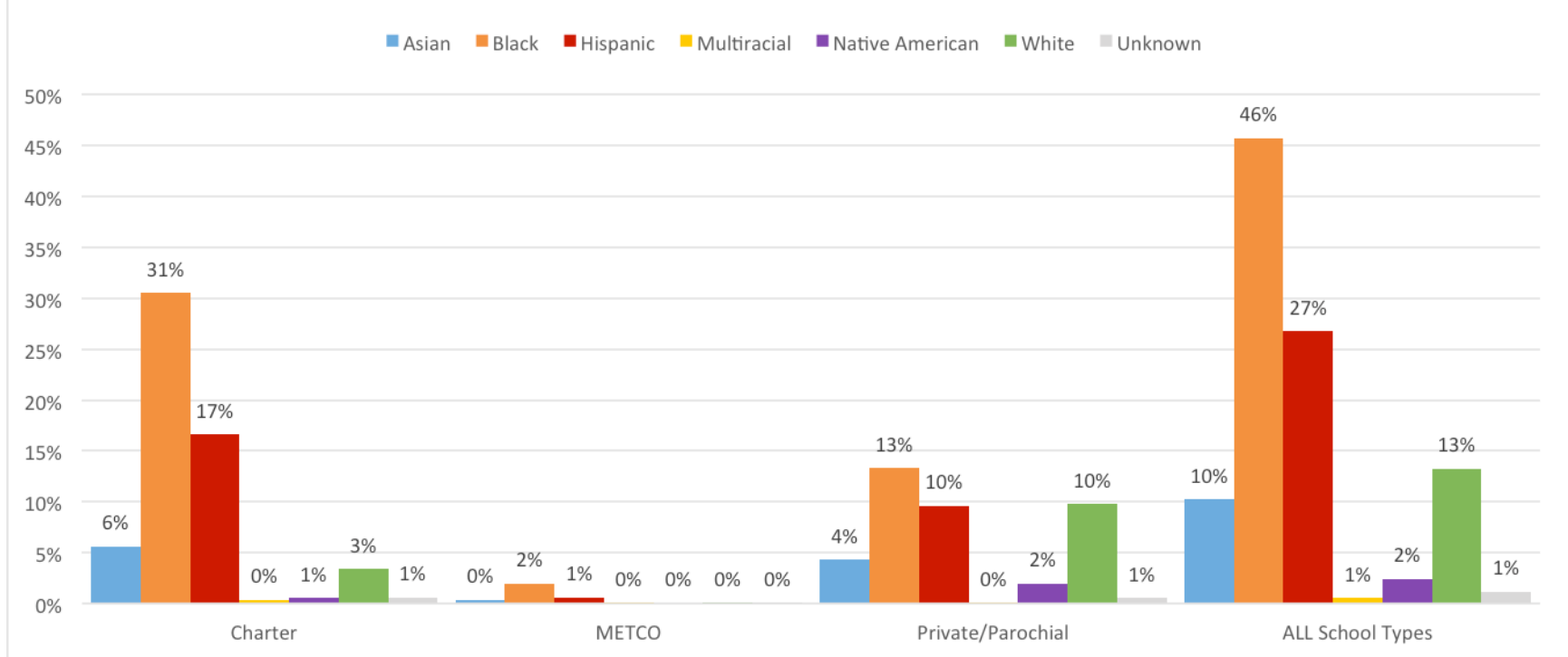
**BPS ISEE Testing: Comparative Analysis
SY 2012/13 – 2016/17**



This chart shows the percent of students within each school type, by year, who did not verify residency. For example, in 2013, 21% of charter school registrants did not verify (and 79% did), while 30% of METCO registrants did not verify (and 70% did verify).

**BPS ISEE Testing: Comparative Analysis
SY 2012/13 – 2016/17**

Chart 3. Five Year Distribution of Exam School Registrants without Residency Verification by Race/Ethnicity and School Type (collapsed over years; percent of total registrants without residency verification).



This chart shows the overall distribution of those non-BPS registrants by race/ethnicity, who did not verify residence across the five years (ALL School Types, at the far right, represents the sum total of the breakout of school types).