



School Reopening Update

Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent
January 13, 2021

Revised timeline for returning to in-person learning*

Week of Feb. 1

Students with high in-person priority

Week of March 1

Grades K0 - 3

Week of March 15

Grades 4 - 8

Week of March 29

Grades 9 - 12

*If necessary, each of these phases may be postponed by 1–2 weeks based on the public health environment.

Student Support - Engagement & Attendance

5,254 students with average daily attendance (ADA) <70% as of early December 2020

- 154 students: ADA 25% or less
- 5,100 students: ADA between 26-70%

Group 1: 154 students with average daily attendance 25% or less

38 Grade K0-K2 students

- **10 students** - reengaged and back in school
- **13 students** - asked to be withdrawn; attending charter or prior schools
- **11 students** - attempting to make contact (left multiple voicemails)
- **4 students** - attempting to get accurate contact information

48 Grade 1-12 students

- **17 students** - reengaged and back in school (6 received a BPS device)
- **10 students** - asked to be withdrawn; attending school outside BPS
- **13 students** - multiple attempts to make contact (left voicemails/home visits)
- **8 students** - working to get accurate contact information

68 Grade 9-12 students - attend a Horace Mann that uses a different information system

Student Support - Engagement & Attendance

Group 2: 5,100 students with ADA between 26% and 70%

- **Family Engagement Staff:**
 - 77 of 117 schools have Family Engagement staff
 - 40 of 117 schools do not have any designated Family Engagement staff
- **Support:**
 - Family Advancement Team is working with the 77 schools
 - Accountability Team and School Superintendents working with the 40 schools
 - Targeted outreach to these students and families will begin Jan. 11, 2021
- **Panorama:**
 - A unified system to collaboratively create and track Student Success Plans
 - Organizations rise to the level of their systems
 - Professional development, cross-collaboration, monitoring, and recognition

Student Support - Students Earning No Credit

Students with Term 1 No Credit Grades

- SY19-20: **2,430** students with 1+ No Credit
- SY20-21: **975** students with 1+ No Credit

Count of Term 1 “No Credit” Grades

- SY19-20: **5,429** No Credit grades issued Term 1
- SY20-21: **2,300** No Credit grades issued Term 1

Plan to Address No Credits:

- Aspen Student Information System generates a letter to families
- School Superintendents working with School Leaders to convert “No Credits” into letter grades as appropriate
- School teams using Panorama to create and track Student Success Plans
- Central office staff working with school leaders to draft a revised policy for consideration by School Committee

SY20-21 Group	HIPP	District
Students experiencing homelessness	10%	8%
Students with disabilities	22.5%	21%
English Learners	28%	32%

SY20-21 Group	% with "NC"	% of BPS
Asian	2.8%	9%
Black	56.7%	33%
Latinx	15.8%	42.5%
White	15.5%	14%

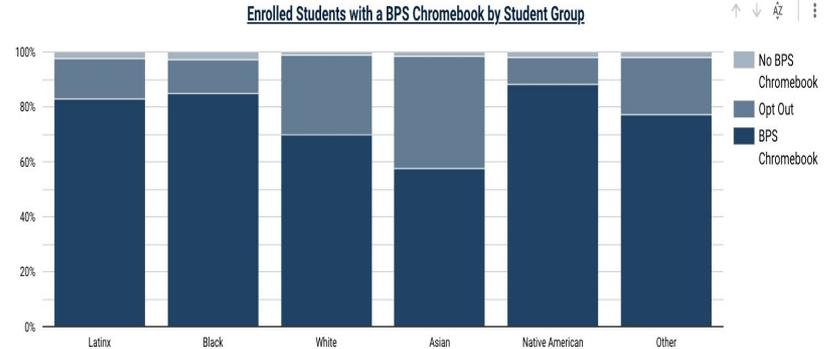
Student Technology Access

Chromebooks

- **79%** of students access instruction using a BPS-provided device
- **19%** are using a personal device
- Any student can opt in to receive a BPS device if needed
- Of our chronically absent students, 80% have a BPS device

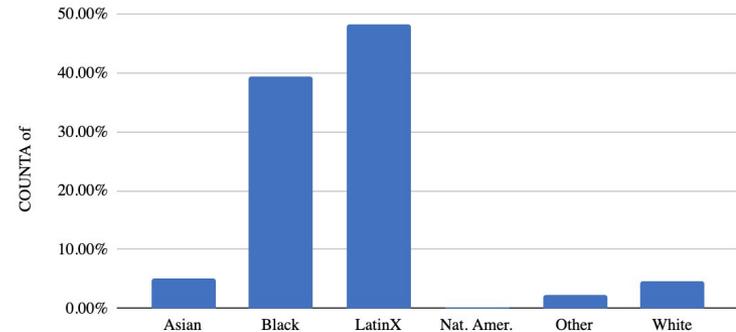
Home Internet

- **Over 5,000 hotspots** and **2,000 Comcast vouchers** distributed
- Utilization of the Comcast vouchers is lower than we expected (~20%)
- **97-99%** of connections are through broadband Internet
- Average Internet speed is **79/28 mbps**



Broadband Voucher Distribution

Distribution of Comcast Internet vouchers by race/ethnicity

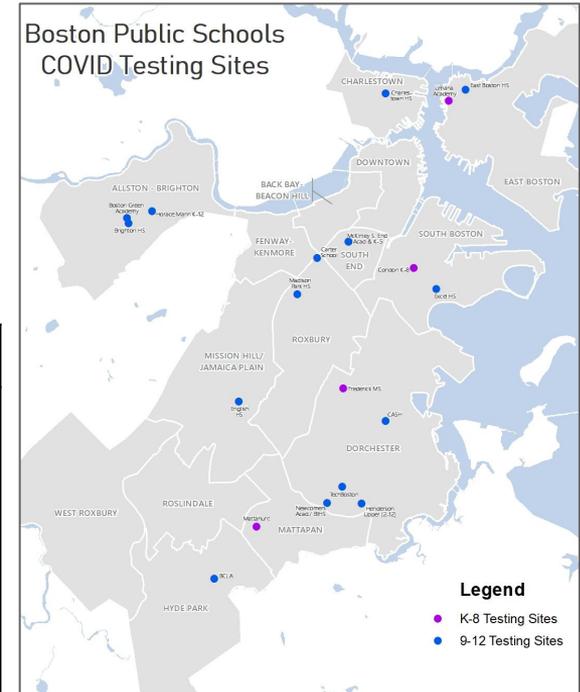


COVID Testing for Students & Staff

BPS is conducting surveillance testing for school staff working in-person and piloting student testing in schools serving students in grades 9-12.

BPS has significantly increased testing access from 1 test site in October to 4 test sites in November and now 19 sites citywide.

K-8 Staff Testing	9-12 Student & Staff Testing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 4 school test sites for staff of the 32 K-8 schools open for in-person learning● 300 tests available per week● Weekly tests complete:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 156 Week of 12/14○ 217 Week of 12/22○ 192 Week of 1/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● 15 pilot sites at schools serving grades 9-12● Testing for all staff working in person at these pilot sites● Pooled testing for students in grades 9-12 with signed family consent● >800 staff tests conducted● >40 students tested



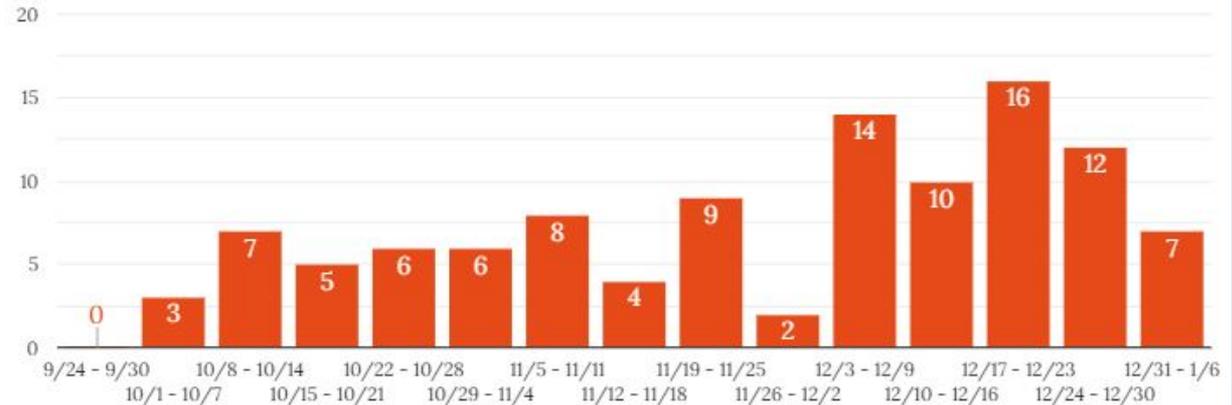
Reporting COVID-19 Cases

Boston Public Schools is committed to reporting to the public a weekly update on confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in our schools. This information reports the combined number of confirmed positive cases for students and staff who have been inside our schools for in-person teaching and learning.

Positive Cases Year to Date

109

15 students & 94 staff



[Link to BPS Reporting](#)

Facility Enhancements

Phase 2 Window Repairs:

- 12,045 were inspected, cleaned, and lubricated
- 7,213 were identified in need of repair
- 6,022 have been repaired to date

Stage 2 Window Repair



Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Data Logger RFP:

- The RFP process closed on 1/13/21

Air Purifier Delivery:

- All 5,000 DESE purifiers delivered to all schools.
- An additional 2,500 ordered to utilize in other non instructional spaces.

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Testing:

- Indoor Air Quality Testing at the 32 open buildings completed on 1/8/21

Year One Bathroom Renovations:

- First round of six schools is now substantially complete (\$980,000)
- Six more schools out to bid for Spring renovations (\$1.8 million)
- Eighteen schools in final Year One phase this Summer (\$3 million)

Student Learning Time

- On December 15, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted additional amendments to the Student Learning Time (SLT) regulations on an emergency basis.
- Effective January 19, 2021, over a 10-school day period:
 - Districts and schools in a **hybrid learning model** must provide at least 35 hours of “live instruction”
 - Districts and schools in a **remote learning model** must provide at least 40 hours of synchronous instruction.
 - Districts and schools in a remote learning model may not have any fully asynchronous days; and
 - Students must minimally have a **required “live” daily check-in** each day with educators.

Grade Level	Hours Over Two Week Period
Grade 1	38
Grade 4	39
Grade 7	42
Grade 10	47
Average	42

[Link to state dashboard](#)

**Live instruction means the combination of in-person and remote synchronous instruction.*

District Communications

Ongoing:

- **Reopening updates** at www.bostonpublicschools.org/reopening
- **Weekly newsletter** to families [posted online for translations](#)
- **Updates** from the [Superintendent](#)
- **Text messages:** 23 text messages sent to families on topics including food access, remote learning survey, school schedules, community meetings since December
- **Document Translation:** 25 documents translated for School Committee meetings since November
- **Interpretation:** Four languages for simultaneous interpretations during School Committee meetings plus ASL interpretations since November

Next Steps for Continued Improvement:

- Clarifying preferred home language
- Updating contact information for families
- Messaging from other trusted sources
- Access to multimedia resources