

Title: Winthrop Innovation Plan	Date: January 30, 2019
Presentation Overview/Action Proposed:	<p>John Winthrop Elementary School proposes to continue its improvement through the School Committee’s approval to operate as an Innovation School. This will support the continued progress of the school to meet targets and will grant the school the opportunity to retain autonomies that were critical to the school’s progress during Turnaround.</p> <p>The Innovation Plan will be presented to the School Committee on January 30 for a vote of approval on February 6th.</p>
Educational and Racial Equity Implications:	<p>The Winthrop has one of the ten highest opportunity index scores in the district, which indicates a higher average level of student need. Granting the approval of the Winthrop to operate as an Innovation School would guarantee that the school retains autonomies that have been essential for closing opportunity and achievement gaps for students, 96% of whom are students of color. Through autonomies like additional professional development and scheduling, the district will ensure that the Winthrop students have access to flexible schedules that meet their needs, high-quality teachers, rigorous instruction, and tailored curriculars.</p>
Policy Implications:	<p>This Fall, Winthrop was named by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) as being eligible to exit from “underperforming” (formerly “level 4”) status. Provision of the school’s autonomies that have been essential to the school’s rapid improvement are part of the district’s actions required for the Winthrop to complete its exit from “underperforming” status. BPS must make guarantees called “exit assurances,” that demonstrate a commitment to retaining the conditions that are necessary for the school’s sustained improvement.</p> <p>Innovation status will continue to provide Winthrop with some of the essential flexibility needed to continue its trajectory of growth.</p> <p>If the Winthrop is not granted the ability to operate as an Innovation School, the district would need to find another</p>



	mechanism to provide the school with the critical autonomies needed to maintain the school's growth.
Budget Impact:	There will be no impact on the budget.
Implications of Yes Vote:	The Winthrop Elementary School would be converted into an Innovation School and granted the following autonomies the school held while in turnaround. The autonomies ensure flexibility over: scheduling, curriculum, instruction, and assessment, professional development and collaboration, staffing, the budget, and the length of the school day. The Innovation Plan would be in effect for three school years, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. After that time, the plan would undergo a renewal process by the faculty and School Committee.
Implications of No Vote:	The Winthrop Elementary School would automatically revert to a standard status and would need to find another method for ensuring the preservation of the autonomies outlined in the Exit Assurances to the State. The District is accountable for ensuring the school sustains its improvement through extending school flexibilities that have allowed the school to make rapid progress during turnaround. If another form of autonomy was not established, there may be implications for the school's exit from underperforming status.

