

## Important Announcement for the Gardner Pilot Academy Community

**Superintendent Mary Skipper**

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Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Dear Gardner Pilot Academy Community,

As the district plans for the future of all BPS schools in partnership with our School Leaders, we are working to transition most of our elementary schools to serve grades Pre-K to Grade 6 and our high schools to serve students in Grades 7 to 12. Our goal is to create fewer transitions between schools, and create more seats for our youngest learners, especially those with disabilities.

With the goal of better serving our students, we have worked with Principal Herman to transition the Gardner Pilot Academy next year from a K-8 school to a Kindergarten to Grade 6 school. This means that beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, the Gardner Pilot Academy will no longer serve Grade 7 and 8 students. We continue to work with the district on additional plans for early childhood programs and will share more information with the community as those plans develop.

**There will be a Gardner Pilot Academy community meeting on November 16, 2023 at 6:00 PM and at the Governing Board meeting on November 16, 2023 at 5:00 PM to discuss what this will look like for families.** During these meetings, we will have representatives from the central office, where we will discuss these plans in more depth, listen to feedback, and answer questions, and provide support to families, especially for families with rising 7th and 8th graders

Our Welcome Services registration team and our Capital Planning team are prepared to provide additional support to families regarding the school assignment process. The BPS Office of Welcome Services will provide in-school support with school options, counseling, and completing school choice forms. We will work one-on-one to support you and your student to identify the best option for your student.

Any family with a student entering Grade 7 or 8 for the school year 2024-2025 will receive priority for school assignment during the registration period. If your student is currently in Grades 6 or 7, this means you will receive a new school choice form and rank schools for

Grades 7-12. Once that form is completed, during the assignment process, our staff will give your student what is called “pathway priority”, which essentially means your student has priority during the school assignment process. This is not a guarantee, but we will do our best to accommodate your choices. A further breakdown for understanding:

- **Current Grade 6 students:**
  - Rank schools during the first round of registration running January 4 to February 9, 2023
  - Current Grade 6 students will receive priority for school assignment.
- **Current Grade 7 students:**
  - Rank schools during the second round of registration running February 12 to April 5
  - Current Grade 7 students will receive priority for school assignment.

**Current Grade 8 students** are transitioning at the end of this school year and should work with their school and/or welcome services to identify their best options for high school.

**All students will receive a school choice form to rank their schools, and will not have to visit a Welcome Center to complete registration.**

We know that changes to school communities can be stressful for students, families, staff, and community partners, and we are deeply committed to ensuring that the entire Gardner Pilot Academy community has the support needed to make this transition.

If you have questions in the meantime, please reach out to [capitalplanning@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:capitalplanning@bostonpublicschools.org). Thank you for your continued partnership, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Mary Skipper  
Superintendent