



Updated FY15 Budget Recommendation

Finance Update

Presentation to School Committee
February 26, 2014

Summary

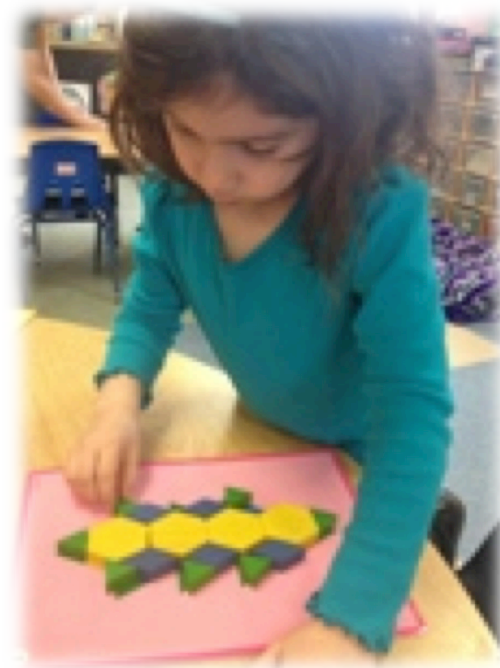
- Thanks to the City of Boston, our general fund target appropriation for FY15 rose \$35.9 million to \$973.3 million, a 3.8% increase compared to FY14
- However, while we are investing an additional \$5 million directly in schools through Weighted Student Funding, we continue to face a challenging budget situation in FY15 due to rising costs and a drop in federal and state funding
- In our preliminary budget presentation on February 5th, we were unable to present a fully balanced budget, with a remaining challenge of approximately \$14 million
- We have now identified strategies that bring us to a balanced budget
- We are working to determine how each strategy will be implemented, and we will share more detailed information in the next few weeks

Agenda

- What this budget accomplishes
- Recap of budget challenge
- How we met the financial challenge
- Budget timeline

We are expanding K1 seats across the city...

- We are investing \$1.0 million to add 106 new K1 seats at programs across the city
- As we expand our K1 programming, we are focused on maintaining the high quality that has made these programs a national model
- We use 3 key criteria to guide K1 expansion:
 - Programs are sustainable
 - Classes are spread across the city
 - Additional classes offer a positive increase in seats (not a repurposing of existing classrooms)



...extending hiring autonomy to all schools to hire qualified, diverse candidates early...

- **\$400,000** to support Teacher Diversity Action Plan
- **\$6.1 million** to make our early hiring initiative a success
 - \$1.2 million budgeted centrally to help schools offer stipends for close to 1,000 open posted positions
 - \$4.9 million to support professional development and transition support for excessed educators
 - We are also seeking external funding to support this initiative



...introducing a new school choice process...

- We are moving forward deliberately to implement the new process of student assignment, including the recommendations from the External Advisory Committee:
 - More **K-8 pathways** (Blackstone, Hennigan, Trotter, UP Dorchester)
 - More **inclusive and dual language** program options
 - **Overlays for English Language Learners (ELLs) and Special Education** to provide services closer to home
- The associated costs of these changes are built into the school funding process through enrollment projections and start-up costs for new classrooms
- We are also working toward **improving our school facilities**
 - General fund costs for the facilities changes approved in November and December 2013 add up to approximately \$1.6 million in FY15

...preparing to implement the Common Core standards and PARCC assessments...

- **\$1 million in equipment** and another **\$1 million in upgrades to technology infrastructure** in preparation for the online PARCC assessments*



...renewing our investments in technology to support teachers, families, and students...

- **\$1.2 million** to support Laptops for Learning
- **\$675,000** for continued use of the Student Information System

...investing in upgrades to our facilities...

- an increase of **\$1 million** to meet deferred maintenance needs



...supporting Extended Learning Time (ELT) in schools across the district...



- **\$2.75 million** for ELT at current and former turnaround schools and **\$2.5 million** for ELT at other BPS schools
- **\$1.4 million** for Acceleration Academies during school vacations

...and making additional investments in services for some of our highest-need students.

- **\$3.2 million** for students with Emotional Impairment
- **\$5 million** for English Language Learners in grades 6-12
- **\$1.5 million** for inclusion specialists in 26 schools

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Sources of school funding



1.	Weighted Student Funding	\$452M
2.	Special programs (non-WSF)	\$28M
3.	Title I funding	\$14M
4.	Standard allocations built into school budgets (nurses, special education coordinators, and food services staff)	\$22M
5.	Rules-based soft landings	\$6M
6.	Buybacks for Autonomous Schools	\$2M
7.	Additional adjustments ¹	\$4M
Total:		\$528M

¹Additional adjustments include EEC/ELC supplements and other non-rules-based allocations

Notes: These figures do not include the school services that are budgeted centrally. All figures are current as of January 31st and may change as the budgeting process continues.

Budget challenge - \$107 Million



Since presenting on February 5th, the cost for new initiatives has increased by approximately \$2 million as we have budgeted for new early childhood seats (\$1.0 million) and other costs for facilities and human capital

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Our budget challenge provides the opportunity to realign our work to best support schools

Strategy	Savings	Notes
Appropriation increase	\$35.9M	City appropriations increased by \$35.9 million
Central office reductions	\$33.8M	Central office reorganizations, consolidations, and reductions in services
Enrollment adjustments	\$11.0M	Adjustments in the projections of number of enrolled students
Transportation services	\$11.0M	The most significant change in services provides MBTA passes to some of our middle school students
Special Education changes	\$5.5M	Reductions in non-direct Special Education services
Health insurance	\$5.0M	Decrease in health insurance premiums
Grant changes	\$4.0M	Strategic reductions in grant-funded services
Shift Adult Education to grant support	\$1.1M	Only grant funds will be applied to adult education
Total	\$107.3M	

Impact on positions

Position Type		FY14 Total	Anticipated Change for FY15
School-Based	Total	7,525.4	(249.4)
	Teachers	4,407.5	(89.2)
	Paraprofessionals	1,230.7	(113.9)
	Other	1,887.2	(46.3)
Central Office Total*		800	(126.2)

* This includes only “core” central office positions, not positions that are budgeted centrally and deployed to schools

Proposed changes in transportation

- Provide **MBTA passes** instead of yellow buses for 7th and 8th graders with corner-to-corner service
 - Currently, 1,862 students in 7th and 8th grade receive MBTA passes, and our proposal would expand this program to an additional 4,586 students for SY14-15
 - We also propose to offer MBTA passes for 6th graders on a pilot basis
- **Reduce MBTA “shuttle” service** to BPS high schools within 1 mile of a major MBTA hub
- Continue process of **aligning bell times** and **combine bus services** for some co-located schools
- Develop a **more transparent and rules-based structure** on transportation by asking schools to budget and pay for “a la carte” services:
 - Late buses
 - Early release transportation that is not weekly
 - Service on non-BPS-calendar days
 - Field trips and athletics events not already budgeted by Athletics department

Academics: Creating a more nimble, data-driven, & project-based organization

- The Academics department is responsible for overseeing many of the district's priorities
 - Eliminating the **achievement gap**
 - Successfully implementing **Common Core and PARCC**
 - Supporting the increase in **full inclusion** for students with disabilities
- In order to increase efficiencies and productivity we are proposing a **reorganization of Academics** to include:
 - A more nimble, data-driven and project-based Curriculum & Instruction with the capacity to define, implement and monitor curriculum and instruction
 - Clear definition of roles, responsibilities and feedback loops to maximize the connection between C&I and networks
 - A more robust network structure with the capacity to support, supervise, intervene and transform schools in their networks

Developing a new vision for Unified Student Services

- We are unifying student support services to improve academic outcomes, provide a coordinated and comprehensive approach to student services, and support and enhance students' physical and emotional well-being
- This will:
 - Improve student achievement and increase student outcomes by providing comprehensive and coordinated services
 - Facilitate improved policy development, partnerships, and operating procedures to support student gains
 - Strengthen school-based teams to improve efficiencies in operations and service delivery
 - Realign and integrate central office support to create cross-functional teams that focus on prevention and early intervention versus intensive interventions
 - Improve data collection, sharing and analysis

Integrating Human Capital functions

- BPS is transforming how we provide human capital support and services for schools
- We are merging the Office of Educator Effectiveness and Office of Human Resources into a single Office of Human Capital
 - Allows us to combine all human capital functions from pipelines to career ladders in one office
 - This includes recruitment, induction, professional learning, evaluation, and growth and development
- We are working to rethink the roles in this office for maximum efficiency and effectiveness, especially through a focus on project-based teams rooted in the Teacher Diversity Action Plan

Unifying Engagement offices and services

- We are developing a unified Office of Engagement within BPS that will:
 - Ensure stronger connections and supports for families as they transition into and through BPS
 - Promote more meaningful engagement of families, students, and the community with a focus on student learning and school improvement
- We will be engaging in a strategic planning process to strengthen our systems and structures around engagement and increase the district's capacity to support effective engagement practice centrally and at schools
- We look forward to presenting more information on this proposal at an upcoming meeting

Other adjustments include:

- **Central budgeting of professional development**
 - We will reduce the central budget for professional development from approximately \$12 million to \$9 million by pooling funds and using them more strategically
 - School budgets, which include \$18 million for professional development, will not be affected
- **More efficient and greener use of utilities**
 - We will reduce electricity and paper usage by shifting from individual desktop printers to shared workstations
 - We will expand the use of automatic power-save on computers; this feature is already in use on approximately 3,800 devices, saving \$20,000 per month

The budget is based on relevant assumptions, including:

Area	Assumptions
Transportation	BPS policies are changed to reflect current trends in providing transportation to students in large cities
Early Hiring of Teachers	(1) Appropriate numbers of excessed teachers successfully compete for open classroom positions or are placed in suitable, open professional positions (2) External funding is sufficient to support this effort
Homeless Transportation	Current state policies on placement of homeless families continue to result in increased transportation costs, but they do not increase at the same rate as they did from FY13 to FY14
Utilities Savings	Next year's weather conditions return to historical patterns

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We look forward to discussing the budget with you in a variety of forums

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|---------------|--|
| Feb 5 | Superintendent's recommended budget to School Committee |
| Feb 26 | Recommended budget update |
| Mar 4 | Budget hearing (Hyde Park Education Complex, 6 pm) |
| Mar 12 | Budget hearing (26 Court Street, 5 pm) and School Committee meeting (6 pm) |
| Mar 18 | Budget hearing (Edison K-8 School, 6 pm) |
| Mar 26 | School Committee votes on BPS budget |

For more information:

Website: bostonpublicschools.org/budget

Email: budget@bostonpublicschools.org

Twitter: #bpsbudget

A number of documents are available on our website:

- Budget Presentation
- FY15 Budget Memo
- FY15 Allocations
- FY15 WSF School-by-School comparison
- WSF Templates for all schools
- Preliminary budget by Account Code summary
- Preliminary budget by Program Code summary
- Preliminary budget by Department Code summary

Appendix: Transportation savings

- (~\$8M) Provide **MBTA passes** instead of yellow buses for 7th and 8th graders with corner-to-corner service
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