



FY15 Preliminary Budget Recommendation: Budget Hearing

Finance Update

Hyde Park Education Complex
March 4, 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
- This comes at a time when other City departments are being asked to submit lower budgets than in FY14
- However, we continue to face a challenging budget situation in FY15 due to rising costs and a drop in federal and state funding, resulting in **a \$71 million budget challenge**
- We have **increased by \$5 million** the resources allocated to schools through Weighted Student Funding (WSF)
- This budget also enables us to continue our work of:
 - Eliminating the **achievement gap**
 - Implementing the **Common Core Standards**
 - Moving to **fully inclusive programs**

Agenda

- What this budget accomplishes
- Where the funds come from and where they go
- Funding schools equitably and transparently
- Enrollment projections
- Next steps and learning more

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.

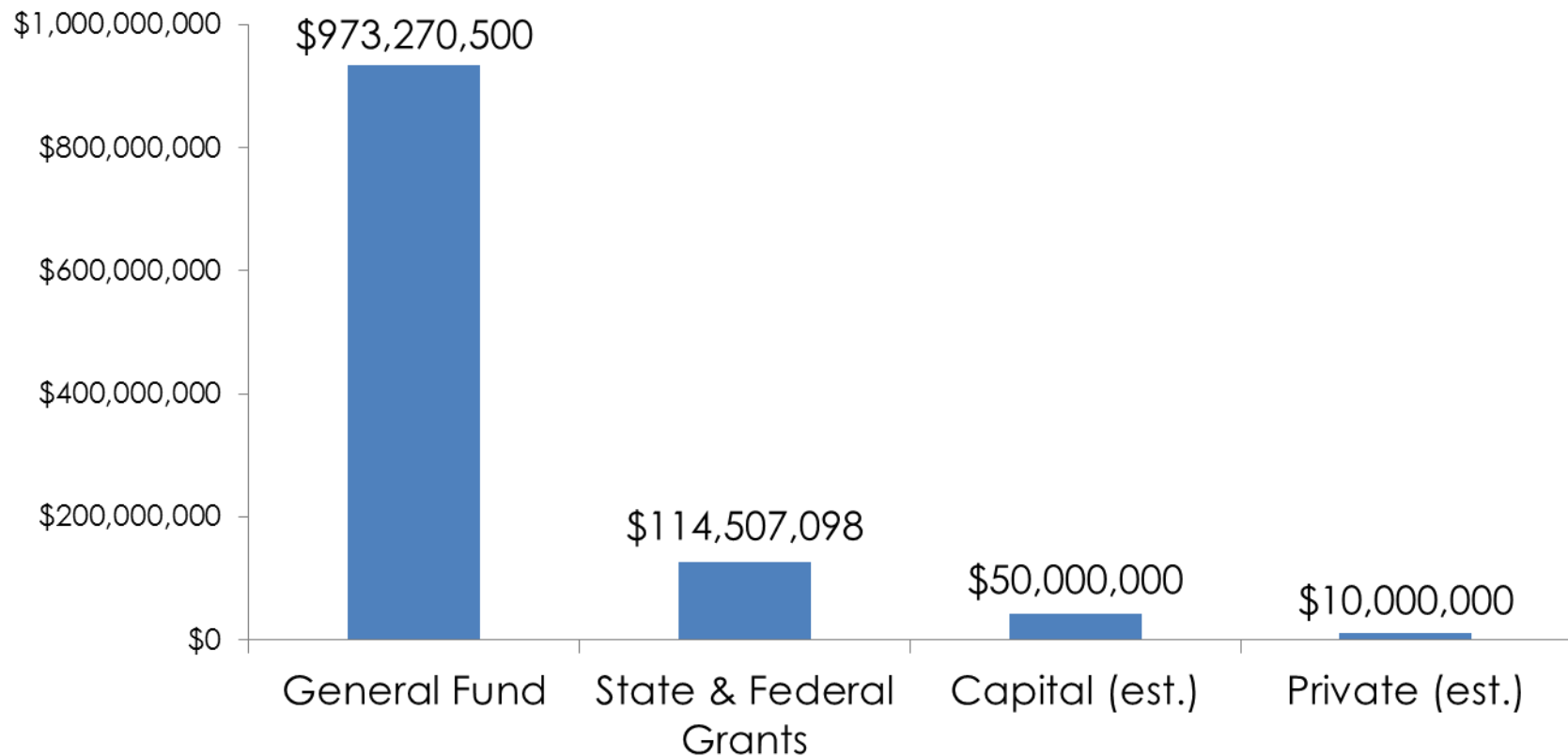
- **\$3.2 million** for students with Emotional Impairment
- **\$5 million** for English Language Learners in grades 6-12
- **\$1.5 million** for inclusion specialists in 26 schools

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Where do our funds come from?

Boston Public Schools FY2015 All Funds Budget



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.

Impact on positions

Position Type		Anticipated Change for FY15
School-based positions	Total	(223.3)
	Teachers	(88.9)
	Paraprofessionals	(108.6)
	Other	(25.8)
Central Office Total*		(115.7)

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

Appendix: Transportation savings

- (~\$8M) 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
- (<\$1M) **Reduce MBTA “shuttle” service** to BPS high schools within 1 mile of a major MBTA hub
- (~\$1M) Continue process of **aligning bell times** and **combine bus services** for some co-located schools
- (~\$1M) Develop a **more transparent structure on transportation** by asking schools to budget and pay for certain “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 in the Athletics budget)

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Weighted Student Funding (WSF) reflects our principles as a district

Principle	Description
Student focus	Provides resources based on students, not on buildings, adults, or programs
Equity	Allocate similar funding levels to students with similar characteristics, regardless of which school they attend
Transparency	Easily understood by all stakeholders
Differentiation based on need	Allocate resources through a comprehensive framework that is based on student needs
Predictability	School allocation process is predictable and is structured to minimize school-level disruption
School empowerment	Empowers school-based decision-making to effectively use resources
Alignment with district strategy	Supports the Acceleration Agenda, our five-year strategic plan

Our starting point is to fund the needs of students through Weighted Student Funding (WSF)

- Students receive a per-pupil allocation that is weighted based on certain characteristics:
 - Grade level
 - Program (e.g., English Language Learners, Special Education, Vocational Education)
 - Student characteristics (e.g., poverty)
 - Academic performance (e.g., high risk)
- Schools receive a minimal foundation budget plus the sum of the allocation for each student

Example weights:

Type	Weight	FY15 Funding
Base weight	1.0	\$3,923
High Risk (Grade 9)	0.2	\$785
ELL (Grade K0-5, ELD Level 1-3)	0.09	\$353
Student with Disabilities: Low Severity (Resource Room)	1.0	\$3,923
Student with Disabilities: Autism	4.3	\$16,869

Category		Per Pupil Base Rate	Weight	Per Pupil Rate	Enrollment	Budget Allocation
Grade	K0 - K1	\$3,923	1.80	\$7,061	77	\$543,685
	K2	\$3,923	1.60	\$6,276	86	\$539,762
	1 - 2	\$3,923	1.40	\$5,492	216	\$1,186,221
	3 - 5	\$3,923	1.30	\$5,099	261	\$1,330,969
Poverty	% of Free & Reduced Lunch	90%				
	# of Free & Reduced Lunch	\$3,923	0.10	\$392	593	\$232,634
	# Above the District Average	\$3,923	0.10	\$392	209	\$81,991
English Language Learners	K0 - 5 ELD Students (lvls 1-3)	\$3,923	0.09	\$353	193	\$68,143
	All Grades (levels 4- 5)	\$3,923	0.02	\$78	138	\$10,827
Students with Disabilities	Low Severity	\$3,923	1.00	\$3,923	34	\$133,382
	Moderate Severity	\$3,923	1.40	\$5,492	12	\$65,906
	Multiple Disabilities	\$3,923	4.30	\$16,869	27	\$455,460
Early Childhood	Ages 3-4	\$3,923	2.50	\$9,808	19	\$186,343
	Ages 5-6	\$3,923	1.90	\$7,454	16	\$119,259
School Foundation						\$200,000
Total						\$5,154,582

We have reviewed and updated the weights to best reflect student needs

Boston Public Schools FY15 Weighted Student Funding Budget Template

BPS School Code	All WSF Schools
School Name	All WSF Schools
Budget Summary	
WSF School Allocation	FY14 Allocation FY15 Allocation
Projected Enrollment	\$ 447,052,612 \$ 452,142,838
School-level average rate per pupil	\$ 7,794.89 \$ 7,995.74
Base Per Pupil	\$ 3,831.69 \$ 3,922.69

Total amount:
\$452,142,838



Reduced weights for students with disabilities in early childhood classes and PTC classes to reflect appropriate staffing models

Category	FY14 Projected Enrollment	FY15 Projected Enrollment	Variance	FY14 Weight	FY14 Per Pupil Rate	FY15 Weight	FY15 Per Pupil Rate	FY14 Amount	FY15 Amount
Total Enrollment by Grade Level									
K0 - K1	3,058	2,892	(166)	1.80	\$ 6,897	1.80	\$ 7,061	\$ 21,091,135	\$ 20,419,000
K2	4,770	4,697	(73)	1.60	\$ 6,131	1.60	\$ 6,276	\$ 29,243,430	\$ 29,479,821
1 - 2	9,090	9,176	86	1.40	\$ 5,364	1.40	\$ 5,492	\$ 48,762,041	\$ 50,392,480
3 - 5	11,723	11,826	103	1.30	\$ 4,981	1.30	\$ 5,100	\$ 58,394,517	\$ 60,306,694
6 - 8	11,582	11,137	(445)	1.40	\$ 5,364	1.40	\$ 5,492	\$ 62,130,028	\$ 61,161,800
9 - 12	17,129	16,820	(309)	1.30	\$ 4,981	1.30	\$ 5,100	\$ 85,322,843	\$ 85,780,757
Students with Disabilities:									
Low Severity (resource room)	2,736	2,739	3	1.00	\$ 3,832	1.00	\$ 3,923	\$ 10,483,496	\$ 10,755,255
Moderate Severity (resource room)	1,940	1,781	(159)	1.40	\$ 5,364	1.40	\$ 5,492	\$ 10,400,000	\$ 9,780,842
High Severity (full inclusion or substantially separate)									
Autism	811	833	22	4.30	\$ 16,476	4.30	\$ 16,868	\$ 13,362,240	\$ 14,010,693
Developmental Delay	21	19	(2)	6.00	\$ 22,990	6.00	\$ 23,300	\$ 482,792	\$ 447,187
Early Childhood (Ages 3-4)	576	527	(49)	3.20	\$ 12,261	2.50	\$ 9,807	\$ 7,062,564	\$ 5,168,148
Primary Transition Class (Ages 5-6)	455	417	(38)	3.00	\$ 11,495	1.90	\$ 7,453	\$ 5,230,252	\$ 3,107,949
Emotional Impairment	731	705	(26)	4.30	\$ 16,476	3.50	\$ 13,729	\$ 12,044,140	\$ 9,679,244
Full Inclusion - High Complexity	277	373	96	4.30	\$ 16,476	4.30	\$ 16,868	\$ 4,562,856	\$ 6,293,991
Intellectual Impairment	1,184	1,188	(6)	1.60	\$ 6,131	1.60	\$ 6,276	\$ 7,320,054	\$ 7,410,000
Multiple Disabilities	131	136	5	4.30	\$ 16,476	4.30	\$ 16,868	\$ 2,158,389	\$ 2,293,991
Physical Impairment	57	66	9	4.30	\$ 16,476	4.30	\$ 16,868	\$ 939,146	\$ 1,113,260
Sensory Impairment: Vision	23	18	(5)	3.00	\$ 11,495	3.00	\$ 11,768	\$ 264,386	\$ 211,825
Specific Learning Disability	1,449	1,498	49	1.60	\$ 6,131	1.60	\$ 6,276	\$ 8,883,382	\$ 9,401,910
English Language Learners:									
K0 - 5 ELD Levels 1-3	7,103	7,027	(76)	0.09	\$ 345	0.09	\$ 353	\$ 2,449,482	\$ 2,480,829
6 - 8 ELD Levels 1-3	1,343	1,334	(9)	0.33	\$ 1,264	0.66	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,698,165	\$ 3,453,696
9 - 12 ELD Levels 1-3	1,971	2,166	195	0.43	\$ 1,648	0.76	\$ 2,981	\$ 3,250,148	\$ 6,457,380
All Grades ELD Levels 4-5	7,895	6,994	(901)	0.02	\$ 77	0.02	\$ 78	\$ 605,023	\$ 548,706
Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)									
Grades 4 - 5 SIFE	320	58	(262)	0.50	\$ 1,916	0.50	\$ 1,961	\$ 613,999	\$ 113,758
Grades 6 - 8 SIFE	108	84	(24)	0.84	\$ 3,219	0.84	\$ 3,295	\$ 348,463	\$ 276,785
Grades 9 - 12 SIFE	44	68	24	0.94	\$ 3,602	0.94	\$ 3,687	\$ 157,660	\$ 250,739
High Risk Students:									
9th Grade	2,374	1,935	(439)	0.20	\$ 766	0.20	\$ 785	\$ 1,819,285	\$ 1,518,082
10th Grade	2,165	2,149	(16)	0.05	\$ 192	0.05	\$ 196	\$ 414,780	\$ 421,493
Poverty									
% of students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) in 2013	75.74%	76.00%							
Projected # of students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch in 2014	42,211	42,718	507	0.10	\$ 383	0.10	\$ 392	\$ 16,174,063	\$ 16,756,923
# of students above a 60% threshold for concentration of poverty	9,879	10,240	361	0.10	\$ 383	0.10	\$ 392	\$ 3,783,307	\$ 4,016,975
Vocational Student:	943	1,062	119	1.00	\$ 3,832	1.00	\$ 3,923	\$ 3,613,280	\$ 4,165,900
School Foundation								\$ 23,200,000	\$ 23,600,000
Second Site Allocation								\$ 780,000	\$ 800,000
Total WSF Allocation of General Funds:								\$ 447,052,612	\$ 452,142,838
									\$ 5,090,226

Notes About Your Budget

1. A second foundation allocation is applied to schools with two sites, where at least one is serving elementary age students. We provide \$50,000 if the sites are less than 1 mile apart, and \$100,000 if one mile or more apart.
2. The WSF allocation of general city funds does not include Title I, other grant allocations, private funds, Nurse, or Co-SESS allocation. Alternative programs and Special Education schools are not funded through WSF.

Reduced weight for Emotional Impairment (EI) due to change in funding model (overall funding for EI is increasing)

Increased weights for ELLs at ELD levels 1-3 in grades 6-8 and 9-12

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Our current enrollment is close to last year's enrollment, but lower than we had projected

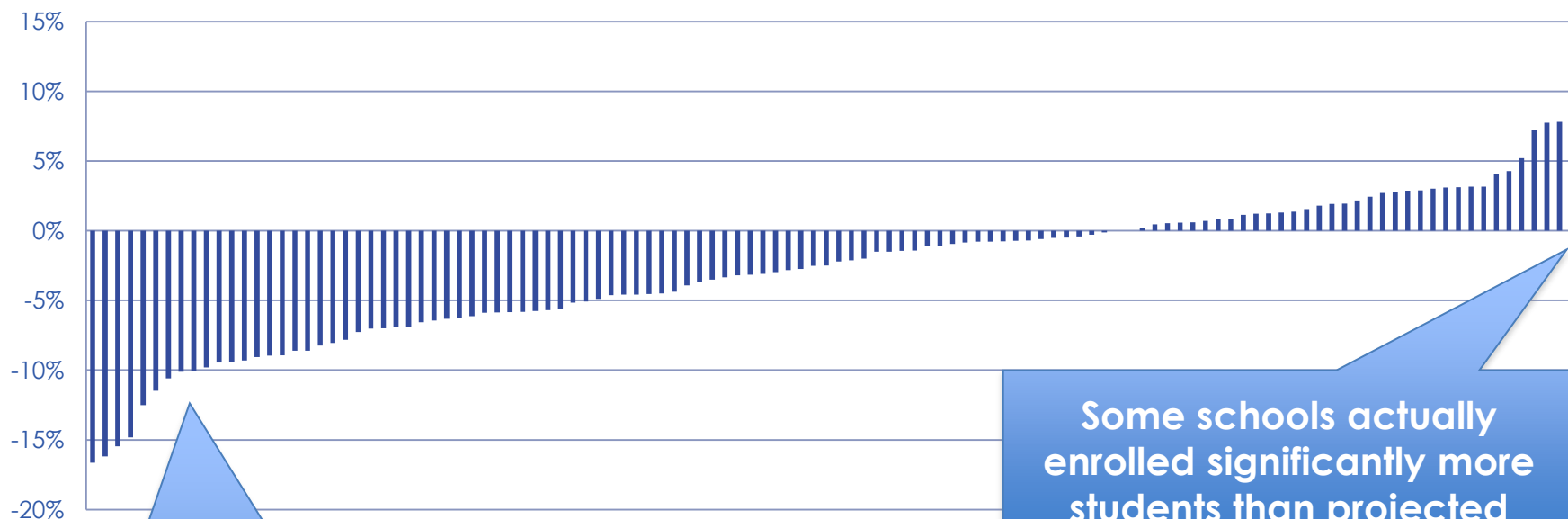
Projected Enrollment:	58,284
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Actual Enrollment (as of Dec. 2013):	56,735
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District Enrollment Variance :	1,549 (-2.66%)
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There was a great deal of variation among schools in FY14 projections

FY14 Variance in Projected vs. Actual Enrollment by School



Enrollment projections for the upcoming year

- In the fall of every year, we project how many students we will serve, what their needs will be, and where they will be served
 - This is based on general population trends (including birth data and movement into and out of the city), school-specific factors (e.g., K-8 conversions), and academic needs
 - Schools receive a draft of enrollment projections and are invited to provide feedback before they receive their budget allocations
- Since current enrollment is lower than projections, we adjusted enrollment projections to be in line with actual enrollment

WSF Example: Blackstone ES (Enrollment – 640)



Category		Per Pupil Base Rate	Weight	Per Pupil Rate	Enrollment	Budget Allocation	What If?	
Grade	K0 - K1	\$3,923	1.80	\$7,061	77	\$543,685	77	\$543,685
	K2	\$3,923	1.60	\$6,276	86	\$539,762	86	\$539,762
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Early Childhood	Ages 3-4	\$3,923	2.50	\$9,808	19	\$186,343	19	\$186,343
	Ages 5-6	\$3,923	1.90	\$7,454	16	\$119,259	11	\$81,991
School Foundation						\$200,000		\$200,000
Total						\$5,154,582		\$4,982,362

-\$172,220

A number of factors contributed to changes in enrollment projections in FY15

Key Factors:

- Corrections to FY14 enrollment projections
- Home Based school choice plan
 - SPED and ELL overlays
- K-8 expansions
- Roll-out of inclusive programs

Examples of variables that impact individual school funding

Type of Change	Example	Change in Funding	School
District Policy	Decreased 6 th Grade projection by 91 students due to expansions	\$(499,772)	Rogers Middle
Enrollment Projections	Corrected over projections in 6-8 grade by 136 students	\$(666,995)	Timilty Middle
Programming	Added inclusion classrooms, which reduced available regular education seats by 15	\$(57,044)	Mendell Elementary
Weights	Lowered weight for 4 PTC students from 3.2 to 2.5	\$(9,816)	Curley K-8
Loss of one-time funding	School received an additional allocation for their K2 classroom in FY14.	\$(58,000)	Lyndon K-8
Autonomous School Salaries	Second year teacher's salary increased from \$55,386 to \$61,875	\$(6,489)	Lyndon K-8

We have worked with school leaders to address budget challenges based on lower projections

- In January, representatives from multiple departments met with school leaders to review their budgets
- These “budget collaboratives” included representatives from:
 - Academics (Network Superintendents)
 - Budget
 - Office of English Language Learners
 - Office of Human Capital
 - Office of Special Education and Student Services
- Budget collaboratives helped school leaders meet their students’ needs within their given WSF allocations

What is a soft landing?

- In general, we expect schools to meet their needs using their WSF allocations
- In some cases, however, schools may require additional allocations because of extraordinary circumstances
- In these cases, the district may provide a “soft landing” (one-time funding)
- Guiding principles on soft landings:
 - This funding is a **temporary** measure to address particular challenges, not a permanent allocation
 - The situations that may require soft landings **change from year to year** as the context changes
 - All soft landings are **rules-based**, and rules are applied uniformly across all schools

Soft landings in FY15

For FY15, \$5 million in **rules-based soft landings** have been issued to schools in 6 categories:

1. Supports for under-enrolled classrooms due to district priorities (**SPED and ELL Overlays, inclusion rollout**, programs being phased out)
2. Clinical/administrative supports for substantially separate classes for emotional impairment
3. Supports for **Primary Transition Classes (PTC classes) being phased out**
4. Supports for under-enrolled classes for Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE students)
5. Supports for **inclusion start-up for schools implementing formal K2 inclusion for the first time**
6. English as a Second Language (ESL) supports for English Language Learners in general education seats

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

- 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