INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS
FISCAL YEAR 2021
Mayor Martin J. Walsh and Superintendent Brenda Cassellius

PROPOSED FY21 BUDGET TOTALS $1.26 BILLION, REPRESENTING AN $80 MILLION INCREASE FROM CURRENT YEAR & $36 MILLION IN NEW SCHOOL-BASED INVESTMENTS.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 6:00 p.m.
School Committee Meeting
FY21 Budget Presentation
Bolling Building

Thursday, Feb. 13 at 6:00 p.m.
Budget Hearing
School Budget Review
Curley K-8 School, Jamaica Plain

Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 6:00 p.m.
School Committee Meeting
Bolling Building

Tuesday, March 10 at 6:00 p.m.
Budget Hearing
Review of Central Budgets
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. K-8 School, Dorchester

Wednesday, March 18 at 5:00 p.m.
Budget Hearing
Bolling Building

Wednesday, March 25 at 6:00 p.m.
FY21 Budget Vote
Bolling Building

For more information, please visit bostonpublicschools.org
Building on years of record investment in Boston’s education system, the Boston Public Schools’ proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget totals $1.3 billion, marking the largest appropriation by the City, and a projected $80 million increase over last year’s approved budget. Designed to improve academic outcomes, promote deeper levels of student engagement, bolster professional development and training for teachers, and increase support and service to families, the proposed budget is grounded in equity and is closely aligned with BPS’ newly released strategic plan, developed after an extensive community engagement effort launched at the start of the school year.

Nearly 70 percent of new investments, representing a majority of the funding, will provide direct services to students and intensive, instructional support and professional development for teachers. The remaining funding will support instructional resources such as textbooks, computers and investments to improve the school environment, resulting in 100 percent of new funding directly benefitting students to close achievement gaps and improve educational outcomes.

**FY21 BPS BUDGET BASICS**

- $1.26 BILLION total proposed budget
- $320 MILLION in budget growth over 7 years
- $80 MILLION more than last year

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- $15 MILLION for curriculum and learning including 1:1 computing for grades 7–12, high quality literacy materials and instruction and 25 additional custodians
- $12 MILLION for instruction and educators including professional development, bilingual education program, additional training, more paraprofessionals
- $9 MILLION for children and families including school-based family liaisons, school-based social workers, nurse expansion, access to art, music, science, physical education and health

Still have questions? Visit bostonpublicschools.org/budget or ask your principal for more information on your individual school budget.
SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

BPS will support children and families by transforming their experience with direct supports for their critical needs that impact learning in the classroom. BPS will prioritize strategies with demonstrated ability to improve outcomes for our students, such as: hiring school-based family liaisons in 33 of our most underperforming schools, providing school-based social workers for a coordinated, multi-tiered system of support to meet the social-emotional needs of our students and families, continued nurse expansion to achieve one nurse in every school, and increased access to art, music, science, physical education, and health for all students in grades K-6 to develop more focused and engaged students.

SUPPORTING INSTRUCTION AND EDUCATORS

BPS will support classroom instruction and educators, including high quality curriculum, positive learning environments, and bolstered instructional resources. BPS will achieve this by supporting educators through a mix of professional development and support for a K-8 literacy initiative to develop stronger reading skills, high-quality, team-based professional development, dual language and bilingual educations program development, training on practices for including all students of different learning abilities, and ensuring all K2 classrooms have a full-time paraprofessional.

SUPPORTING CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

BPS will support curriculum and learning by providing tools and resources to accelerate high-quality learning and improve outcomes for our students. BPS will expand students access to technology with 1:1 computing for every students in grades 7-12. Schools serving grades K-6 will also receive devices. BPS will continue to provide consistent, high-quality literacy materials and instruction, while ensuring our facilities are supported by adding 25 additional custodians.
How has BPS’ spending changed over time?
For next school year, our appropriation from the City of Boston will grow by an estimated $80 million. Under the leadership of Mayor Walsh, the City’s allocation to BPS has increased by $320 million over the last seven years. Despite a projected student enrollment decline of 824 students this year, the FY21 budget proposal reflects an increase in per-pupil spending from approximately $16,500 in FY14 to $21,734 in FY21 due to significant student-based investments including extended school days, nurses in every school, and Universal Pre-Kindergarten.

What does BPS invest in?
Our goal is to ensure that every child, every classroom, in every school of the Boston Public Schools system has the same opportunity to achieve greatness within them as anybody else. Our investments are focused on strategies that will positive benefit students in a way that prioritizes outcomes for our students with the highest need, supports students by supporting families, improves instruction, closes achievements gaps by increasing the skills and support to teachers, expands student access to technology and shifts the way we approach literacy instruction.

What are the new investments this year?
- $4 million to rapidly expand student access to technology, including a 1:1 computing initiative for all grade 7-12 students;
- $2.5 million for consistent, high-quality literacy materials and instruction for grade K-8 students;
- $2.5 million for school-based family liaisons who reflect the culture and language of the community they serve;
- $5.6 million for school-based social workers for a coordinated, multi-tiered system of support for students;
- $2.2 million to expand access to arts, music, science and physical education and health in grades K-6;
- $2 million for professional learning for school-based staff.

How does the BPS budget work?
Every school in BPS has its own budget. Almost two-thirds of BPS’ money is spent on school budgets. The majority of dollars outside of “school budgets” fund people and things you see when you walk through a school -- custodians, buses, special education staff -- but those types of expenses are paid for by a central budget. The Superintendent’s team, the legal office, and other funding buckets typically associated with the “central office” portion of the budget make up 4 percent of the $1.4 billion total budget.

For more information, please visit bostonpublicschools.org
How does BPS decide how much to give to each school?
BPS uses Weighted Student Funding to determine the budget for each school, calculated by the number of students attending each school, and their individual learning needs.

In Boston, we believe in giving families a voice in where their students attend schools. This family choice is only possible by allowing dollars to follow students. For schools with declining enrollment, we have implemented a number of resources and supports, including “soft landings” so that there will be no impact to the school’s budget for the first 2 percent of enrollment decline. There is also a dedicated reserve to specifically support lower performing schools with larger enrollment declines.

How does the Student Opportunity Act and $100 million Mayor Walsh committed to BPS during his State of the City address intersect with this proposed budget?
The $80 million increase in this year’s proposed budget includes the first year allocation committed by Mayor Walsh in his State of the City address. That $100 million commitment will be phased in over the next three years to reach an annual investment of $100 million for direct classroom funding that is over and above cost increases.

This investment will expedite the benefits that Boston students will experience once the Student Opportunity Act goes into full effect in the next seven years, by putting this direct investment in our school systems effective in the new fiscal year. Once fully implemented, the Student Opportunity Act will benefit Boston’s students with $100 million in additional funding per year.