

Boston Public Schools at a Glance

2019-2020

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OUR MISSION

As the birthplace of public education in this nation, the Boston Public Schools is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative and welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families and students to develop within every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

There are 125 schools in BPS:

- 7 schools for early learners
- 40 elementary schools (K-5)
- 33 elementary & middle schools (K-8)
- 6 middle schools (6-8)
- 4 middle & high schools (6-12)
- 1 K-12 school
- 20 high schools (9-12)
- 3 exam schools (7-12)
- 6 special education schools
- 5 alternative (at-risk) schools and programs

Of these:

- 20 are pilot schools, created to be models of educational innovation with more flexibility and autonomy
- 6 are Horace Mann charter schools funded by BPS
- 5 are Innovation Schools, a model created by Massachusetts Education reform legislation based on BPS pilot schools

SY2020 enrollment is 53,094 (as of 10/1/19), including:

- 3,141 students in pre-kindergarten
- 23,104 students in kindergarten-grade 5
- 10,839 students in grades 6-8
- 16,010 students in grades 9-12

Student demographics:

- 42.5% Hispanic 33% Black 14% White
- 9% Asian 1.5% Other/multiracial
- 45% First language not English
- 32% English learners
- 21% Students with disabilities (students with an IEP)
- 7% English learners with disabilities
- 72% Economically disadvantaged¹

¹ Participating in one or more of these state-administered programs: SNAP, TAFDC, DCF foster care, and MassHealth

Students who don't attend BPS: (data from June 2019)
Of the **76,500** (est.) school-age children living in Boston, about **23,094** (30%) do not attend Boston public schools. They are:

- 46% Black 3% Asian
- 23% White 8% Other
- 19% Hispanic

Of these students:

- 10,787 go to public charter schools
- 5,315 go to parochial schools
- 3,463 go to private schools
- 3,421 go to suburban schools through METCO
- 476 are placed in educational environments outside the district to receive special education services, including private or residential schools and state agencies.
- 198 are homeschooled (as of June 2019)

BPS STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

From July to December 2019, Superintendent Brenda Cassellius met with students, families, staff, district partners and community members to gather input to help develop a strategic plan that will guide the work of the district over the next three school years.

The community plays a critical role in the development of the district's values, goals and strategy that will ensure a high-quality educational experience for every student in every neighborhood.

The superintendent will release a draft plan for the community to provide feedback on before presenting a final strategic plan in early 2020.

STAFF

The 2018-2019 BPS budget (all funds) includes 10,344 staff positions (FTE), an increase of 89 positions (.87%) from SY2017. Here is a comparison of some of the budgeted positions:

SY2019	SY2020	
4,464	4,403	teachers
1,823	1,860	aides
810	829	administrators, managerial
1,073	1,147	support
804	787	secretaries, custodians
1,211	1,354	monitors, cafeteria workers

Demographics: Black White Hisp. Asian Other
Teachers & guidance counselors 21.5% 59.7% 10.7% 6.2% 2%

Qualifications of BPS Teachers (SY2019):

95% are licensed in their teaching assignment (97.3% statewide)

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Brenda Cassellius was appointed Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools by the Boston School Committee in May 2019. A lifelong educator, she most recently served as Minnesota's Commissioner of Education from 2011-2018.

BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BPS is governed by a 7-member School Committee, appointed by the Mayor from among nominees recommended by a broad-based Nominating Committee. Members serve 4-year terms. Current members and term expiration dates are:

Michael Loconto, Chairperson	1/3/22
Alexandra Oliver-Dávila, Vice-chairperson	1/6/20
Dr. Hardin Coleman	1/3/22
Michael D. O'Neill	1/4/21
Jeri Robinson	1/2/23
Dr. Lorna Rivera	1/6/20
Quoc Tran	1/2/23

In 1989, in a non-binding referendum, residents voted to replace the 13-member elected School Committee with an appointed committee. In 1991, the state legislature approved Boston's home rule petition establishing the 7-member, Mayor-appointed committee. The appointed committee took office in January 1992. In a 1996 referendum, residents voted overwhelmingly to retain the appointed committee.

BUDGET, SALARIES & PER PUPIL

FY2020 Gen. Fund: \$1,060,932,783 (+3% from FY2019)

Salaries	\$ 725,423,968	65%
Benefits	\$ 159,880,307	14%
Transportation	\$ 105,045,206	9%
Purchased Services	\$ 48,882,309	4%
Property Services	\$ 41,223,042	4%
Supplies, instruc/non-in	\$ 8,393,371	<1%
Equipment	\$ 2,868,988	<1%
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,359,086	<1%
Reserve	\$ 21,849,030	2%

Weighted student funding. Beginning in FY2012, BPS allocates funds to schools based on projected enrollment and the needs of individual students enrolled. In this system, dollars follow students, no matter what school they attend. Weights are based on target class size and average teacher salary. Students are given higher weights and are allocated additional funds if they meet additional criteria: high risk at grade 9 or 10, poverty, EL, students with disabilities (SWD), or vocational education.

FY2020 External Funds (est.): \$132,837,144

Includes **formula/entitlement grants** (e.g. Title I, II, III, IDEA, Perkins), **reimbursement grants** (School Lunch, ROTC), and **competitive grants** (e.g. Extended Learning Time).

FY20 Average Salaries:

Central administrators	\$ 137,696
Elementary school administrators	\$ 129,026
Middle school administrators	\$ 121,889
High school administrators	\$ 127,310
Professional support	\$ 86,702
Program support	\$ 99,854
Nurses	\$ 95,238
Librarians	\$ 94,193
Teachers (general education)	\$ 94,563
Secretaries/clerical staff	\$ 54,505
Custodians	\$ 54,313
School police officers	\$ 52,084
Substitute teachers, per diem	averages \$ 167



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SPECIAL EDUCATION

As of October 1, 2019, about 11,465 students aged 3-21 with disabilities (21% of total enrollment) are enrolled in special education programs in BPS, of whom:

- 51% are educated in **fully inclusive** settings (spend 80% or more of the school day with their general education peers).
- 10.7% are educated in **partially inclusive** settings (spend 60% or less of the school day outside of the general education classroom).
- 30.7% are educated in **substantially separate** classrooms (spend 60% or more of the school day outside of the general education classroom).
- 8% are enrolled in **special schools** in public or private day or residential settings, including six BPS day schools (Horace Mann School for the Deaf, Carter School, and the four McKinley schools).

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Among BPS students in K0-grade 12:

- 16,898 (32%) are Limited English Proficient (LEP) or English Learners (EL)
- 9,805 (58%) of EL students were born in the US
- All EL students are entitled to receive English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction and core content instruction from highly qualified teachers. Approximate EL enrollment by program, K2-grade 12, is:
 - 2,876 (17%) in language-specific Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) programs
 - 1,600 (9%) in multilingual SEI programs
 - 2,350 (14%) EL students receive SEI in inclusion or substantially separate programs
 - 8,629 (51%) EL students receive SEI in other classroom settings
 - 1,128 (7%) in dual-language programs where students whose first language is Spanish or English and they learn together in both languages
 - 315 (2%) in high-intensity literacy programs for students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE)

EL students speak more than 70 different languages as their home language. The top nine first languages spoken are Spanish (56%), Haitian creole (7%), Cape Verdean creole (7%), Chinese (4%), Vietnamese (4%), Portuguese (2%), Arabic (2%), Somali (1%), and French (1%).

BPS students come from 135 different countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

CLASS SIZE

Class size limits are set in the contract with the Boston Teachers Union.

As reported by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education,

Grades	Maximum Class Size	
	Gen. ed.	High-needs (level 3 and 4 schools)
K1-Gr. 2	22	22
Gr. 3-5	25	25
Gr. 6-8	28	26 (gr. 6)
Gr. 9-12	31	30 (gr. 9)

the average BPS class size in SY2018 was 17.7 students. The state average is 18.1. Average class size is calculated by dividing the total number of students in classes by the total number of classes.

HISTORY: FIRST IN AMERICA

- Boston Latin School: first public school, 1635
- Mather: first public elementary school, 1639
- BPS: first public school system, 1647
- English High: first public high school, 1821
- Horace Mann School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing: first public day school for the deaf, 1869

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & OUTCOMES

Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS)

In 2019, students in grade 10 continued to take the legacy MCAS in High School Sci/Tech. All other tested grades and subjects look the next-generation MCAS.

This table shows the percentage of students who performed at *Proficient* or higher levels and the % change from the previous year in MCAS:

Grade	Test	BPS %	% Change	State %	% Change
10	Sci/Tech	59%	+6%	74%	0%

Next Generation Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System (Next-gen MCAS)

In 2019, BPS students in grades 3-8 took the next-gen MCAS in ELA and Math for the third time. Additionally, BPS students in grade 10 took the next-gen MCAS in ELA and Math for the first time, and students in grades 5 and 8 took the next-gen MCAS in Science for the first time. For these subjects and grade levels, comparisons to last year are not available.

Next generation MCAS scores fall into four categories: Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, and Not Meeting Expectations. The new categories emphasize readiness for higher-level work at the next grade level.

This table shows the percentage of students who Meet or Exceed Expectations and the change from the previous year, as compared to the state.

Grade	Test	BPS %	% Change	State %	% Change
3	ELA	39%	+6%	56%	+4%
3	Math	34%	+1%	49%	-1%
4	ELA	33%	-2%	52%	-1%
4	Math	32%	+1%	50%	+2%
5	ELA	37%	0%	52%	-2%
5	Math	34%	+3%	48%	+2%
6	ELA	36%	+5%	53%	+2%
6	Math	31%	+3%	52%	+5%
7	ELA	32%	-1%	48%	+2%
7	Math	33%	-1%	48%	+2%
8	ELA	35%	0%	52%	+1%
8	Math	34%	+1%	46%	-4%
8	Sci	24	New Test	46	New Test
10	ELA	45	New Test	61	New Test
10	Math	47	New Test	59	New Test

SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT

In 2014, BPS began assigning students using a new "home-based" assignment plan for students in grades K-8. This plan offers families a list of choices that includes all the schools within a mile of their home, plus additional choices to ensure their list includes at least four high-quality schools. It also adds several citywide options and additional schools with programs for which they are eligible (such as AWC). The home-based assignment plan maintains sibling priority in an effort to keep families together. Based on 2019-2020 assignment data for K1 and K2 priority:

- 85% of K2 applicants received one of their top three school choices, and 55% received their first choice
- 87% of K1 applicants received one of their top three choices. Additionally, 61% of K1 applicants received their first choice school.
- 98% of K1 applicants received an assignment to a Boston Public School.

MCAS Competency Determination (CD). As of Spring 2019, 58% of the class of 2021 met the MCAS Competency Determination by performing at Proficient or higher in both ELA and math and at Needs Improvement or higher in science—which represents no change from the class of 2020 and a 19-point increase over the class of 2010.

SAT Results. Average scores on the SAT Reasoning test for test-takers in the class of 2019 were:

	BPS	Mass.
Total	1,016	1,098
Mathematics	516	550
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing Score	500	548

Advanced Placement Performance. In 2018-2019, BPS students took 5,504 AP tests. Most colleges give credits for scores of 3 and above.

	BPS	Mass.
% scores of 1-2	43.9	32.7
% scores of 3-5	56.1	67.3

2017 & 2018 Graduation Rates:

Outcome	2018	2017
Graduated in 4 years	75.1%	72.7%
Still in school	12.6%	14.4%
Non-grad completers	0.5%	1.4%
GED/High School Equivalent	1.0%	1.2%
Dropped out	10.8%	10.3%
Expelled	0%	0%

The annual dropout rate for grades 9-12 in 2017-2018 was 5.4%. This represents a 1 percentage point increase from the previous year.

After High School. In a survey of the Class of 2018 about post-graduation plans, 3,567 students reported the following intentions at the end of the school year:

Plan	% of District	% of State
4-Year College	52%	60%
2-Year College	19%	20%
Other Post-Secondary	3%	2%
Work or Apprenticeship	7%	9%
Military	1%	2%
Other or unknown	18%	7%

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