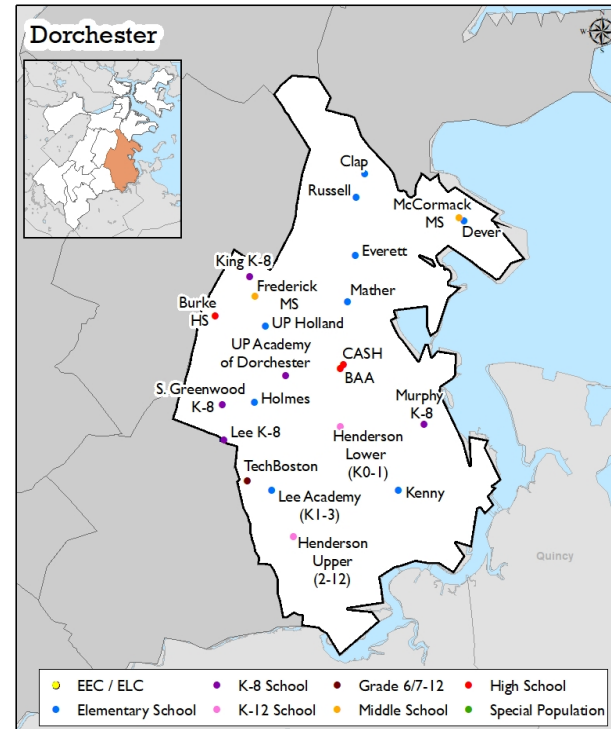


Dorchester

Summary

Dorchester has the greatest number of school-aged youth and is home to 21 percent of all BPS students. It has 19 BPS school buildings and 20 schools: two high schools, two middle schools, one 6-12, one K-12, three K-8s, nine K-5 elementary schools, and one PreK-3 school. There is one two-campus school (the Henderson), and one building that currently houses two schools (the Cleveland Building, which is currently home to Community Academy of Science and Health and Boston Arts Academy).

Elementary aged students outnumber available seats throughout all of Dorchester, and the relative shortage of seats is most pronounced in the southern half. Between Upham’s Corner and Lower Mills, there are on average 1.5 students for every 1 seat available within 1 mile.¹ Students living in that part of the city are among the least likely to attend school within a mile of their home and the among the most likely to attend school more than 2 miles from their home.



By the Numbers

All student data below refers to students living in the neighborhood.

Total Students		Building and School Information	
Total school aged children living in Dorchester	15,728	Number of buildings	19
Total students attending BPS Schools (K0 - 12)	11,473	Number of schools	19
% of school aged children attending BPS	73%	Number of grade configurations	7
% of total BPS population living in Dorchester	21%		

Racial Demographics of BPS Students (All Grades)

Elementary Seat Access (BPS Students)	% Asian	17.2%
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¹ The number listed in the table, 1.45, refers to the average number of students per seat within 1 mile for all of Dorchester. The 1.5 number cited is for students living between Upham’s Corner and Lower Mills. The corresponding number for students living north of that area in Dorchester is 1.29.

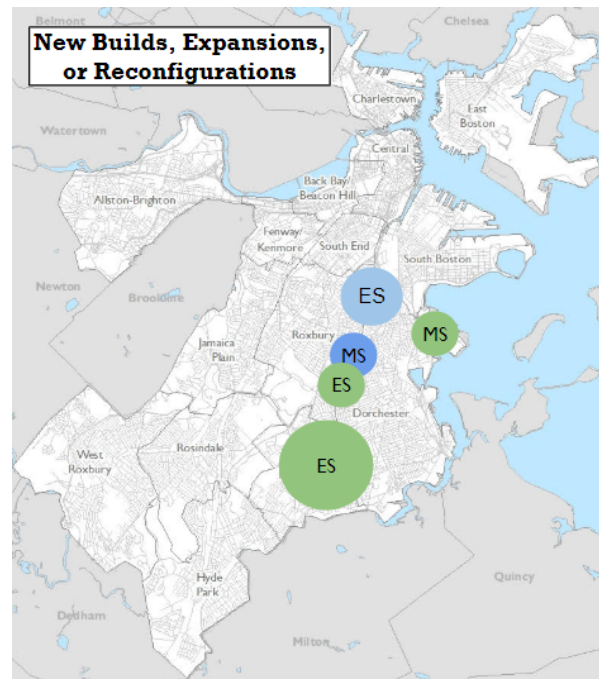
Average students per seat within 1 mile	1.45	% Black	41.8%
Average students per seat on school choice list	1.41	% Hispanic	29.7%
% of students traveling less than 1 mile to school	52%	% Other	2.9%
% of students traveling more than 2 miles to school	16%	% White	8.5%

Special Populations (BPS Students All Grades)

% of students with ELD Levels 1 to 3	18%
% of students with disabilities	17%

New Builds or Expansion Proposals

Three of the nine identified potential areas for new elementary buildings would benefit students and families in Dorchester: one near New Market, one near Blue Hill Avenue and Franklin park, and one near the Mattapan/Dorchester line. The latter two sites are high-priority and are intended to address the relative shortage of elementary seats in the southern half of Dorchester. In each case, the goal is to build elementary buildings serving 400-700 students that can expand access for students with special needs and language needs while also increasing the total number of seats available in the area. Dorchester elementary schools that would be eligible to apply to move into one of the three proposed new buildings include: Mather, Holmes, Kenny, S. Greenwood, and Lee Academy. These schools were identified based on their proximity to the areas of need. For each of these projects, schools in adjacent neighborhoods, including Roxbury and Mattapan, would also be eligible. Other schools may participate in the process, but would need to relocate to this area.



Middle School Reconfiguration

Dorchester is home to two standalone middle schools, the Frederick and the McCormack. The district intends to reconfigure all standalone middle schools over the course of the next 10

years. The timing of the reconfigurations will depend on our ability to leverage other schools to serve 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. The Frederick building was designed to be flexible so that it could later be configured as either an elementary school or a high school. Based on enrollment needs, the district proposes that the Frederick could transition into either a school serving grades K-6 or 7-12, and will work with the community and nearby schools to determine what the future configuration will be. In order to reconfigure to serve a new grade span, space would first need to be identified to accommodate the 6th- through 8th-graders that would otherwise attend the Frederick.

Additionally, the Frederick Middle School is currently home to a large number of specialized programs for students with special needs and English Learners. Any plan to reconfigure the school will require that those programs be maintained in K-6 and/or 6/7-12 schools. Students who participate in those programs must be provided with clear pathways and fewer school transitions. Until BPS addresses the aforementioned considerations, the Frederick will continue to operate as a 6-8 school for the time being. The district will seek to reconfigure the school in the later stages of BuildBPS Phase II. If opportunities arise to meet student needs and convert the school more quickly, the district will pursue those based on community input.

The McCormack Middle School is proposed to close at the end of the 2019-2020 school year to undergo significant renovations and open approximately in fall of 2022 or 2023 as a 7-12 school. Current BPS schools or teams of schools will participate in an application process to move into the McCormack building. In order to qualify, applicants must commit to providing the type of special education and English learner programs the school needs to offer.

High School Proposals

The district proposes Excel High School in South Boston be renovated in the summer of 2020 to expand to a 7-12 school. Rising 7th- and 8th-grade students from the McCormack will be guaranteed seats at Excel starting with the 2020-21 school year. They will have the opportunity to move as a cohort and will be able to remain in Excel 7-12 through graduation.

Elementary School Proposals

As part of this transition, four elementary schools in Dorchester that currently have a guaranteed pathway to the McCormack will be converted into K-6 schools serving an additional grade starting in the Fall of 2020. The proposed schools are the Clap, Dever, Everett and Russell. Each of these schools is too small to convert to K-6 on alone. To achieve the K-6 conversion, the Clap building would combine with either the Russell or the Everett building to create a two-campus K-6. The school communities will be engaged about their preferred path forward with regard to converting these schools to K-6.