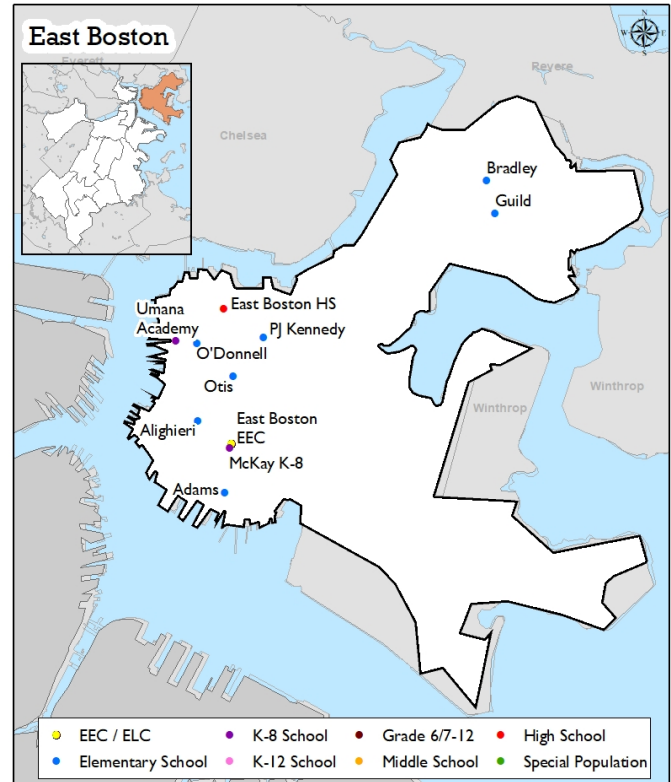


East Boston

Summary

East Boston is home to 12 percent of all BPS students. It has 11 BPS buildings and schools: one high school, two K-8s, one Early Elementary Center, one K-6 Montessori School, and six K-5 elementary schools.

The number of elementary seats in East Boston is relatively well-aligned to the number of elementary students that currently attend BPS. On average there is roughly 1.1 student for every 1 seat available within 1 mile, and there is 1 student for every seat available when factoring in school choice lists. East Boston has the highest percentage of local school-aged children that attend BPS of any neighborhood in the city (87%)¹, and those students are served closer to home than in most other parts of the city. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of elementary-aged children (K2-5), who live in East Boston attend BPS schools within East Boston; the next closest neighborhood is Allston-Brighton at 55%.



There are two primary enrollment challenges in East Boston. First, many students are served locally in East Boston in part because 21st Century Educational spaces, such as art rooms, music rooms, and science labs, are limited in the neighborhood’s elementary buildings. If the buildings had more of these spaces then their capacity would shrink and fewer students would be served; instead, many of the schools are at capacity and lack appropriate auxiliary spaces. The second challenge is a lack of middle school seats. As a result, many students from East Boston attend middle school at the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown.

By the Numbers

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

Total Students	Building and School Information	
Total school aged children living in East Boston	7,453	Number of buildings 11
Total students attending BPS Schools (K0	6,378	Number of schools 11

¹ Charlestown is the second closest with 82% of students residing there attending BPS.

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% of school aged children attending BPS	86%	Number of grade configurations	5
% of total BPS population living in East Boston	12%		

Racial Demographics of BPS Students (All Grades)

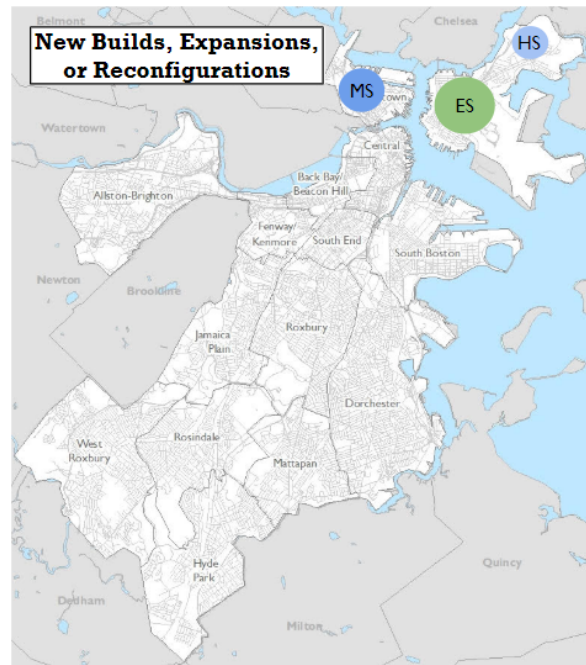
Elementary Seat Access (BPS Students)		% Asian	2.9%
Average students per seat within 1 mile	1.07	% Black	3.0%
Average students per seat on school choice list	0.97	% Hispanic	81.1%
% of students traveling less than 1 mile to school	72%	% Other	1.0%
% of students traveling more than 2 miles to school	11%	% White	12.0%

Special Populations (BPS Students All Grades)

% of students with ELD Levels 1 to 3	32%
% of students with disabilities	13%

New Builds or Expansions

Two of the nine identified potential areas for new buildings are in East Boston. The first is a planned acquisition of a property in East Boston. We anticipate that the property acquisition will be finalized during this fiscal year. If the parcel is acquired, BPS proposes to work with the Otis Elementary School community to determine the future use of the space. The Otis is the closest school to this parcel, which makes it the most logical choice for the project. It would also be an opportunity to engage the MSBA in a major project utilizing the two sites: one that would modernize and significantly alter the educational opportunities for the Otis community and additional East Boston families.



The second potential project is a new site for an

expanded 7-12 high school. The current East Boston High School does not have enough space to expand to 7-12 and there is no expectation that enrollment will decline over the next several years. The district has begun working with the Boston Planning and Development Authority to identify potential sites in East Boston for a new high school building. Given the current real estate market in Boston, this will likely take some time. At the end of the process, a new 7-12 high school building could create additional middle school seats in East Boston, allowing more of those students to be served locally.

Middle School Reconfigurations

Many East Boston students in grades 6 to 8 attend the Edwards Middle School in Charlestown, in part due to a shortage of middle school seats in East Boston. There are no plans to reconfigure the Edwards until additional 6th, 7th, and 8th grade capacity is created for East Boston students elsewhere.

High School Proposals

As mentioned above, the goal is to identify a site in East Boston on which a new 7-12 high school building could be built. Additional capacity is not needed for grades 9-12 in East Boston. As a result this new building could become a new East Boston High School (7-12), freeing up the current high school building for an alternate use (e.g., PreK-6).

Elementary School Proposals

Other than the Otis project, there are no additional proposals for expanding K-5 elementary schools in East Boston to K-6 due to several challenges. First, there is a shortage of middle school seats in East Boston, and there are limited options for expanding those seats before a new 7-12 high school building is erected. Second, many of the buildings are too small to add a 6th grade and are already sacrificing 21st century learning spaces to accommodate the students they serve. However, as the community is engaged about the best use for the parcel to be acquired, the district will explore ways to leverage the property to address the middle school seat shortage and/or allow additional schools to transition to a K-6 model.

Given the shortage of middle school seats, there are currently no plans to alter the grade structure of the two K-8 schools in East Boston.

East Boston is home to one Early Education Center / Early Learning Center (EEC/ELC), the East Boston EEC. While there is no proposal to change the grade spans of this school, requests for change driven by the school community would be considered.