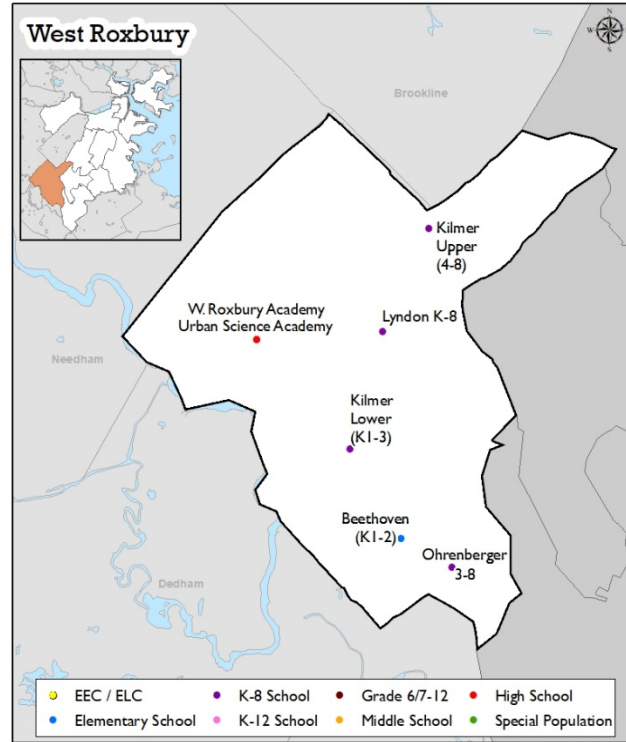


West Roxbury

Summary

West Roxbury is home to five percent of all BPS students. It has 6 BPS buildings housing 5 BPS schools: two high schools and three K-8s, making it the only neighborhood in the city in which elementary students are served exclusively in K-8s.

There are enough elementary seats in West Roxbury to serve the number of elementary students who currently attend BPS. On average there are roughly 1.15 seats available within 1 mile for every elementary student in West Roxbury who currently attends BPS. However, under the home-based student assignment system families from neighboring communities have access to schools in West Roxbury, which increases competition for those schools. West Roxbury is also one of the least densely populated residential neighborhoods. As a result of both factors, students living in West Roxbury are among the least likely to attend school within a mile of their home and the most likely to attend school more than two miles from their home.



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 West Roxbury	4,343	Number of buildings	6
Total students attending BPS Schools (K0 - 12)	2,611	Number of schools	5
% of school aged children attending BPS	60%	Number of grade configurations	2
% of total BPS population living in West Roxbury	5%		
		Racial Demographics of BPS Students (All Grades)	
Elementary Seat Access (BPS Students)		% Asian	9.2%
Average students per seat within 1 mile	0.87	% Black	16.3%
Average students per seat on school choice list	1.24	% Hispanic	24.0%

% of students traveling less than 1 mile to school	48%	% Other	3.7%
% of students traveling more than 2 miles to school	21%	% White	46.8%

Special Populations (BPS Students All Grades)

% of students with ELD Levels 1 to 3	7%
% of students with disabilities	12%

New Builds or Expansion Proposals

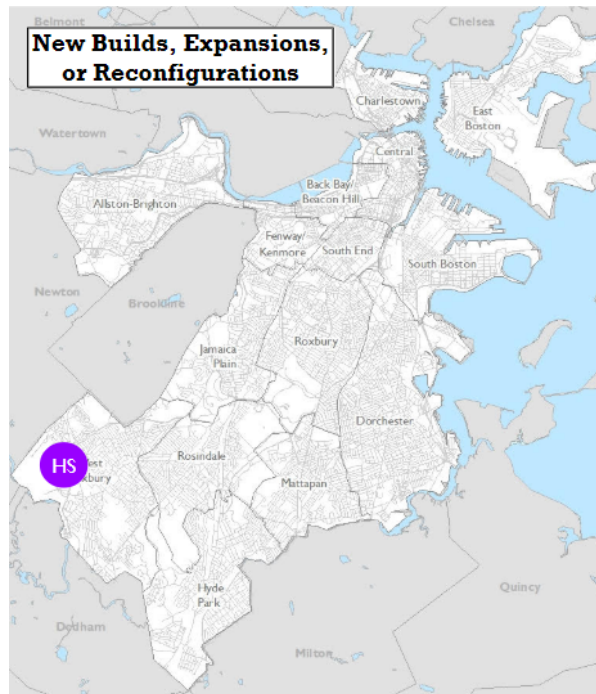
West Roxbury has enough elementary seats to serve the who live in the area and currently BPS. It also does not have a stand-middle school. As a result, the neighborhood does not meet our priorities for new buildings or major expansions.

Middle School Reconfiguration Proposals

There are no middle schools in West

High School Proposals

The proposal to close the West Education Complex (WREC) is one most significant changes included in report. The closure is prompted by a emergency due to rapidly declining conditions at the school. The long-term viability of this school building past this current school year would require significant improvements to its infrastructure. The focus of this section is on the future plans for the school site once the building is vacated in July 2019.



students attend alone


current

Roxbury.

Roxbury of the this facility

Our engagement with the community will focus on a significantly renovated or newly-built high school building at the WREC site. It is the only high school building in West Roxbury and closure will leave it as one of two neighborhoods without a high school. The other neighborhood is Roslindale, immediately adjacent to West Roxbury. Ensuring that our high schools are geographically distributed is a BuildBPS principle and leads us to prioritize a high school on that site. In addition, as all high schools are citywide, any 7-12 located at this site also would serve students from across the city.

A second reason for the focus on a high school on that site is the recent investment by the City of Boston Parks Department to renovate and upgrade the athletic fields and grounds surrounding the school. In a city with scarce property surrounding our schools, WREC creates a



unique opportunity to have a large high school campus in Boston, with the same look and feel (or spatial and extracurricular amenities) found at some of the larger high schools in Boston's suburbs. As we seek to provide a variety of choices for our students, it will be difficult to find another property in Boston to offer the same experience. This property is identified, available, and already has many amenities geared toward a high-quality high school experience that will be hard to replicate in other parts of the city.

A final reason is that the closure of the two schools at the complex puts even more urgency on the district to leverage the campus to create a large, high-quality school that can expand access to quality schools for students with special needs and English learners. These programs are concentrated in our open enrollment schools in part because those schools are physically large, and can accommodate specialized programs.

We will begin conversations with the community regarding the future of this parcel. First and foremost, we will engage the community about what it would take to create a high quality school on that site. We want to discuss the types of programs and amenities people would like to see once the building is reopened. We will also discuss if this will be a 9-12 high school or a new 7-12 high school. There is a prevalence of K-8 schools in West Roxbury, but nearby Roslindale requires 7-12 high school options to reconfigure the Irving.

BPS will submit the project to the MSBA for reimbursement toward a new school construction project. This means that the project is likely to take 5-7 years to complete. As with other projects, we will have a process for schools or teams of schools to apply to be a part of this project. This is a unique project and we will encourage a wide variety of applications including the relocation of an existing BPS high school.

Elementary School Proposals

As mentioned previously, West Roxbury is the the only neighborhood in the city in which elementary students are served exclusively in K-8s. There are no proposals to change the configurations of these schools. A 7-12 high school at the West Roxbury Education Complex (WREC) would facilitate the transition of current Roslindale elementary schools to K-6 schools including a reconfiguration of the Irving school building. To ensure that 8th grade students in K-8 schools have access to the high school at grade 9, the high school will need to have more seats in grades 9-12 than in 7-8.

Past discussions of the WREC have surfaced community requests for a new K-8 school on that site. Our current plan would not identify a K-8 project at that site. The first reason is practical: the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation owns and manages the West Roxbury Parkway and prohibits yellow buses from using the road. This requires a work-around for the small number of buses that high schools require. For an elementary school, where many more students are eligible for yellow bus service, this would create significant problems. The second is related to our current priorities. While there are elementary seat access issues for families in West Roxbury, the district anticipates alleviating this through the K-6 reconfigurations in Roslindale, creating more elementary access in the area. With the unique opportunity a new facility presents for a campus-style citywide high school serving Boston's diverse student population, the proposed BuildBPS Phase II plan prioritizes a strong 7-12 or 9-12 high school on this property.