

SUBJECT: Update on the Exam School Admissions Process for SY 2021-2022

Dear BPS Community,

We are writing to share information with you about the exam schools admissions process for the 2021-22 school year. Since October of 2020, BPS has collected and verified information for every student in the city of Boston who is eligible for admissions to an exam school. As we previously mentioned, the one-year admissions policy requires the collection of much more information than in previous years. Our goal is to ensure a fair and accurate admission process for all students. Below you will find information on how BPS implemented the admissions policy this year.

Application Timeline and Process:

The Boston School Committee approved the Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group's recommendation on October 21, 2020. To ensure families and students were fully informed about the new policies as well as all that each exam school offers, 16 [virtual information sessions](#) were held between November and December 2020.

Non-BPS Students

The BPS exam school application process launched on November 23, 2020, shortly after the Boston School Committee approved the Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group's recommendation. The application process opened on November 23, 2020. Initially scheduled to end on December 31, 2020, the application deadline was extended an additional two weeks to January 15, 2021, creating an eight-week application window for non-BPS students. After January 15th, BPS and its external partner worked to verify eligibility for the applicant pool and eligibility letters were sent to non-BPS families on March 29, 2021.

BPS Students

BPS notified most BPS families of eligibility on January 7, 2021 with their school ranking submissions due on January 29th. In order to provide BPS families with the same eight-week window to complete the application process, we extended the deadline for all BPS families to submit their school rankings to March 5, 2021. BPS communicated this extension by direct calls to eligible BPS families who had not ranked schools by the initial deadline. Families of other BPS students and non-BPS families were not impacted by this extension.

A small number of BPS students had transcripts requiring translation, incomplete student records from prior schools, or cases that required additional action before eligibility could be finalized. For students who came to BPS from schools outside the district, we reached out to a variety of schools and district administrators to collect grades or to request converted grades from schools that used nontraditional grading formats.

BPS has determined the eligibility of the majority of BPS students and has sent eligibility letters, on a staggered basis, as these determinations have been made. However, as we review the admissions process with our external partners, BPS is still working to confirm the eligibility of a handful of BPS students. We are working closely with school leaders to verify grades for these students as quickly as possible.

All Students

At this time, we anticipate sending exam school invitations mid to late April. We apologize for any inconvenience these delays have caused, and we will continue to keep you updated with as much information as possible. For more details on exam school admissions, please visit www.bostonpublicschools.org/exam

Sincerely,
BPS Welcome Services