

October 9, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Community,

I am writing to inform you about an important update related to Boston Public Schools (BPS) 'exam schools'.

The three BPS exam schools are Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. All schools serve students in grades 7-12. The admissions process is open to all Boston students in grades 6, 8, and 9 (O'Bryant only), including students who are not currently enrolled in a BPS school.

On July 2, 2020 BPS announced NWEA's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessment as the new admissions test for the Boston exam schools. Due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and families, BPS launched an [Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group](#) which includes current and former school leaders, parents, civil rights leaders, and alumni of the exam schools. The group worked together over the last two months to provide a recommendation to me regarding the current exam school admissions policy, which requires an admissions test and students' grades from school. Any changes in admissions would be in effect for students applying for exam school entry for September 2021.

Last night, the Working Group [presented its recommendation](#) to the Boston School Committee. The group recommends that BPS temporarily suspend the admissions exam for 2021-22 school year and instead use the following process:

- Identify students for the applicant pool based on prior report card grades in English language arts and math or prior assessment results. All grades and assessment results would reflect a student's performance prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and school closure and require school district (or equivalent) verification that the student is performing at grade level based on the Massachusetts Curriculum standards.
- Distribute invitations to students based on prior report card grades and zip code, honoring family choice .
 - 20% of seats at each exam school are reserved for the top-ranking students in the city based on GPA.
 - The remainder 80% of invitations are distributed by using a combination of GPA and student home zip code.

BPS will provide families with another update regarding the admissions policy and timeline following the School Committee's scheduled vote on the recommendation on Wednesday, October 21. If you have any questions, please contact Welcome Services at exam@bostonpublicschools.org. Thank you for choosing Boston Public Schools and for your support in helping us provide an excellent education for your child and all of our students.

All my best,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent

