Update to the ELL Taskforce

Nathan Kuder, Chief Financial Officer
Every child, in every classroom, in every school of the Boston Public Schools system has the same opportunity to achieve the greatness within them as anybody else.
We are facing a number of challenges that will play out during budget season.

- Schools are facing declining enrollment and rising student need.
- The District has a moral obligation and a call to action to action from our community to invest boldly in our lowest performing schools.

Our budget reflects the need to reorganize and recommit to tackling these challenges.

- Investments aligned to the School Committee’s Strategic Plan and Superintendent’s Action Plan
- Focused on the lowest performing schools
- Prioritization for strategies with demonstrated ability to improve outcomes for our neediest students
Boston Public Schools

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Summary of major enrollment trends</th>
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<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
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<td>● BPS enrollment declined for the third year in a row, dropping by 1,059 students compared to October of last year.</td>
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<td>● Since FY17, enrollment has declined 2,910 students (5.2%). This is the first multi-year enrollment decline during the WSF era.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>K1-5</strong></th>
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<td>● Grades K2 to 5 enrollment declined by 800 students compared to October of last year. This is a 1,700 student decline since FY18.</td>
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<td>● Total K2 to 5 enrollment has declined by 2,056 students (8%) over the last three years.</td>
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<th><strong>6-8</strong></th>
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<td>● Enrollment in 6 to 8 remained steady since last October.</td>
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<td>● Middle grades should remain stable next year, but could start to decline in the following year as smaller cohorts enter grade 6.</td>
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<td>● We expect this trend to shift as we finalize our pathways by expanding K-6 elementary schools and 7-12 high schools</td>
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<th><strong>9-12</strong></th>
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<td>● Grade 9 to 12 enrollment has declined by 1,171 students (6.8%) over the last three years, as historically small cohorts have continued to move through high school grades.</td>
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<td>● High school enrollment should begin to stabilize next year, as one of the relatively large cohorts exits grade 12.</td>
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Between SY1617 and SY1819 the total school age population declined by 928 students, while BPS enrollment declined 1,851 students and non-BPS enrollment grew by 211. That means that BPS’ capture rate has declined.
The incoming BPS K2 class has gotten successively smaller since SY1617.
Elementary enrollment declined as these smaller cohorts continued to move through the system.
Boston Public Schools

- **Citywide**, the number of Black students increased by 323 students, or 1.2%, across all grades.
  - In grades K2 to 5 enrollment grew by 675 students.
  - In grades 6 to 12, enrollment decreased by 352 students.

- **In BPS**, Black enrollment declined by 1,433 students (7.8%).
  - The decline was in grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12, which declined by 14.3% and 16.1%, respectively.

- **In Charter Schools**, Black enrollment increased across all grades by 1,771 students, or 42.5%. The growth was most pronounced in grades 9 to 12.
Boston Public Schools

- **Citywide**, the total number of Latinx students in Boston across all grades and school types increased slightly between SY13-14 and SY18-19.
  - K2 to 5 Latinx enrollment declined by 1,763 students (13.1%) leading to a lower percentage of Latinx students in elementary grades.

- **In BPS**, the number of Latinx students in grades K2 to 5 declined by 2,087 students, a decrease of 17.2%.

- **In Charter Schools**, Latinx enrollment increased during this time period by 1,179 students across all grades. The growth was most pronounced in grades 9 to 12, which grew by 588 students.
Enrollment Projections and School Budgets
We use Weighted Student Funding (WSF) as the primary mechanism to distribute dollars to schools.

**Simplified overview of WSF**

\[
\text{Dollars per pupil, by need ("Weights") \times \text{Expected number of students ("Projections") = School Budget}}
\]

- **Dollars per pupil, by need ("Weights")**
  - Determined by staffing guidance, class size ratios in collective bargaining, state regulation, poverty and other measures of student need.

- **Expected number of students ("Projections")**
  - Based on the demand of families, historic trends for each school, overall district demographics and charter school openings – all reviewed with input from school leaders.
Our Process for ensuring transparent, accurate, and smart enrollment projections for all schools
Since FY18, our projections have been higher than actual enrollment for ELD 1-3

Improving accuracy and usefulness of our projections
FY21 Investments and Budget Priorities
Finance and OELL have partnered to focus supports for ELL students

- FY15: Introduced Budget Collaboratives
- FY16: Refined Guidance and Clarified Expectations
- FY17: Provided Additional Clarity and Quantified Expectations
- FY18: Partnered on Projections and Verified Program Design
- FY19-20: Re-thinking program placement and design for EL success
- FY21: Rethinking funding mechanism for ELSWD
The Mayor committed $100M in new spending over the next 3 years.
The FY21 Proposed Budget will focus on four strategies:

1. Take immediate and intensive action in our most underperforming schools;
2. Make sure all students are ready to succeed and all schools are ready to serve them;
3. Build a foundation to accelerate school improvement through investments in technology and resources for teachers and administrators;
4. Make smart investments in core operations that improve performance and efficiency of central office.
The new contract has a few provisions that change school budgeting for English Learners

1. SEI and ESL class size ratio for grades K0-K2
   - Class size ratio of 20:1, or
   - 22 students with the addition of a para
   - Class size for 1-12 remains 20 and 25 with para

2. Schools with 1-teacher Inclusion classrooms:
   - ESL licensed inclusion classroom teachers (in a one teacher model) can receive a stipend to embed ESL instruction or to receive another ESL teacher
   - The ESL buyback option will be permitted only if the teacher opts to receive the stipend.
Upcoming process and key dates

**Wednesday, February 5:** School Committee Meeting
    Preliminary FY21 Budget Presentation
    Bolling Building

**Thursday, February 13:** 6 p.m. Budget Hearing
    School budgets review
    Location TBD

**Wednesday, February 26:** School Committee Meeting
    Bolling Building

**Tuesday, March 10:** 6 p.m. Budget Hearing
    Review of central budgets
    Location TBD

**Wednesday, March 18:** 5 p.m. Budget Hearing
    Finance Team addresses questions on final FY21 proposal
    Bolling Building

**Wednesday, March 25:** FY21 Budget Vote
    Bolling Building

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