

Access and Opportunities Domain

In November 2014, the Boston School Committee voted to adopt the School Quality Framework (SQF) developed by the School Quality Working Group (SQWG) with input from a broad and diverse set of community stakeholders, a holistic means to assess school quality. Five Domains were delineated in the policy, however only four had associated metrics included for calculation. The fifth domain was:

Student Access and Opportunities

- All students have equal access to high quality activities that reinforce classroom learning and promote skill building and positive youth development.
- Students have access to health and social services.
- Students have access to high-quality out-of-school-time programs and partners that provide students with a choice of opportunities that reinforce academics, build skills, and pursue their interests.

In the final recommendation to School Committee, the working group underlined the importance of this domain, but determined that there were not reliable metrics available to build it out. For the interim it was recommended that the domain be left blank, that available information about opportunities be communicated through the DiscoverBPS website, and that the SQWG reconvene to develop that domain.

In May 2018 the re-engaged SQWG met to discuss developing the Access and Opportunities domain and developed ideas for metrics to flesh out the domain. As data are considered for inclusion in this domain, we must consider whether data is measurable and discrete, data availability for all schools, reliability and validity of data, whether a school has agency to impact the outcome, and whether it is something we would expect all schools to offer. With these considerations in mind, BPS has gathered data for integration of this domain into the framework based on the feedback from the March SQWG meeting as a holistic assessment of opportunities each school offers:

❖ **Holistic Assessment**

- Medium-length list of metrics that are representative and balanced
- Binary scoring system for metrics
- Scoring based on number of opportunities a school provides
- All opportunities counted equally

Holistic Binary Assessment - Data Available	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advanced Work Class/Excellence For All ● Advanced Coursework (HS) ● Arts Index ● Career and Technical Education Programs ● Dual Language Program ● Dual Enrollment (HS) ● Early Learning (K0, K1) ● Excellence For All ● Extended Learning Time ● Health Awards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● International Baccalaureate Program (HS) ● Librarian (FT/PT/Para) ● Partnership Programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Academic, Enrichment, & Arts ○ College & Career Readiness ○ SEL/Well ● Psychologist and Counselors ● My Way Cafe ● 10 Boys/10 Girls

As Boston Public Schools has begun to analyze data for inclusion in this domain it has become apparent that many of the data sources are incomplete, do not accurately represent the opportunities available to students, are not things schools have agency to impact, and do not distinguish between quality of opportunities. Nevertheless the district intends to move forward to complete this domain, and have developed four alternatives for implementation:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
<p>Qualitative Provide list of which opportunities a school offers. Standardized data collection. No scoring. Would not impact tier.</p>	<p>Badging Binary scoring used to identify schools with sufficient opportunities to earn a badge for being a school recognized for offering Outstanding Access & Opportunities. Would not impact tier.</p>	<p>Scored/Star Rating Binary scoring used to provide a score or star rating based on opportunities offered. Would not impact tier.</p>	<p>Supplemental Scoring Binary scoring used to assign additional points added to base SQF score. Would impact tier.</p>