

## SQF Tier Implementation Options

### School Quality Working Group

November 8, 2018

#### Background

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. School tiers were initially calculated based on 2013 and 2014 data to be implemented during school choice season in Fall 2015.

BPS twice delayed the implementation of the SQF in 2015 and 2016. In 2017 the tiers were re-calculated using 2015 and 2016 data for Fall 2017 implementation. However since the tiers were primarily based on PARCC data, mirroring the state's accountability methodology, schools were "held harmless", meaning that their tier could improve from their initial SQF tier, but schools would not be penalized based on PARCC data. High schools were also exempted from being tiered as they do not require a tier for home-based assignment.

BPS's Office of Data and Accountability has now updated the tiers based on 2017 and 2018 data. BPS has never before calculated this data on an annual basis, and never before performed this calculation with the latest data from the previous spring standardized test administration.

#### Options

**Full Update:** Update tiers and data for assignment

- Update tiers for 2018 school choice season
- Change families school choice list based on that data

**Soft Landing:** Update tiers and data for assignment with a "soft landing" provision

- Calculated choice list two ways (based on 2017+2018 data AND 2015+2016 data). The tier displayed is whichever is most favorable.
- Families will receive all possible options based on the current tier calculation as well as the previous tier calculation. Eliminate 2013+2014 data from the calculation.
- Effectively, implement a "soft landing" for schools as we move to a more timely update cycle.

	<b>Full Update</b>	<b>Soft Landing</b>
Strengths	Newest data impacting both perception and assignment tiers.	Newest data is available for families.  Soft landing for schools as we transition to new update cycle.
Drawbacks	Less consistency over time	No longer utilizing PARCC data,  Further defers complete implementation

### Tier History

2015 tiers = based on 13/14 (Not utilized for assignment)

2017 tiers = 15/16 (Assignment based on 2015 & 2017 tiers = better of the two calculations)

2018 tiers = 17/18 (Assignment based on 2017 & 2018 tiers = better of the two calculations)

### Timeline of Next Steps

Nov 13        Send updated tiers to school leaders with memo summarizing changes

Nov 16        Flip tiers

Nov 17        School showcase

January       Round 1 - School Choice