

# Admissions Recommendation Recap

# Duration & Eligible Applicants

- Suspension of current policy for **one year**
  - The district would revert to the current policy after the school choice process for this school year
- **All Boston residents** who are currently in grades 6, 8 (except current exam school students), or 9, and meet the eligibility requirements, regardless of school type
  - Minimum B average in ELA and Math for the fall and winter marking periods of last school year (between September 2019 and January 2020); **OR** received a meet expectation score or higher on the 2019 MCAS in ELA and Math. **Students do not need to meet both.**
  - School district (or equivalent) verification that the student is performing at grade level based on the Massachusetts Curriculum standards.

# Overview of the Invitation Process

- **Distribute invitations** to students based on admissions criteria of prior report card grades and invitation mechanism of zip code.
  - 20% of seats at each exam school are reserved for the top ranking students in the city based on GPA.
  - The remainder of invitations are distributed by using a combination of GPA and student home zip code.

# Invitation Process - 20% of Seats

- **20% of seats in each exam school will be filled using GPA only**, placing the top ranking students citywide.
  - The order of placement will be based on GPA rank, with the student having the highest GPA placed first.
  - If two or more students rank the same, a random number will be used to determine which student will be placed first.
  - Students will only be considered for the school that they ranked as their top choice. If a student does not secure a seat in this process, they will be a part of the second process.
  - Students going into the second part of the process have another opportunity to be placed in their first-choice school, and are likely to get a seat in since they rank among the highest in the district.

# Invitation Process - 80% of Seats

- The **remaining 80%** of invitations will be **extended based on a combination of zip code and GPA**.
  - Each zip code will be allocated a number of available exam school seats based on the proportion of school-aged children living in that zip code.
  - 10% of seats available within each zip code will be distributed through ten assignment rounds.
  - Students will be placed into a pool of applicants living in the same zip code and ranked by GPA.
  - Zip codes will be ordered from the *lowest median family income (with children under 18) to the highest median family income (with children under 18)* according to the American Community Survey. Students in the zip code with the lowest median family income (with children under 18) will be placed first, followed by students in the next zip code.
  - If a student's first choice seat is not available when it is their turn to be assigned, then the student will be assigned to their second or third-choice seat. If two or more students in a zip code rank the same, a random number will be used to determine which will be placed first.

NOTE: The initial recommendation used the median household income. The district is recommending a change to the median family income with children under 18.

# Median Income Modification

- The recommendation reflects a shift from median household income to median family income (with children under 18).
  - Median household income is reflective of all households within a zip code.
  - The American Community Survey defines a family as two or more individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption. Median family income with children under 18 only includes families with school-aged children within a zip code.

## **Special Provision: Homeless Students and those in DCF Care**

- **Students experiencing homelessness or in DCF care outside of Boston**, will be placed in a separate “zip code”, 99999.
  - This zip code will be treated as the zip code with the lowest median family income (with children under 18) and students from this zip code will be placed first.
  - The order of student placement will be based on GPA rank, with the student having the highest GPA placed first.
  - If two or more students rank the same, a random number will be used to determine which student will be placed first.
  - Non-BPS students will be verified through standard BPS residency verification process for exam schools.

# Proposed Vote - Additional Recommendations

- Provide appropriate support – both before and during the school year - for SY21-22 admittees who, while academically prepared for exam school content, may require more time to get acclimated to the pace of exam school study.
- Expand the Exam School Initiative (ESI), beginning as early as 4th grade and running through October of the 6th grade year, focused on academic acceleration in both ELA and math
- Secure the appropriate additional funding required for student support and ESI as outlined above.
- Continue convening a working group to advise on permanent efforts to expand the applicant pool, considering use of the new NWEA test and other factors, based on what can be learned from applying the recommendations to this year's admissions and what the working group has learned in reviewing practices in other districts.
- Amend current policy to remove “[non-traditional entry](#)” (approved December 16, 1992) and “[deferral of acceptance](#)” (approved September 16, 1992) provisions.