

January 26, 2017

Dear Parents and Families:

We are pleased to inform you that your student's school is among those participating in Extended Learning Time (ELT) next school year. This additional time will allow thousands more students across Boston Public Schools to participate in high-quality learning and enrichment opportunities — from personalized instruction and foreign language classes to arts programs, physical education and student clubs — and help close opportunity and achievement gaps.

Over the past few years, we have made significant progress in extending the school day for our students. We could not have done this without a vital agreement with our dedicated teachers. We are now set to fully deliver on our commitment to ELT, bringing Boston in line with national length-of-school-day averages. Through support from Mayor Walsh, we are investing an additional \$14 million in our children that will provide valuable, added instruction and enrichment to 15,000 more students at 39 schools next fall. Altogether, BPS will have implemented extended learning time to a total of 57 schools serving over 23,000 students in only three years.

Research shows that there is a real positive connection between a longer school day and stronger student growth. National studies have shown that more learning time for students helps boost academic achievement. The benefits of ELT for our students include:

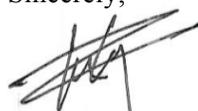
- ✓ More learning time and increased enrichment opportunities
- ✓ More time for small group interventions to address individual student learning needs
- ✓ More time for teachers to collaborate and improve the quality of instruction

As we prepare to implement ELT, we explored requests from some school communities to adjust their start times. However, due to the complexities and interconnectedness of our school bus system, and in order to achieve our goals in a fair manner, we've decided to delay making any large-scale adjustments to start times for next school year. This will allow us to conduct a thoughtful, deliberate and comprehensive analysis of altering bell times that will involve community input and strive to reach equitable outcomes. We are dedicated to working together to find the right solutions for our students, families and educators.

In the 2017-18 school year, we will add 40 minutes to the school day, extending it to 6 hours and 40 minutes and adding the equivalent of 20 extra schools days in instructional time. Start times at ELT schools will remain the same and end times will change. The new schedules will be **7:30 a.m. to 2:10 p.m.**; **8:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.**; and, **9:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m.** We have posted a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) at www.bostonpublicschools.org/elt-faq to help provide more information.

Thank you for your partnership as we embark on this important modernization of school schedules.

Sincerely,



Tommy Chang, Ed.D.
Superintendent

