As the birthplace of public education in this nation, the Boston Public Schools is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families, and students to develop in everyone the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

**SCHOOLS & STUDENTS**

There are 128 schools in the BPS:

- 5 early education schools (K–grade 1 or grade 3)
- 43 elementary schools (K–5)
- 31 elementary & middle schools (K–8)
- 7 middle schools (6–8)
- 1 middle & high schools (6–12)
- 1 K–12 school
- 24 high schools (9–12)
- 3 “exam” schools (7–12)
- 8 special education schools
- 2 alternative (at-risk) programs

Of these:

- 20 are pilot schools, created to be models of educational innovation with more flexibility and autonomy
- 6 are Horace Mann charter schools funded by the BPS
- 8 are Innovation Schools, a model created by Mass. education reform legislation based on BPS pilot schools

**SY2015 enrollment is 77,230** (about 230 more than SY2014), including:

- 28,350 students in pre-kindergarten–grade 5
- 10,990 students in grades 6–8
- 17,690 students in grades 9–12

**Student demographics:**

- 41% Hispanic
- 8% Asian
- 36% Black
- 1% Other/multiracial
- 13% White
- 78% of students are low income.

**Students who don’t attend the BPS (April 2014):**

Of the 77,200 (est.) school-age children living in Boston, about 20,100 (26%) do not attend Boston public schools. They are:

- 45% Black
- 4% Asian
- 32% White
- 17% Hispanic

**Contacting BPS**

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- 26 Court Street • Boston, MA 02108-2505
- www.bostonpublicschools.org
- Main telephone number .............................. 617-635-9000
- Communications .................................... 617-635-9265
- communications@bostonpublicschools.org
- Superintendent ........................................ 617-635-9050
- School Committee ................................. 617-635-9014
- feedback@bostonpublicschools.org
- The Boston Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, disability, sex/gender, gender identity, religious beliefs, national origin, ancestry, retaliation, sexual orientation, genetics or military status and does not tolerate any form of intimidation, threat, coercion and/or harassment.

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH**

Dr. Carol R. Johnson retired in June 2013 after serving six years as superintendent. John P. McDonough, the district’s chief financial officer, was appointed interim superintendent.

In February 2014, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the Boston School Committee announced the formation of a Superintendent Search Committee. It includes teachers, current and former school administrators, parents, and leaders from the higher education, business and philanthropy communities. The Search Committee will:

- Host community meetings to solicit public input on the job description for the new superintendent;
- Vet and narrow the pool of possible candidates presented by the search firm; and
- Recommend three finalists for the new superintendent.

Finalists will be interviewed by the Boston School Committee and Mayor Walsh, and will participate in community/stakeholder forums.

The School Committee appointed consultants Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HY A) to undertake the search.

**THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

The BPS is governed by a 7-member School Committee, appointed by the Mayor from among nominees recommended by a broad-based Nominating Committee. Members serve 4-year terms. Current members and term expiration dates are:

- Michael D. O’Neill, Chairperson .......................... 1/2/17
- Claudio Martinez, Vice-chairperson .................. 1/4/16
- Meg Campbell ............................................. 1/4/16
- Hardin Coleman ........................................... 1/1/18
- Rev. Gregory Gooover Sr. ................................ 1/5/15
- Michael Loconte ............................................ 1/1/18
- To be named .................................................. 1/5/15

In 1989, in a non-binding referendum, residents voted to replace the 13-member elected School Committee with an appointed committee. In 1991, the state legislature approved Boston’s home rule petition establishing the 7-member, Mayor-appointed committee. The appointed committee took office in January 1992. In a 1996 referendum, residents voted overwhelmingly to retain the appointed committee.
**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

About 11,260 students ages 3-21 with disabilities (20% of total enrollment) are enrolled in special education programs in BPS schools, including:
- 58% with mild to moderate special needs who spend at least 60% of the school day in general education classrooms
- 42% with more severe special needs who spend at least 60% of the school day in “substantially separate” classrooms or special BPS schools

In addition, 445 students are enrolled in out-of-district programs, and 353 non-BPS students receive some special education services in BPS schools.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

Among BPS students:
- 25,370 (44%) speak a language other than English as their first language.
- 16,600 (29%) are Limited English Proficient (LEP) or English Language Learners (ELL)
- 9,970 (60%) of ELL students were born in the US

All ELL students receive English language support from highly qualified teachers of English. Approximate ELL enrollment by program, grades K–12, is:
- 5,450 language-specific Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) programs
- 9,990 general education SEI programs
- 900 two-way programs: Students whose first language is Spanish and whose first language is English learn together in both languages
- 270 high intensity literacy programs for students with interrupted formal education (SIFE)

ELL students speak more than 84 different languages as their home language. The top nine first languages spoken are Spanish, Haitian creole, Cape Verdean creole, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese, Somali, Arabic, and French.

BPS students come from 142 different countries, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.

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**CLASS SIZES**

Class size limits are set in the contract with the Boston Teachers’ Union. Level 3 and 4 high-needs schools have a lower maximum class size in general education classrooms for grades 6 and 9.

As reported by the Mass. Dept. of Elementary & Secondary Education, the average BPS class size in SY2013 was 17.7 students. The state average is 18.8. Average class size is calculated by dividing the total number of students in classes by the total number of classes.

**HISTORY: FIRST IN THE U.S.**

- Boston Latin School: first public school, 1635
- Mather: first public elementary school, 1639
- BPS: first public school system, 1647
- English High: first public high school, 1821
- Horace Mann School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing: first public day school for the deaf, 1869

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**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & OUTCOMES**

**Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS).** On the 2014 statewide tests, the % of students who performed at Proficient or higher levels and % change from 2013 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>BPS % Change</th>
<th>State % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>36% +4%</td>
<td>57% 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>53% +6%</td>
<td>68% +2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>31% +2%</td>
<td>54% +1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>38% +7%</td>
<td>52% 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>41% - 4%</td>
<td>64% - 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>41% - 1%</td>
<td>61% 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>22% + 2%</td>
<td>53% + 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Prof</td>
<td>44% +1%</td>
<td>68% +1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>38% - 5%</td>
<td>60% - 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>32% 0%</td>
<td>72% 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>34% - 2%</td>
<td>50% - 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>63% +5%</td>
<td>79% +1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>37% 0%</td>
<td>52% - 3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>15% +1%</td>
<td>42% +3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Tech</td>
<td>76% - 3%</td>
<td>90% - 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Tech</td>
<td>64% 0%</td>
<td>79% - 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Tech</td>
<td>47% - 2%</td>
<td>71% 0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MCAS Competency Determination (CD).** As of Spring 2014, 54% of the class of 2016 earned CD by performing at Proficient or higher in both MCAS and Math and at Needs Improvement or higher in Science—a 1% drop over the class of 2015 and a 15% increase over the class of 2010.

**SAT Results.** Average scores on the SAT Reasoning test for test-takers in the class of 2014 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>BPS</th>
<th>Mass.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical reading</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>464</td>
<td>523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>498</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced Placement Performance.** In 2013-2014, BPS students took 4,717 AP tests. Most colleges give credits for scores of 3 and above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>BPS % Change</th>
<th>State % Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% scores of 1-2</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>31.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% scores of 3-5</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>68.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BUDGET, SALARIES & PER PUPIL COSTS**

**FY2015 Gen. Fund: $974,928,600 (+4% from FY2014)**

- Salaries $635,021,049 65%
- Benefits $125,082,035 13%
- Transportation $95,134,240 10%
- Purchased Services $61,124,734 6%
- Property Services $39,562,533 4%
- Supplies $5,455,388 <1%
- Equipment $4,023,254 <1%
- Miscellaneous $2,215,079 <1%
- Reserve $7,318,388 1%

**Weighted student funding.** Beginning in FY2012, BPS allocates funds to schools based on projected enrollment and the needs of individual students enrolled. In this system, dollars follow students, no matter what school they attend. Weights are based on target class size and average teacher salary. Students are given higher weights and are allocated additional funds if they meet additional criteria: high risk at grade 9, poverty, ELL, special education (sped), or vocational education.

**FY2013 Per Pupil Expenditure:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>BPS</th>
<th>Mass.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular ed</td>
<td>$11,855</td>
<td>$15,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELL ed</td>
<td>$20,705</td>
<td>$32,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special ed</td>
<td>$32,955</td>
<td>$49,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private placements</td>
<td>$71,048</td>
<td>$15,227</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FY2015 External Funds (est.): $114,507,098**

Includes formula grants (e.g. No Child Left Behind), reimbursement grants (National School Lunch, Impact Aid), and competitive grants (e.g. National Science Foundation). External funds have been decreased by $20,659,000 from FY2014 and by more than $40 million from FY2013.

**FY2015 Average Salaries:**

- Central administrators $143,921
- Elementary school administrators $117,859
- Middle school administrators $119,153
- High school administrators $115,536
- Professional support $93,675
- Program support $91,756
- Nurses $90,666
- Librarians $89,443
- Teachers (general education) $88,682
- Secretaries/clerical staff $48,597
- Custodians $49,422
- School police officers $47,377
- Substitute teachers, per diem $137–$277

**SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT**

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, a new “home-based” student assignment plan for K-grade 8 replaces the three-zone plan created in 1988. The plan offers families all the choices within a mile of home, plus additional choices to assure their list includes at least four high-quality schools, plus citywide schools and schools with programs for which they are eligible (such as AWC). It maintains sibling priority, a feature of the zone-based plan. Preliminary results for the first round of kindergarten assignments as of March 31, 2014:

- 73% of K2 applicants received one of their top three school choices, and 47% received their first choice. Historically, about 72% of families typically received one of their top three choices under the zone-based plan.
- 64% of K1 applicants received one of their top three choices, up from 58% in 2013-2014.
- The average distance a new K2 student will travel to school has dropped from 1.09 miles to 0.9 miles. For K1, the average distance has dropped from 1.15 miles to 0.95 miles.