
BPS FACTS

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Boston Public Schools at a Glance 2009–2010

OUR MISSION

We welcome the children of this city into the Boston Public Schools, where effective teaching and learning prepare all of our students to achieve at high levels, and where the entire community works together to focus on children.

SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

There are **135 schools** in the BPS:

- 6 early learning centers (K–grade 1)
- 53 elementary schools (K–5)
- 23 elementary & middle schools (K–8)
- 10 middle schools (6–8)
- 2 middle & high schools (6–12)
- 29 high schools (9–12)
- 1 elementary through high school (K–12)
- 3 “exam” schools (7–12)
- 6 special education schools (K–12)
- 2 alternative (at-risk) programs

Of these, 21 are pilot schools (1 early learning center, 4 elementary, 5 K–8, 2 middle, 2 middle/high, 7 high). In addition, 2 high schools are Horace Mann charter schools approved and funded by the BPS; and 1 high school is a Commonwealth pilot school.

SY10 enrollment is 56,340 (a decrease of 177 from SY09 actual), including:

- 26,540 students in kindergarten–grade 5
- 11,460 students in grades 6–8
- 18,340 students in grades 9–12

Student demographics:

39%	Hispanic	9%	Asian
37%	Black	2%	Other/multiracial
13%	White		

74% of BPS students are eligible to receive **free & reduced-price meals** in school (65% free, 9% reduced).

Students who don't attend the BPS¹:

Of the **75,400** school-age children living in Boston, about **18,850** (25%) do not attend Boston public schools. They are:

47%	Black	4%	Asian
37%	White	<1%	Other
12%	Hispanic		

Of these students:

- 6,420 go to parochial schools
- 3,770 go to private schools
- 3,150 go to suburban schools through METCO
- 4,820 go to public charter schools
- 440 are placed by the BPS Special Education Dept. in non-BPS schools and programs
- 250 are home schooled

¹As of 3/20/09

ACCELERATION AGENDA

In 2008, **Supt. Carol R. Johnson** presented an Acceleration Agenda that outlines her goals and priorities for transforming the Boston Public Schools. Targets by 2012 include:

- Reading by the end of Grade 1
- Reading to learn in Grade 3
- Skillful, analytical writing in Grades 5 and 7
- Algebra 1 in Grade 8
- “On-track” to graduate by the end of Grade 10
- SAT I scores 1650+ and Excellence for All
- English Language Learners acquire academic language mastery and fluency
- College-ready and success-bound

Please see www.bostonpublicschools.org/agenda for additional goals and information.

STAFF

The 2009–2010 BPS budget (all funds) includes **9,023** staff positions (FTE), a decrease of 536 positions from 2008–09. Here is a comparison of budgeted positions:

FY09	FY10
4,873	4,671 teachers
769	694 administrators
496	474 support personnel
1,261	1,174 aides and monitors
366	344 secretaries and clerical staff
1,279	1,173 custodial/safety/technical
516	493 part-time and summer staff

Demographics: Black White Hisp. Asian Other
Teachers (SY10) 23% 62% 10% 5% <1%
Principals (SY10) 47% 35% 16% 2% <1%

Qualifications of BPS Teachers (SY08):

97.5% are licensed in their teaching assignment
93.9% of core academic classes are taught by teachers who are highly qualified

THE SEVEN ESSENTIALS

To ensure that all students achieve academic proficiency, instruction in the BPS is organized around **Seven Essentials for Whole School Improvement:**

1. Use effective and culturally relevant instructional practices and create a collaborative school climate that improves student learning, promotes student engagement, and builds on prior knowledge and experiences
2. Examine student work and data to drive instruction and professional development
3. Invest in professional development to improve instruction
4. Share leadership to sustain instructional improvement
5. Focus resources to support instructional improvement and improved student learning
6. Partner with families and the community to support student learning.
7. Maintain high levels of effectiveness, efficiency, and equity in our operations

CONTACTING THE BPS

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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, appointed by Mayor Thomas M. Menino, and term expiration dates are:

Rev. Dr. Gregory G. Groover Sr., <i>Chair</i>	1/3/11
Marchelle Raynor, <i>Vice-chair</i>	1/2/12
John F. Barros	1/6/14
Alfreda J. Harris	1/3/11
Claudio Martinez	1/2/12
Michael D. O'Neill	1/7/13
Mary Tamer	1/6/14

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 11,520 students with disabilities (21% of total) are enrolled in special education programs, including:

- 5,530 students with mild to moderate disabilities served in general education settings
- 5,200 students with moderate to severe disabilities who attend special BPS schools and self-contained programs
- 390 students with severe disabilities who attend private day and residential schools
- 400 students ages 3–4 in Early Childhood programs

In addition, about 310 students enrolled in non-BPS schools receive some special education services in BPS schools.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

For 24,140 BPS students (38%), English is not their first language.

- 10,040 (19%) are English-language proficient
- 3,260 are Former Limited English Proficient (FLEP)
- 11,840 are Limited English Proficient (LEP) or English Language Learners (ELL)

All ELL students receive English language support from highly qualified teachers of English. Approximate ELL enrollment by program, grades K–12, is:

- 5,810 Sheltered English Instruction (SEI) programs
 - 460 Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) programs
 - 460 Two-way programs: Students whose first language is Spanish and whose first language is English learn together in both languages
- 5,110 Non-SEI: student's family has opted out of all BPS ELL programs

The five most common home languages of ELL students are:

- Spanish6,590
- Chinese.....920
- Cape Verdean creole.....900
- Haitian creole.....860
- Vietnamese.....770

BPS English language learners come from more than 40 different countries.

CLASS SIZE

Under the contract (9/1/06–8/31/10) between the BPS and the Boston Teachers Union, the maximum numbers of students per teacher in regular education classes are:

K1–Gr. 2	Gr. 3–5	Gr. 6–8	Gr. 9–12
22	25	28	31

Many classes are smaller than this. As reported by the Mass. Dept. of Education, the BPS's FY08 ratio of all students to all teachers was 12.8 to 1. The Mass. ratio was 13.6 to 1.

HISTORY: FIRST IN AMERICA

- 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

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT & OUTCOMES

Mass. Comprehensive Assessment System

(MCAS). On the 2009 statewide tests, the % of students who performed at *Proficient* and *Above Prof./Advanced* levels and % change from 2008 were:

Grade	Test	BPS %	% Change	State %	% Change
3	Read	31%	+2%	57%	+1%
3	Math	33%	-3%	60%	-1%
4	ELA	30%	+5%	53%	+4%
4	Math	27%	-3%	48%	-1%
5	ELA	38%	+1%	63%	+2%
5	Math	33%	0%	54%	+2%
5	Science	18%	+1%	49%	-1%
6	ELA	43%	0%	66%	-1%
6	Math	33%	+1%	57%	+1%
7	ELA	48%	0%	70%	+1%
7	Math	28%	0%	49%	0%
8	ELA	59%	+2%	78%	+3%
8	Math	28%	+4%	48%	-1%
8	Science	10%	0%	39%	0%
10	ELA	64%	+6%	81%	+7%
10	Math	62%	+3%	75%	+3%
10	Science	34%	+5%	61%	+4%

MCAS Competency Determination (CD). As

of October 2008, 89% of the BPS Class of 2009 had passed MCAS in English language arts (ELA) and math; and 44% of the Class of 2010 had passed ELA, math, and science/technology.

SAT Results. Average scores on the SAT Reasoning test for the Class of 2008 were:

	BPS	Mass.	US
Critical reading	438	507	497
Mathematics	457	520	510
Writing	436	505	488

Dropout Rates, Grades 9–12:

% of students who dropped out in one year:

SY06: 9.4% SY07: 7.9% SY08: 7.2%

% starting grade 9 who dropped out over next 5 years:

2001/05: 24.2% 2002/06: 23.7% 2003/07: 25.7%

Class of 2007 & 2008 4-year graduation rate:

Outcome	2007 ■	2008 ▲
Graduated in 4 years	57.9%	59.9%
Still in school	18.5%	15.0%
Dropped out	19.5%	21.5%
GED	2.2%	2.3%
Non-graduate completers	1.6%	1.0%
Expelled	.3%	.3%

■ N = 4,940. Students who entered grade 9 in fall of 2003 + transfers in – transfers out and deaths.

▲ N = 5,008. Students who entered grade 9 in fall of 2004 + transfers in – transfers out and deaths.

After high school. According to the Northeastern University Bureau of Labor Market Studies, 77.8% of all BPS graduates from the Class of 2007 were estimated to be attending a two or four year college or some other type of post-secondary training or education program at the time of BLMS's follow-up survey. This rate exceeded the all-time high of 77.2% for the Class of 2005. It was ten percent higher for women than for men (82% vs. 72%) and ranged from a low of about 71% for Hispanics to a high of about 94% for Asians.

SCHOOL CHOICE

Elementary and middle schools are organized in three geographic zones. Students can apply to schools in their zone of residence and to schools outside their zone of residence that are in their "walk zone." School assignments are based on choice, certain priorities, and availability of seats. All high schools are citywide. Fifty percent of a school's seats are set aside for applicants with "walk zone" priority. Remaining seats are open to all applicants.

In 1999, the BPS eliminated race-based assignments, a policy that had been in place since 1974.

BUDGET, SALARIES & PER PUPIL COSTS

FY2010 General Fund: \$817,121,930

Program	Budget	% of total
Instruction	\$470,693,137	57.9%
Regular education	\$257,051,479	31.6%
Career & tech. ed.	\$4,786,619	0.6%
Special education	\$171,025,547	21.0%
English lang. learning	\$36,912,994	4.5%
Adult ed.	\$633,446	0.1%
Summer session	\$283,052	0.0%
Support Services	\$346,428,793	42.6%
Student/school support services	\$55,511,006	6.8%
Safety	\$4,125,343	0.5%
Physical plant	\$65,206,988	8.0%
Transportation	\$77,676,498	9.6%
General admin.	\$22,854,795	2.8%
Employee benefits	\$121,054,163	14.9%

FY2010 External Funds (est.): \$147,594,750

Includes **formula** grants (e.g. No Child Left Behind), **reimbursement** grants (National School Lunch, Impact Aid), and **competitive** grants (e.g. National Science Foundation).

FY2010 Average Salaries:

Central administrators \$126,200
 Principals & headmasters ▲: 0–500 \$105,000
 501–800 \$110,000
 801–1,200... \$115,000
 1,200+ \$120,000
 Guidance counselors..... \$83,653
 Nurses \$83,542
 Teachers (regular education) ♦ \$80,615
 Secretaries/clerical staff..... \$44,762
 Custodians..... \$44,061
 Substitute teachers, *per diem* \$124–\$251

▲ Base salary, Step 1, based on school enrollment.

♦ Range: \$46,291–\$92,617 (9/1/09–1/31/10)

FY2009 Per Pupil Expenditure (% change from FY2008):

Regular ed.	ELL ed.	Mod sped (.3)	Sub sep sped (.4)	Private sped (.5)
\$11,755 (+6%)	\$13,748 (+5%)	\$17,010 (+10%)	\$26,212 (+10%)	\$59,533 (+8%)

The average **FY2008** per pupil expenditure was about \$13,849 (+6%).