



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

April 7, 2025

TO THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith an annual appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY26), in the amount of \$1.58 billion, submitted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991.

As Mayor of Boston and a BPS mom, I am proud to include this FY26 BPS appropriation, recently approved by the Boston School Committee, as part of the FY26 annual operating budget appropriations. I appreciate the leadership of BPS Superintendent Mary Skipper and her entire team to incorporate feedback from the Boston School Committee, the Boston City Council, school leaders and department heads. BPS has found additional savings since their preliminary budget was filed with the School Committee in early February, redeploying these resources to fund librarians, social workers, and inclusive and multilingual education, along with early college and career pathways across our high schools.

Boston Public Schools represents the largest departmental budget in the City, with FY26 budgetary growth of \$45.5 million focused on inclusive education, early childhood education, supporting multilingual learners and providing a high quality educational experience for every student. The increase does not yet include the increased costs that will come with the inclusion of the collective bargaining contract with the Boston Teachers Union that is pending ratification and approval. The cost of the union contract is included in the central collective bargaining reserve.

Newly renovated school buildings reopening in FY26 include the combined Philbrick and Sumner Schools at the new Sarah Roberts Elementary School, the Carter School, and PJ Kennedy Elementary. The FY26-30 Capital Plan invests almost \$1.2 billion in BPS facilities, accounting for 27% of the total planned investment. Moreover, 32% of all City bonds, which finance the vast majority of the Capital Plan, are invested in BPS.

This is an important moment for BPS. After three years of sustained focus under Superintendent Skipper's leadership, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education affirmed last month that BPS has built the strong foundation for progress needed to conclude the state's heightened monitoring. BPS has made clear, unequivocal progress in the state

accountability framework, including moving up in the state rankings, increasing graduation rates, and driving down chronic absenteeism across all student groups and grade levels. This budget continues to build on our multiyear strategies to strengthen teaching and learning in core academic subjects and continues to drive on the steady improvements now underway in our schools and classrooms.

Sincerely,

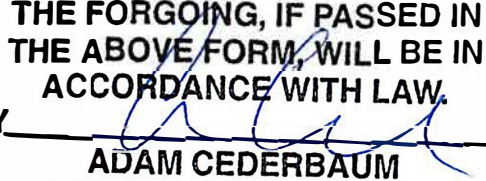
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Wu', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

ORDERED: That pursuant to Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, and as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, to meet the current operating expenses of the School Department in the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, the sum of ONE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY MILLION SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SEVEN dollars (\$1,580,061,477) be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, said sum to be raised by taxation pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws:

Boston School Department \$1,580,061,477

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**
BY 
**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**