

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JULIA MEJIA, TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ERIN MURPHY, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS’
SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES AND RETURN ON INVESTMENTS**

- WHEREAS,** One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Boston City Council is to ensure that there is accountability, transparency, and oversight in all city business, including the appropriation of funds to Boston Public Schools (BPS); *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to BPS, as of October 2020 there are about 11,350 students aged 3-21 with disabilities (21% of total enrollment) enrolled in special education programs in BPS; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The special education budget totals roughly \$312 million in FY23, an increase of \$4.9 million, or 1.6%, from the FY22 budget.; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In FY23, BPS plans to dedicate \$6.7 million in ESSER funds for programming for students with disabilities that addresses the impact of COVID-19 on their learning and well-being, and a total projected cost of \$43 million for the educational services of approximately 467 special education students in out-of-district placements.
- WHEREAS,** Currently BPS cites a severe staffing shortage in Special Education with fifty-six open or vacant positions, which is causing some IEPs to go unfulfilled ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has an obligation to ensure accountability, transparency, oversight over Boston Public Schools and city spending, especially in regards to large amounts of funding allocated towards solving a major issue in the schools;
NOW THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing regarding Boston Public Schools Special Education Services and Return on Investment Audit. Representatives from the Boston Public Schools, the Boston School Committee, in addition to advocates, individuals with lived experiences, and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: March 20, 2024