



CITY OF BOSTON - MASSACHUSETTS

MICHELLE WU
MAYOR

April 11, 2022

TO THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith an appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23), in the amount of \$1.33 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 a BPS mom, I take special pride in lifting up Boston's young people as our citywide mission, and I am fiercely committed to connecting resources across every department in city government and every sector across our city to advance the health, happiness, and opportunity of our children and families. That requires investment, coordination, and community-building well beyond BPS, and this budget will be supplemented by those efforts.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the entire BPS community—students, families, educators, and staff—has come together to ensure the well-being of our young people and support their learning in the face of challenging, ever-changing circumstances. Investing in our future means committing significant resources to supporting our school communities, so that every child, in every classroom, in every school has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

To that end, the FY23 BPS Operating Budget is focused on not only meeting this moment, but laying a foundation that will empower our school district to be all that it can be. The \$1.33 billion proposed BPS budget exceeds the City's prior BPS three-year funding commitment, targets areas where our students need the most support, and works to transform our public education system.

As part of an extensive public engagement process centered around the district's federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II and III) funding, BPS held public hearings to listen and learn from the families we are serving. We heard from students, parents, and educators who want inclusive instruction and curricula, engagement outside of the classroom, improvements to facilities, and more resources for families. All these priorities and more are reflected in the FY23 budget.

The FY23 BPS budget is also structured around an equitable recovery from COVID-19. It consists of three key principles: Return, Recover, and Reimagine. With both Operating Budget and ESSER investments addressing each of these principles, this budget will enable us to bridge gaps in opportunity and achievement, and make significant strides in supporting the social-emotional well-being of our students.

The FY23 BPS Operating Budget includes \$52 million in new investments, such as:

- \$6.6 million for new social workers, school psychologists, and guidance counselors, to build out coordinated, multi-tiered systems of support for students and their families;
- \$26.7 million directly to schools to ensure equitable access to vital student programs and services;
- \$5.5 million to expand access to libraries and invest in inclusive library collections and materials;
- \$6.8 million in operations improvements and expanded organizational capacity for transportation, food and nutrition services, and facilities maintenance repairs;
- \$3.8 million to increase access to MassCore at the secondary level and access to more physical education, art, music, and academic enrichment, creating high-quality, rigorous, and ethnically- and culturally-responsive curriculum and instruction; and
- \$2.6 million to expand language access with translations and interpretations for school meetings and materials.

With ESSER funding to help support our recovery, we have the opportunity to make transformative investments across the district, providing every student with opportunities to succeed and prepare them for the future. BPS is expected to receive a total of \$400 million in ESSER funding, of which \$108 million has already been appropriated for FY22, both directly to schools and for districtwide initiatives. In FY23, \$104 million in ESSER funds will work in tandem with operating investments to fund additional initiatives and improvements, such as:

- \$18 million to invest in high-quality facilities, HVAC systems, and air quality improvements;
- \$16.7 million to invest in supports and programming for English Language Learners and students with disabilities, as well as equitable literacy curricula;
- \$50 million directly to schools to tailor programming and recovery to the communities they serve; and
- \$10 million to expand access to academic counseling to complement the operating investment in high school guidance counselors.

The FY23 Operating Budget also includes a proposed \$16 million increase for our public charter school students, bringing our total public education funding up to \$1.6 billion. This \$56 million increase in FY23 represents over 26% of the total new City resources across all categories of spending. Public education spending remains over 40% of our City budget, and per-pupil spending at BPS will reach \$27,100, an increase of \$3,600 over last year. Key investments in the City Operating Budget and the FY23-27 Capital Plan will also accelerate district-wide school facilities planning initiatives and key construction and renovation projects to deliver school facilities that are safe, healthy, energy-efficient, and inspiring for our school communities.

During a time of transition in the district, the proposed FY23 BPS Operating Budget lays the foundation for transformational change across grade levels, schools, and neighborhoods, while bolstering existing supports and services on which students and families depend. I look forward to working with you to implement a bold vision for BPS, and I respectfully request your support of the FY23 appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

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, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023, the sum of ONE BILLION THREE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND EIGHT dollars (\$1,334,845,508) 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 \$1,334,845,508

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY



**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**