



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Benjamin J. Weber, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 3, 2026

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #0734, message and order for annual appropriation for the School Department for FY2027.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the committee on April 8, 2026.

The Committee began the BPS budget process in November, 2025, and in total, held 4 public hearings, 2 working sessions, and 1 policy briefing regarding the FY27 BPS budget. The Committee submitted a letter with a list of the Council's BPS priorities in March, 2026, which included the following:

- Equitable Implementation of the Inclusion Model
- Supports for English Language Learners
- Dual Language Instruction
- Reading Supports
- Services for Students with Disabilities
- Continued investments towards Early Childhood Education
- Continued investments towards homelessness interventions
- Continued investments towards Athletics
- Continued investments towards Arts Education
- Continued investments towards mental and behavioral health supports
- Continued investments towards professional development for teachers
- Continued investments towards alternative education
- Maintenance and investment towards BPS partnerships with community partners
- Continued investments towards guidance counselors and college readiness
- Maximization of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) community benefits
- Continued investments and growth in before and after school programming
- Continued investments towards the HUB school model
- Reduction and implementation of cost-saving measures regarding transportation

The Committee submitted an addendum with a list of the Council's BPS capital priorities in March, 2026, which included the following:

- Floor renovations at the Beethoven-Ohrenberger K-8

- A new playground and back lot improvements at the John F. Kennedy Elementary
- Pool repairs at the James W. Hennigan School
- Gymnasium renovations at the Josiah Quincy Elementary
- Crosswalk/safer crossing options at the Haley Pilot School
- Playground improvements at the Dr. Catherine Ellison-Rosa Parks Early Education
- Playground improvements at the George H. Conley Elementary
- Auditorium Upgrades, including air conditioning and technology improvements, at the New Mission High School
- Upgraded classroom technology (Smart Boards) at the Roosevelt K-8
- Auditorium Upgrades, including lighting, audio-visual system, and curtains, at the Thomas A. Edison K-8
- Bathroom upgrades, auditorium improvements, and roof farm/roof repairs at the Brighton High School
- Roof repairs at the Gardner Pilot Academy
- Main Entrance Security Upgrades at the Richard J. Murphy K-8
- Upgrades to air conditioning and playground structure repairs at the Mather Elementary
- Seating replacements in the auditorium at the Orchard Gardens K-8 Pilot
- Building improvements at the John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
- Basement conversion of instructional space at the Samuel Adams Elementary
- Special education intervention space at the Manassah E. Bradley Elementary
- Kitchen upgrades at East Boston High School
- Upgrades to the public announcement (PA) system and upgrades and covers for radiators at the Curtis Guild Elementary
- Security camera system upgrades and playground improvements at the Harvard-Kent Elementary
- Public announcement system upgrades, installation of exterior security cameras, gymnasium balcony conversion to intervention space or office, and playground improvements at the Donald McKay K-8
- Paris Street building improvements at the James Otis Elementary
- Removal of failing wrought-iron fence, application of fresh paint, and basement floor upgrades at the Patrick J. Kennedy Elementary
- Fixing of leakage of bridge between main campus and pool, fixing of ceiling tiles, fixing of water leakage near pool stairway, and cooling and heating system improvements at the Mario Umana Academy K-8
- Public announcement (PA) system improvements (Upper School) and air conditioning improvements for the auditorium at the Warren-Prescott K-8
- General school repairs at the following:
 - Joseph Lee K-8
 - Sarah Greenwood K-8
 - Shaw-Taylor Elementary
 - Haley Pilot
 - Lee Academy Pilot
 - Holmes Intervention School

- Dr. William W. Henderson Upper School
- Dr. William W. Henderson Lower School
- TechBoston Academy
- Lilla G. Frederick Pilot
- Boston International High School
- Dr. Albert D. Holland High School
- UP Academy Holland (Elementary)

Docket #0734 is one of several dockets that comprises the City's total operating budget, and is an appropriation order for BPS for FY27, in the amount of \$1.73 billion. This FY27 budget includes a \$88.3 million increase in funding over the current FY26 budget, the seventh straight year of continuous increased investment in BPS.

This fiscal year marks the first year the district moved from a weighted school formula to a reimagined school formula, which allows for budgetary adjustments based on student need and includes both compliance and flexible funding.

Investments in the FY27 BPS operating budget include:

- An additional \$9,500 per student with disabilities enrolled who are primarily served in an inclusion setting;
- Investments guarantee paraprofessionals in all dual language classes in grades 1 and 2
 - Include 6 new classrooms across 4 schools for additional dual language programs
- \$34M increased investments in healthcare, due to rising healthcare costs
- \$11M increased investments in transportation, due to increased demand for door-to-door services
- \$29M increased investments to meet costs contained within all collective bargaining agreements
- \$34.9M in related speech provisions and supports
- \$13.3M in one to one paraprofessionals
- \$20M in school building maintenance and repairs

The FY27 BPS budget includes \$23M in cost savings from school closures and reconfigurations, \$25M in staff reductions due to enrollment declines, and another \$34M in central office efficiencies; these savings will be reallocated into BPS classrooms and student and family support.

The FY27 Operating budget also includes a proposed \$9.8 million increase for charter school students, bringing the total for public education funding for FY27 to \$2.04 billion. Public education remains a City priority, representing 41 percent of the City's budget.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means I recommend moving the listed docket from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that this matter **OUGHT TO PASS**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Weber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ben" and last name "Weber" clearly distinguishable.

Benjamin J. Weber, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means