

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JULIA M. MEJIA, BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUILDING A
LONG-TERM PLAN FOR MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

WHEREAS, Roughly 90% of Multilingual Learners and roughly 95% of Multilingual Learners with Disabilities in Boston Public Schools do not meet Massachusetts State grade-level academic content standards; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a dramatic decrease in the rate of Multilingual Learners reaching their English language learning targets from 5th to 12th grade when there is a shift in assessing conversational English to English language academic content; *and*

WHEREAS, Research evidence shows that all bilingual education programs that use home language instruction for Multilingual Learners achieve better student outcomes than programs that use English-only instruction; *and*

WHEREAS, We recognize that BPS has added several new bilingual/dual language programs in the past years made possible by the Look Act, but still only about 10% of Multilingual Learners in the BPS are able to participate in Dual Language programs and 90% are assigned to English-only Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) and regular education with English Second Language (ESL) classes; *and*

WHEREAS, Many advocates and educators have highlighted the lack of a concrete long-term plan for, appropriate staffing to support, and meaningful investment in our Multilingual Learners; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council urges BPS to develop a long-term plan to expand and improve multilingual education and multilingual teachers, paras, and other staff with specific milestones and timelines (as well as how budget allocations will invest in this plan) and present it to the City Council's Education Committee in the Fall of 2026, in time to request program approvals from the State for the implementation of new programs in the following school year.