

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS EDWARD M. FLYNN, BRIAN WORRELL, ERIN J. MURPHY, BREADON, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, PEPÉN, AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS EXPANDING ACCESS FOR YOUTH TO SKILLED TRADES CAREERS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** Skilled trade jobs encompass a broad range of fields, including mechanics, electrical, construction, and plumbing. These jobs are critical to ensure our infrastructure remains safe and accessible, including homes, buildings, roads, and parks. Trades also include healthcare, cosmetology, culinary, hospitality, agricultural sciences, law and public safety, media, and transportation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Due to the rising costs of a four-year college degree, the growing uncertainty of the impact of AI on many professions, and the competitive wages offered by skilled trades, many young people are exploring alternative career paths. However, many vocational schools face long waitlists and limited seats, underscoring the need to expand access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) opportunities across BPS. CTE schools are costly to build and maintain, requiring expensive equipment for their programs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A recent Boston Globe report found that male students attending CTE schools in Connecticut were found to have better attendance, higher test scores, higher graduation rates, and earnings than their peers who missed the admissions cut off. Females who attended the CTE schools did neither better nor worse than rejected peers; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools offers CTE pathways in 27 industry areas and in 11 secondary schools across the district, including Madison Park, Boston's only exclusively CTE high school; however, other major U.S. cities offer more programs in more schools. Chicago Public Schools currently offers 34 CTE pathways at more than 80 high schools to more than 14,000 (10-12%) CPS students; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston is proud to be one of the most diverse school districts in the nation, a distinction reflected in its commitment to equitable and accessible CTE programs and pathways, including BPS' STRIVE Program, which provides transition services, including vocational training and community engagement, to students with disabilities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Expanding access to the trades for communities of color will strengthen our workforce and ensure all students have opportunities to enter high-demand careers in the trades. Increasing participation in skilled trades can help reduce longstanding barriers to economic mobility and address workforce shortages; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss expanding access for youth to skilled trades careers in the City of Boston, and that Boston Public Schools and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: July 22, 2026