



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 4, 2025

Dear Councilors:

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

Docket #0823, Message and order for annual appropriation for the School Department for FY2026.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the committee on April 9, 2025.

The Committee began the BPS budget process in November, 2024, and in total, held 5 public hearings and 3 working sessions regarding the FY26 BPS budget. The Committee submitted a letter with a list of the Council's BPS priorities in March, 2025, which included the following:

Protecting Boston's Diversity & Inclusion:

- Continued and sustained investments in ESOL classes across BPS;

Expanded Programs for our Youth:

- Extra commitments requested toward Year-round youth jobs;
- Support for unhoused students and English Language Learners at BPS;
- Investments in digital equity programs and career and college readiness programs;
- After-school tutoring with a focus on literacy;
- Youth clothing and supplies programs;
- Youth development programs, and homework help.

Capital Projects:

- Improvements to all BPS bathrooms;
- Repairs to Brighton High Auditorium.

Docket #0823 is one of several dockets that comprise the City's total operating budget, and is an appropriation order for BPS for FY26, in the amount of \$1.58 billion. This FY26 budget includes a \$45.5 million increase in funding over the appropriated FY25 budget to total a six year \$300 million commitment made to Boston schools since 2020.

Investments in the FY26 BPS operating budget include:

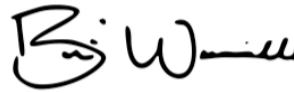
- \$10 million for Year 2 of the Inclusive Education Plan Investments, starting this year in Grades 1,2,8,10, building on last year's Grades K0, K1, K2, 7, 9;
- \$4 million for additional bilingual programs, including Spanish/English;
- \$5 million to program and school expansion;

- \$6 million in new classrooms
- \$6 million to add additional positions in schools such as Social Workers and Transformation Coaches
- \$5 million for In-School pool maintenance and Staffing in School Pool Programming
- \$1 million in additional curriculum materials
- \$1 million in welcome services and the BPS helpline
- \$5 million to reserve for future school needs

The FY26 Operating budget also includes a proposed \$8.8 million increase for charter school students, totaling public education funding for FY26 at \$1.9 billion. Public education spending is 39 percent of the City's budget, and per-pupil spending at BPS will reach \$31,600, an increase of \$910 over last year.

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 "B. J. Worrell".

Brian J. Worrell, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means