



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**MICHELLE WU**

February 17, 2026

**TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councilors:

This is the response to the 17F: Order requesting information under section 17F regarding cost of out-of-district vocational placements for Boston resident students. (**Docket #0297 filed on 2/6/2026**).

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

[0297](#) - Councilor Murphy offered the following: Order requesting information under section **17F** regarding cost of out-of-district vocational placements for Boston resident students

## Response to City Council Order Under Section 17F

### Order Requesting Information Regarding Costs of Out-of-District Vocational Placements for Boston Resident Students

**Filed in Council:** February 4, 2026

**Responding Agency:** Boston Public Schools

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Pursuant to the Order issued under Section 17F, Boston Public Schools (BPS) provides the following information regarding Boston resident students placed in vocational or technical high schools outside the Boston Public Schools system for whom BPS incurred tuition costs. Data reflects the past five completed school years and the current school year to date, as available.

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#### 1. Total Number of Students Placed Out of District (by School Year)

| School Year            | Students |
|------------------------|----------|
| SY 2020–2021           | 32       |
| SY 2021–2022           | 38       |
| SY 2022–2023           | 43       |
| SY 2023–2024           | 49       |
| SY 2024–2025           | 50       |
| SY 2025–2026 (to date) | 50       |

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#### 2. Receiving Vocational or Technical High Schools

All placements during the referenced period were to:

- **Norfolk County Agricultural School**, Walpole, Massachusetts

Student counts by school year are reflected above.

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### **3. Tuition and Fee Costs Paid by Boston Public Schools**

| <b>School Year</b>     | <b>Tuition Cost</b> |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| SY 2020–2021           | \$812,710.72        |
| SY 2021–2022           | \$980,119.28        |
| SY 2022–2023           | \$1,146,434.00      |
| SY 2023–2024           | \$1,352,673.67      |
| SY 2024–2025           | \$1,447,042.67      |
| SY 2025–2026 (to date) | Not finalized       |

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### **4. Total Tuition Costs (by School Year)**

Tuition costs are reflected in Section 3 above.

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### **5. Average Per-Student Tuition Cost**

| <b>School Year</b> | <b>Average Tuition per Student</b> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| SY 2020–2021       | \$25,397                           |
| SY 2021–2022       | \$25,793                           |
| SY 2022–2023       | \$26,661                           |
| SY 2023–2024       | \$27,606                           |
| SY 2024–2025       | \$28,941                           |

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## **6. Transportation Costs**

Most students attending the Norfolk County Agricultural School received M7 MBTA passes consistent with BPS policy. M7 MBTA passes cost an average of \$300 per year per student.

## **7. Funding Sources**

Tuition costs for these placements are funded through Boston Public Schools operating funds as required by Massachusetts Vocational Technical Education Program Nonresident Student Tuition Process.

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## **8. Reason for Placement Outside Boston Public Schools**

The Chapter 74 Nonresident Student Tuition Program allows students to attend a school outside of their home school district in order to study at a state-approved CTE program that is not offered by their home district.