



CITY OF BOSTON - MASSACHUSETTS

MICHELLE WU
MAYOR

April 10, 2023

TO THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith an appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24), in the amount of \$1.45 billion, submitted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991.

As a BPS mom, I take special pride in the work we do to educate, inspire, and empower young people across our city. Our administration is determined to connect every resource across local government and all sectors of our city to advance the health and happiness of our families and our young people. That requires investment, coordination, and community-building well beyond BPS, and this budget will be supplemented by those efforts.

Investing in our future means committing significant resources to supporting our school communities, so that every child, in every classroom, in every school has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

The FY24 BPS Operating Budget is focused not only on meeting the challenges of this moment, but laying a foundation for our school district to be the best that it can be, for generations to come. The \$1.45 billion proposed BPS budget targets areas where students need the most support and works to provide transformational support across our entire public education system.

The FY24 BPS budget is structured around six priority areas: Inclusive Education, Multilingual Education, Equitable Literacy, Restorative Justice and Mental Health, High School and Alternative Education, and Community Engagement. With both Operating Budget and ESSER investments addressing each of these principles, this budget will enable us to bridge gaps in opportunity and achievement, and make significant strides in supporting the social-emotional well-being of our students.

The FY24 BPS Operating Budget includes \$26 million in new investments, such as:

- \$9.6 million to partner with families in the individualized educational program (IEP) process and ensure that students with disabilities can access services in schools across the district and closer to home;
- \$6.3 million to increase investments for immediate action in dual language and bilingual programs, multilingual learners with disabilities, and bilingual teacher pipelines expanding native language access;
- \$3.5 million for Equitable Literacy to invest in High Quality Tier 1 curriculum and professional learning and to strengthen a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) designed to identify and deliver timely interventions; through an equitable literacy strategy, all students actively engage in culturally and linguistically responsive, standards-aligned grade-level tasks and texts daily in all content areas;
- \$1.2 million for expanding the use of and access to restorative practices at both the school and central levels, such as bilingual social workers, family liaisons, safety protocols, bullying prevention, embedded counselors, and peer mediation, to ensure that all our students receive the support they need;
- \$1.1 million for High School and Alternative Education, expanding Early College and Career Pathways programming for all secondary students and creating alternative pathways and programming for students who need additional support in grades 7-12; and
- \$1.9 million to elevate Community Engagement by adding capacity to the family hotline, expanding translations and interpretation, increasing Family Engagement Facilitators, and investing in a Chief of Community Engagement and Chief of Family Advancement.

With ESSER funding to help support our recovery, we are making transformative investments across the district, providing every student with opportunities to succeed and prepare for the future. The BPS budget team worked with schools to identify \$15 million of school-based ESSER investments that could be moved onto the general fund budget, sustaining these strategically-aligned positions beyond ESSER. This year, we have also shifted hold-harmless support for under-enrolled schools from the general fund to ESSER to help schools avoid the need to make cuts to services or student supports in FY24. As we understand and plan for the end of ESSER funding, FY24's budget serves as a transitional budget to address immediate needs as we plan for FY25 and beyond.

The FY24 Operating Budget brings our total public education funding up to \$1.7 billion. This \$84 million increase in FY24 represents 31% of the total new City resources across all categories of spending. Public education spending remains over 40% of our City budget, and per-pupil spending at BPS will reach \$28,900, an increase of \$1,800 over the prior budget as adopted. Key investments in the City Operating Budget and the FY24-28 Capital Plan will also accelerate district-wide school facilities planning initiatives and key construction and renovation projects to deliver school facilities that are safe, healthy, energy-efficient, inclusive, and inspiring for our school communities.

During a time of transition in the district, the proposed FY24 BPS Operating Budget lays the foundation for transformational change across grade levels, schools, and neighborhoods, while bolstering existing supports and services on which students and families depend. I look forward

to working with you to implement a bold vision for BPS, and I respectfully request your support of the FY24 appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Wu', with a stylized, cursive-like flow.

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

ORDERED: That pursuant to Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, and as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, to meet the current operating expenses of the School Department in the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024, the sum of ONE BILLION FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX dollars (\$1,445,729,446) be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, said sum to be raised by taxation pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws:

Boston School Department \$1,445,729,446

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**
BY 
**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**