

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR SANTANA



## **CITY OF BOSTON**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM**

**WHEREAS,** Regular school attendance is a critical foundation for student learning, academic achievement, social-emotional development, and long-term success; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Chronic absenteeism—commonly defined as missing ten percent or more of the school year for any reason—has increased nationwide in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic, presenting challenges for school districts across the Commonwealth and the country; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools has identified student attendance as a districtwide priority and has undertaken intentional, data-driven, and student-centered strategies to improve attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools has implemented systems to monitor attendance trends, identify students in need of early intervention, and provide targeted supports at the school and district levels; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The district has emphasized collaboration among school leaders, educators, families, community partners, and City agencies to address barriers to consistent attendance, including health, transportation, housing instability, and social-emotional needs; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools has increasingly focused on equity-centered approaches to attendance improvement, recognizing that chronic absenteeism has disproportionately impacted certain student populations and that responsive, supportive strategies are essential to closing opportunity gaps; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Continued transparency, shared learning, and collaboration between Boston Public Schools, the City Council, and community stakeholders can help strengthen and sustain progress in improving student attendance across the district.; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine Boston Public Schools' efforts to improve chronic absenteeism and that representatives of Boston Public Schools will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

Filed on: March 11, 2026