



Boston Public Schools

FY21 Budget:
BPS Commitment #3
Amplify All Voices
BPS Commitment #4
Expand Opportunity
BPS Revolving Funds

Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent

Nathan Kuder, Chief Financial Officer

David Bloom, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Every child, in every classroom, in every school of the Boston Public Schools system has the same opportunity to achieve the greatness within them as anybody else.





Student
\$9M

A strong foundation for student success and more support to connect families to resources and information.



Teacher
\$12M

Increase teachers' skill through coaching and consistent feedback and developing high-quality curriculum.



Content
\$15M

Raise the bar on student learning with high-quality learning materials, resources and improved learning environments.

Overview of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Proposal

\$80M

We expect Mayor Walsh's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Proposal to include an \$80M increase for BPS.

\$36M

New investments directly in school budgets or school services budgeted centrally above and beyond standard cost increase.

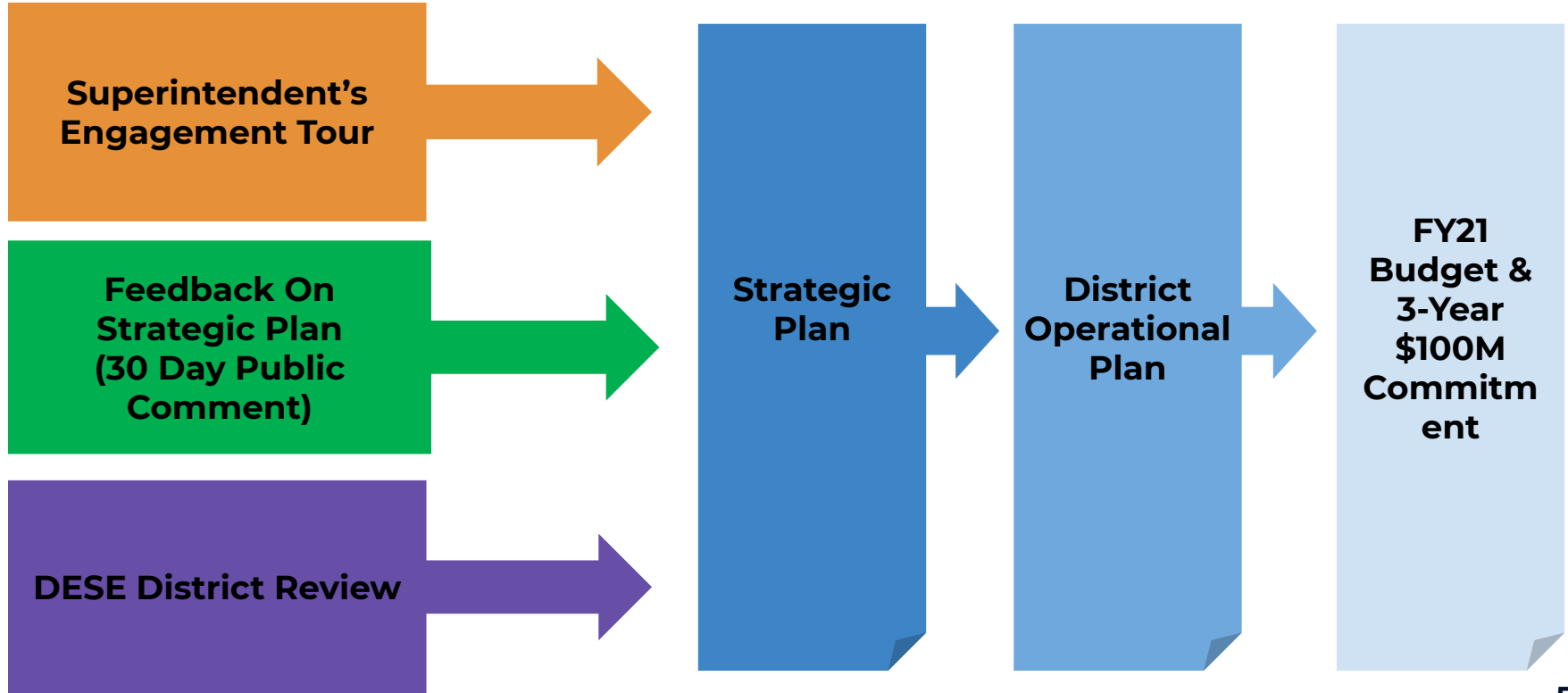
\$44M

Estimates for standard cost increases, including existing student services, cost of new BTU contract and operations.

\$1.3B

Proposed General Fund Budget for the Boston Public Schools in FY21.

Multiple inputs informing our cohesive plan for moving the District forward



Strategic Plan Commitments and Priorities

COMMITMENT 1 Eliminate Oppr. & Achievement Gaps	COMMITMENT 2 Accelerate Learning	COMMITMENT 3 Amplify all Voices	COMMITMENT 4 Expand Opportunity	COMMITMENT 5 Cultivate Trust	COMMITMENT 6 Activate Partnerships
1.1: policies, plans, and budgets align to OAG policy	2.1: secondary school redesign	3.1: engage youth voice in decision-making	4.1: fund all schools to meet the unique needs of high-need students	5.1: hire, support and retain diverse staff and address barriers to retaining staff of color	6.1: high-quality out-of-school time programming for all students
1.2: workforce diversity	2.2: inclusive learning opportunities	3.2: engage parent voice in district-level decision making	4.2: improve funding formulas for equitable distribution of resources	5.2: restructure central office to ensure child and family friendly services	6.2: partner with organizations on youth and skill development
1.3: curriculum bias review	2.3: well-rounded liberal arts education (arts, science, literacy, world language, P.E., health Ed., civics, athletics, and technology)	3.3: partner with families in school improvement and student learning	4.3: organizational effectiveness an excellence and define foundational academic and support services	5.3: support and hold school leaders accountable inclusive, CLSP, high-performing schools and teacher leadership	6.3: partner with organizations for student support, college readiness, dual enrollment, and early college during school day
1.4: EL support and LOOK Act					
1.5: CLSP and Ethnic Studies	2.4: implement universal pre-kindergarten	3.4: increase feedback systems for families to central office	4.4: implement BuildBPS to ensure equitable pathways and connectors between schools	5.4: BPS a place where educators and staff want to be employed	6.4: champion college and career awareness
1.6: monitor OAG policy implementation - schools and central	2.5: rigorous and consistent elementary learning experiences	3.5: engage teachers, staff, families, and students in school site council	4.5: central office collaboration with partners	5.5: revamp central office operations: transportation, registration, nutrition services	6.5: engage key partners in decision-making to promote year round wrap around services
1.8: health and social contributors to opportunity gaps	2.6: reduce chronic absenteeism - joyful and engaging classrooms	3.6: publicly share implementation of district's engagement standards	4.6 WiFi services to BPS Families most in need, so we are all connected.	5.6 increase transparency and accountability with new data tools, dashboards, reporting.	6.6 Design and implement year-round opportunities with partners to promote opportunity.
1.9: support in low performing schools	2.7: safe and supportive learning spaces	3.7 engage families & community in decision making: texts, online, surveys, and calling.			
1.10: special needs student support/ inclusion/ disproportionality	2.8: comprehensive district-wide professional development plan				
1.11 1:1 technology for opportunity for remote learning to BPS students grades 3-12.	2.9 remote learning opportunities year-round o prevent learning loss and provide opportunities to accelerate learning.				

Investment Highlight: Family Liaisons

Student



Supporting students starts with home-school partnership

New family liaisons will reflect the cultures and languages of the community they are serving. They will:

- Build relationships with the students, families, and school community to foster mutual respect and trust, and develop home-school partnerships to support student learning.
- Be accountable for assessing and responding to families' needs in collaboration with other transformation staff.
- Connect families with community resources for needs like housing, food, counseling, and more.
- Provide onsite registration and transportation support to families.

Commitment 3, Priority 1: Engage youth voice in decision- making

Students are powerful stakeholders in education

BPS is committed to engaging student voice in policy as well as all major initiatives. This is accomplished by:

- Engaging and vetting district policy proposals and initiatives through BSAC.
- Co-creating solutions and proactively assessing outcomes from the student lens through the Student Executive Cabinet
- Hosting student-led town halls through the collaboration of youth-serving organizations across the city to ensure frequent and representative youth voice in district decisions

Commitment 3, Priority 2: Engage parent voice in district-level decision making

Parent voice must be elevated to drive district improvement

BPS decisions and efforts must be informed by the unique and valuable knowledge that parents have as their child's first teacher and primary advocate.

- In keeping with BPS Engagement policy, BPS engages the City-wide parent council, District English Learner Advisory Council and Special Education Parent Advisory Council on policy proposals.
- BPS departments include parent voice on working groups and present work for feedback in advance of decisions.
- Parent voice is front and center during BPS community engagement efforts, with the parent leadership groups co-hosting some of our efforts.

Commitment 3, Priority 3: Partner with families in school improvement and student learning

Parent engagement is a pillar of sustained school improvement

Research shows that sustained school improvement must include family engagement as a component. Schools are expected to engage parents as partners in their child's education.

- Through Parent University schools are able to provide training and support that meets the needs of their families.
- Schools can access tools and technical assistance from OSFCA to assess their engagement practices, develop plans to meet requirements, and identify strategies to deepen their work.
- OSFCA provide professional development to deepen the knowledge and practice of schools. This year PD was offered for school leaders, school teams, and school-based engagement staff. Teacher specific PD is underway.

Commitment 3, Priority 4: Increase feedback systems for families to central office

Effective feedback loops require multiple and user friendly access points

In order for district work to be continuously informed by family voice, there must be an increase in the types and quality of access points.

- Monthly regional school parent council meetings facilitated by School Superintendents will launch in the fall as a means of lifting up issues across schools.
- BPS is exploring apps and tools that will support both school and district level communications with families as well as surveying and feedback collection.
- Family-serving organizations play a unique role in understanding and serving our families and operate as a convener of families and the district, and provide feedback themselves.

Commitment 3, Priority 5: Engage teachers, staff, families, and students in school site council

School based decision-making requires representation of voice

School-based management and shared decision making in BPS goes beyond the state required advisory and makes SSC a decision-making body.

- Through a partnership with BTU, the OSFCA provides monthly training to schools, as well as on the ground technical assistance, facilitation tools, and observations.
- OSFCA is working with School Leaders and School Parent Council Chairs to apply an equity lens to outreach efforts and meeting design to ensure representatives reflect the diversity of the student and staff body.
- In collaboration with the Office of Equity, OSFCA and School Superintendents train members of school Principal and BTU hiring committees on eliminating racial bias in the hiring process.

Commitment 3, Priority 6: Publicly share implementation of district's engagement standards

Progress is made where there is transparency and shared accountability

If we expect mutual accountability and to truly empower School Site Councils and school communities, we must ensure that all stakeholders have access to engagement data.

- BPS monitors and shares with schools and School Superintendents school level progress towards family engagement requirements and expectations. This will be shared more publicly.
- Meeting the engagement standards and parent participation on the School Climate survey are eligibility requirements for Family Friendly School designation. BPS will begin highlighting the work of schools with this achievement as part of the School Choice Process.
- Schools receive school climate data and are expected to share it with their SSC and use it to inform the development of their Quality School Plan. This data is made publicly available and easily accessible for families.

Commitment 3, Priority 7: Engage families & community in decision making: texts, online, surveys, and calling.

Increased two-way communication will increase representation of voice

BPS has expanded its feedback collection methods and will continue to do so while strengthening the existing platforms.

- BPS piloted online feedback during the strategic planning processes. Stakeholders were able to offer feedback and see the feedback of others.
- OEL, OSFCA and Communications are exploring communications tools that can be used at the school and central levels to share information, enable communication with staff, and collect feedback.
- BPS began using text messaging this school year as a way of keeping families informed and sharing links to surveys and other feedback opportunities. The district also increased the number of partner hosted feedback forums.
- BPS will leverage from the closure to inform future efforts. Phone based surveys, personal calls and remote forums have been successful.

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Commitment 4, Priority 4: Implement BuildBPS to ensure equitable pathways and connectors between schools

BuildBPS and the FY21 Capital Budget includes 5 categories of projects



New Builds & Expansions (63.6M)

- Boston Arts Academy, Carter School, Horace Mann and Jackson/Mann School Study, Josiah Quincy Upper



Real Estate Management



Renovations & Reconfigurations (1.25M)

- Edwards Design Study, Grade 7-12 Conversions Master Plan, Grade K-6 Conversions Phase 1



District-Wide Investments (23.1M)

- Bathroom, Drinking Water, and Entry Upgrades
- Technology System Improvements, My Way Cafe, School Yard Improvements.



Capital Repairs (45M)

- MSBA Accelerated Repairs
- Roofs, boilers, windows, electrical

A blue-tinted photograph of two young students, a boy and a girl, looking intently at a laptop screen. The boy is on the left, and the girl is on the right, leaning over the laptop. The background is blurred, showing other students in a classroom setting.

Investment Highlight: Facilities

Raise the bar on quality learning environments

Re-establish high expectations for the classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and play spaces that our students deserve, recognizing the impact of the learning environment and resources:

\$1.5M **Ensure our facilities support learning by adding 25 additional custodians, investing in building condition and cleanliness.**

This complements the BPS Capital Budget, which will make additional investments in school facilities, including upgrades to drinking fountains and bathrooms.

Supporting schools during K6 Expansion

\$0.8M - Schools that expanded to K6 were held harmless from under-enrolled 6th grades:

Adams, Bradley, Clap,
Channing, Everett, Guild,
Hale, Kenny, Manning, Otis,
Perkins, PJ Kennedy, Tynan

\$0.9M - Schools that traditionally received those 6th graders received soft landings as needed supports during their transition to a new enrollment pattern:

McCormack, Edwards

Impacted Schools Not Requiring Soft Landing:

Conley, Harvard/Kent, O'Donnell, Umana

Ensuring Equity & Transparency

We provide extensive information online, including:

- All FY21 Budget Presentations
- An interactive tool to explore budgets: [bostonpublicschools.org/explorebudget](https://www.bostonpublicschools.org/explorebudget)
- FY21 WSF School-by-School comparison
- WSF Templates for all schools
- FY21 preliminary general fund account code budget

For more information, please visit:

www.bostonpublicschools.org/budget

Upcoming Budget Hearings

Date	Topic
Tuesday, April 14, 10:00AM:	BPS Overview Presentation
Tuesday, April 14, 1:00PM:	BPS School Budgets
Tuesday, May 5, 10:00AM:	BPS Commitment #1, Part I: Eliminate Opportunity & Achievement Gaps – Overall Alignment & Wraparound Supports
Tuesday, May 5, 1:00PM:	BPS Commitment #1, Part II: Eliminate Opportunity & Achievement Gaps – Specialized Academic Supports
Tuesday, May 19, 10:00AM:	BPS Commitment #2: Accelerate Learning
Tuesday, May 19, 1:00PM:	BPS Commitment #3: Amplify All Voices BPS Commitment #4: Expand Opportunity BPS Revolving Funds
Tuesday, May 26, 10:00AM:	BPS Commitment #5: Cultivate Trust
Tuesday, May 26, 1:00PM:	BPS Commitment #6: Activate Partnerships
Tuesday, May 26, 6:00PM:	BPS Public Testimony