



Boston Public Schools

FY21 Budget: Closing Opportunity Gaps during COVID-19

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We are transitioning to remote learning, we are innovating public education; and we are supporting our students, families, and staff through a global pandemic with an unwavering focus on closing opportunity and achievement gaps.

Executing our vision for students in a rapidly changing environment

COVID-19 has changed the context of our work, but not the direction

While it is too early to report any significant learnings from the current pandemic, it has brought our current challenges into starker relief. As a District we must:

- Address racial and economic inequities in our schools through differentiated funding;
- Change our approach to instruction to overcome lost learning;
- Add high-quality social and emotional support for students as we recover from this experience;
- Close the digital divide that has limited our ability to deliver high quality remote learning opportunities to all students; and
- Develop new and better ways to connect with and engage families.



Reinventing public education as we know it

Timeline and Phased Response to COVID-19

Our goal is to share changes to our budget, operations, and instructional plans covering four different phases during the pandemic:

Phase 0

Adapt - Adjust - Act on Best Practices (3-6/2020)

Establishing new practices for remote learning and student support.

Phase 1

Return - Refocus - Reality Check (7-8/2020)

Summer learning and fall planning for multiple scenarios.

Phase 2

Back to School - Forward to the Future (SY20-21)

Re-Opening, adjusting and establishing a new normal.

Phase 3

Long-term Outlook (SY20-21 and Beyond)

Forecasting the financial and educational impact with unprecedented uncertainty and no established playbook.

Phase 0:

Adapt - Adjust - Act on Best Practices (March - June)

We adapted to support students in remote learning starting on March 17th

We re-deployed resources to support students in a rapidly changing environment:

- Our Academics team generated culturally and linguistically sustaining content in print and online, which became a national model.
- Our Technology team responded by delivering more than 31,000 chromebook and ensuring internet access to all students, regardless of income and immigration status.
- Our Student Support team created new standards for student counseling, ensuring our most vulnerable students continue to receive mental health supports.
- Our Food and Nutrition Services team established 16 food sites, ensuring all children under the age of 18 have access to meals. They have served nearly 600,000 meals and delivered over 200,000 door to door.

Phase 0:

Adapt - Adjust - Act on Best Practices (March - June)

The initial phase required significant adjustments to our FY20 Budget

\$5.8M

For chromebooks and internet access for students.

\$5.5M

To offset lost external funding revenue.

\$1.5M

For the cost of unused food inventory.

\$1.0M

To maintain the health and safety of our front-line workers and other operational implications of the shutdown.

\$0.8M

To deliver offline and online content and instruction.

Phase 1:

Return - Refocus - Reality Check (July - August)

The summer is a critical time for academic recovery, student support, and fall preparation

- We will have an expanded, remote summer school.
 - Expansion of existing programs to serve more students
 - Tighter coordination across summer opportunities to make sure no students fall through the cracks
 - Additional professional development for instructional staff for remote and blended learning
- We will ensure food access throughout the summer, maintaining all food sites and food deliveries.
- We will engage in deep cleaning and facility preparation, including upgrades to bathrooms and drinking fountains.
- We are partnering with all schools in Boston, including parochial, charters, private, and citywide UPK programs.

Phase 1:

Return - Refocus - Reality Check (July - August)

Engagement provides a “reality check” for planning

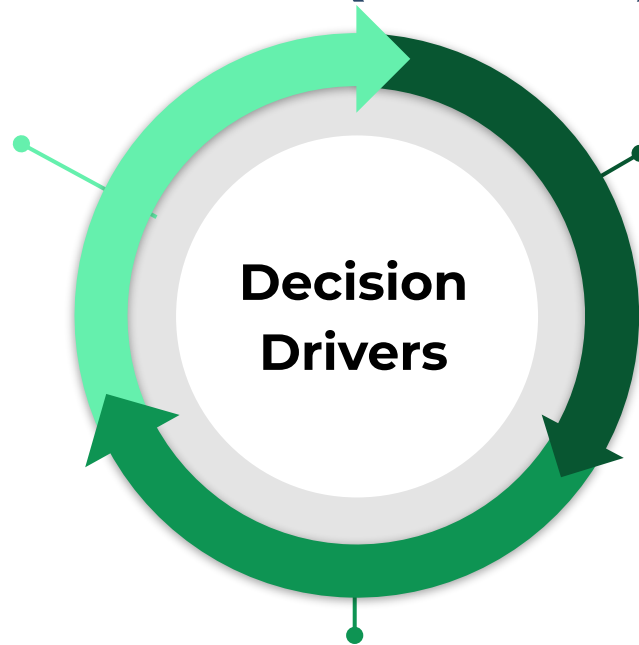
We have created multiple forums for student, family, and community input:

- Equity Roundtables
- Family Needs Survey
- Conversations with the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC)
- Superintendent’s Attendance at BTU Board Meetings
- Weekly School Leaders Calls with Superintendent
- Educator Focus groups
- Weekly Headmasters & Elementary Principal Association Meetings with Superintendent
- Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SPEDPAC) Meetings
- Updates to the School Committee
- City Council Hearings

Phase 2: Back to School - Forward to the Future (SY20-21)

Operational Realities

- Numbers and Grade Levels of Registered Students
- Number and Size of Buses
- Number and Size of Classrooms
- Needs of Students and Families



Health and Safety for Students and Staff

- Social Distancing
- Hand-washing
- Masks

Educational Best Practices

- Highest-Quality Teaching and Learning in an Equity-Driven School Environment

Phase 3: Long-term Outlook (SY21-22 and Beyond)

- The City is committed to our FY21 investments despite economic uncertainty
- We continue to plan for the use of additional Federal revenue, but are concerned about offsetting reductions to state aid
- We need to make progress on the major levers that will ensure financial health
- We need to continue to make progress on investments that will close achievement and opportunity gaps

Each year, BPS will have more to invest in student supports over and above maintenance cost increases

