



Offered by City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE CURRENT
STATE OF INCLUSION CLASSROOMS IN BPS**

WHEREAS: Since the Boston Public Schools (BPS) implemented the inclusion program model district-wide in 2013, there have been extensive concerns about the robustness of the program; and

WHEREAS: The inclusion model of a general education teacher, a special education teacher and a paraprofessional exists at a few schools, most schools with inclusion programs have much less staffing support; and

WHEREAS: There is inconsistent implementation of other evidenced based practices necessary for successful inclusion such as: culture building, professional development, time for collaboration, and access to resources; and

WHEREAS: Historically, the inclusion program model has been so hamstrung by budgetary constraints that BPS counts a teacher with multiple licenses as sufficiently fulfilling the program; and

WHEREAS: There are currently over 11,000 students, or 21% of the total BPS population, enrolled in our schools who have disabilities and have wide ranging needs and have IEPs or 504s; and

WHEREAS: If Boston expects to ensure a great educational experience for all of our students and a great work experience for our teachers, then inclusion classrooms must be fully funded and done right; **THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee in the Boston City Council hold a hearing to ascertain the current barriers to implementing a fully funded and well resourced inclusion program district-wide.

Filed On: January 16, 2020