

Offered by City Councilor Ayanna Pressley



### CITY OF BOSTON

#### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE FY18 BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' SPECIAL EDUCATION BUDGET AND IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS TO ENSURE EQUITABLE TRANSITIONS OF BPS YOUTH

**WHEREAS,** More than 11,000 (20%) of Boston Public School's (BPS) students have learning, developmental, physical disabilities, or mental health diagnoses that require federally mandated special education services via Individualized Education Plans, in the state-mandated least restrictive environment; and

**WHEREAS,** Approximately 4,500 of these students are between the ages of 14 and 22; and

**WHEREAS,** The transition from high school to post-secondary schooling, employment, or independent living is a critical juncture for every student; and

**WHEREAS,** For students with disabilities, extra planning may be required to develop and prepare for the optimal transition whether it be further education, vocational skills, independent living, employment, etc.; and

**WHEREAS,** For undocumented immigrant students with disabilities, transition planning creates additional challenges that require attention; and

**WHEREAS,** In the FY17 budget, BPS implemented changes to the weighted student funding formula for students with autism and emotional impairment and made investments in "supports for Special Education transitions to new service models."

**THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review the FY18 BPS Special Education Budget and discuss how changes to the weighted student funding formula have impacted students, schools, and programs, and discuss the implementation and impact of the new service models in improving state-mandated transition services for BPS youth receiving special education services; and that representatives from the Boston Public Schools, SpedPac, and Massachusetts Advocates for Children, along with other interested parties be invited to participate.

Filed on: January 11, 2017