



Uniting for the Schools our Communities Deserve A People's Movement for Boston Public Education

We as parents, teachers, students and community members in Boston are **proud of our history as the birthplace of public education in the United States**. Our Commonwealth recognized that supporting and **fully funding a municipal public school system is a vital and central role of democratic government**, one that drives our higher ed, tech, and health sciences innovation economy today.

Our public schools have struggled for generations to become inclusive across differences of race and class. Still too many Boston students have been deprived of the curriculum and resources needed to provide the high quality education that all Boston students deserve. Too many have been shut out of Boston's booming economy.

Today, Boston Public Schools' 57,000 students are targets for **inequitable allocation of resources and opportunities**. It is especially worrying that **this burden falls disproportionately on communities of color, low-income students, special education students and English language learners**.

In one of the richest- and the most unequal- cities in America, this is unacceptable. We demand schools that fulfill the promise of quality education in Boston- one that prioritizes equity, excellence and democratic voices of students, parents and teachers. We demand the *public schools our communities deserve!*

WE CALL ON MAYOR MARTY WALSH, THE CITY COUNCIL AND STATE OFFICIALS TO:

1. Join with Boston's students, families and community members to **aggressively advocate this fiscal year** for our Boston Public Schools at the local, state, and federal levels, including but not limited to:
 - a. Fully funding of \$18.6 million in state reimbursements required by law to compensate BPS for its loss of state education funds diverted to state-authorized charter schools.¹
 - b. Fully funding the Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursements to the City.²
 - c. Requiring local universities and other large nonprofits to pay the remaining \$12.7 million owed in PILOT payments from FY15.³
 - d. Fully funding the state's Foundation Budget Review recommendations.⁴
 - e. Progressively raising funds from the wealthiest in our City, including our largest corporations, in order to stop structural deficits.
2. **Fully fund all schools.** Use the City of Boston's budget surplus to **replenish the FY17 BPS Budget shortfall of \$50 million**. Replenish and make whole the \$140 million of budget cuts in the last three years. Create sustainable long-term funding for the BPS district.

¹ <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/cms/lib07/MA01906464/CentriCity/Domain/4/FY17FAQ.pdf>

² <http://children.massbudget.org/special-education-circuit-breaker>

³ http://www.Cityofboston.gov/images_documents/FY15%20PILOT%20Results%20for%20Web_tcm3-51686.pdf

⁴ <http://www.mass.gov/legis/journal/desktop/2015/fbrc.pdf>

3. **Invest in “Hub Schools”** which include a multi-cultural, relevant and enriched curriculum; augmented staffing to support students and teachers; wraparound services; and authentic family and community engagement. Prioritize investments in all level 4 and 5 schools with the highest needs populations.
4. **Address disparities of race and culture.** Meet and exceed outstanding court orders to hire and retain diverse teachers, leaders and staff. Implement curricula in all BPS schools that explore our diverse histories, cultures and countries of origin and expose our students to international human rights and responsibilities.
5. **Eliminate the high stakes uses of standardized tests in K-12 and reduce the frequency of testing beyond that mandated by the newest federal law. Ban high stakes testing in grades Pre-K to 3.** Implement authentic, performance based assessments that support our students to reach their fullest potential in a truly democratic society.
6. **End the school to prison pipeline, implementing policies and practices that prepare students for full citizenship.** Create a plan for citywide implementation using School-wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports & Restorative Justice practices.
7. **Modernize BPS school facilities.** Ensure that the 10 Year Educational and Facilities Master Plan for BPS is just and equitable.
8. **Halt all efforts to implement a universal enrollment system** (one computer lottery) for assigning students to BPS district schools and non-district “neighborhood” charter schools that would further segregate students. Stop the Boston Compact’s plans to outsource school assignments to a third-party administrator, rather than BPS or the City. Across the country, these enrollment schemes increased school closures and destabilized public school districts.
9. **Place a moratorium on charter expansion, which masks the corporate privatization of public education in the City of Boston and the nation.** Expansions of multiple charter districts in Boston threaten the future sustainability of the Boston Public Schools district, which serves all students including the most marginalized.
10. **Democratize the governance of public schools,** with elected Boston School Committee members and 2 voting student members.

#ReclaimOurSchools #BPScuts #SchoolsWeDeserve
Find out more details about these demands online:
www.BostonEdJustice.org

Join Us Online



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