



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

MARTIN J. WALSH
MAYOR

April 9, 2018

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith an appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2019, in the amount of \$1.109 billion, submitted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991.

Every dollar spent on public education is an investment Boston's future. Over the past five years, we have worked together to support the accomplishments of our district and our kids. In 2017, the four-year high school graduation rate climbed to a record high of 72.7%, marking a 13.6-point gain since 2006. Additionally, BPS now has more state-designated high performing schools than ever before, with a combined 46 schools ranked among the highest-performing in the state. More than 535 additional students will be enrolled in our Level 1 and 2 schools next year, which means more families are taking advantage of the choice process and choosing schools that make the most sense for them and their children.

Since I took office, we have grown the BPS budget by over \$170 million, more than any other area of the budget. Funding for BPS is more than just the dollar amounts, it's about investing into the programs that demonstrate success and expand opportunity. My Administration continues to prioritize our schools through this budget submission. The \$1.109 billion for BPS represents their largest budget ever, a \$48 million increase over FY18. Schools will receive \$41 million of the \$48 million increase, and we will expand programs like Excellence For All and Becoming a Man to new schools and grades. BPS will also add new nurses, psychologists and social workers across the district.

My administration makes these investments against a backdrop of precipitous declines in net state aid, driven by stagnant state education funding. While we have grown the BPS budget by \$170 million, the state has reduced net state aid to Boston by \$70 million.

This budget makes a historic \$48 million investment in our schools to close opportunity and achievement gaps and ensure our students are ready for success:

- \$10 million in new investments directed to high-need schools, including, \$3 million to be allocated using the Opportunity Index, \$3 million in additional funds for English language learners, \$2.8 million for schools with declining enrollment, and \$1 million for low-performing schools.
- \$2.4 million to fund new nurses, psychologists and social worker staff.
- \$1.2 million to support translations and interpretations for students with IEPs and their families.

- \$700,000 to grow Excellence for All into its third year of expansion, expanding classes up to the 6th grade.
- \$500,000 to expand Becoming a Man, a school-based group counseling program for young men in grades 7-12.
- \$500,000 in curriculum investments for English language learners, social and emotional learning, and expanding successful curriculum pilots.

This budget also maintains funding for investments that are already delivering results for our students:

- Fully funding the groundbreaking investment to extend learning time for over 23,000 students at 57 schools throughout the District at a total annual investment of \$18.9 million.
- Funding for 726 additional BPS pre-kindergarten (K1) seats created since 2014. We have also proposed legislation to close the “quality gap” in pre-kindergarten seats in Boston by investing in programs at BPS and in community based organizations.
- Expanding the investment to support 3,000 BPS students identified by the district as experiencing homelessness by \$500,000 above FY18, for a total of \$1.7 million.
- Preserving \$16 million in funding for a wide-range of differentiated supports for lower-performing schools.

I respectfully request your support of the FY19 appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. J. Walsh', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

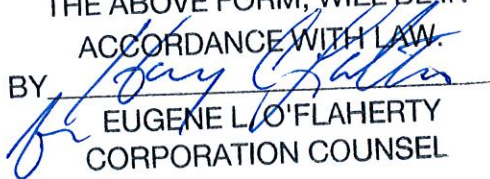
**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

ORDERED: That pursuant to Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, and as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, to meet the current operating expenses of the School Department in the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2019, the sum of ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHT MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHT-ONE dollars (\$1,108,740,381) be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, said sum to be raised by taxation pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws:

Boston School Department \$1,108,740,381

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

BY


EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY
CORPORATION COUNSEL