



CITY OF BOSTON

MAYOR MICHELLE WU

April 8, 2024

TO THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith an annual appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), in the amount of \$1.5 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. The \$1.5 billion operating budget prioritizes student investments across the district and begins a reimagined way to fund schools based on real student data and each classroom's needs.

The FY25 BPS Operating Budget advances the district's key instructional initiatives, transforming all BPS schools to support inclusive education and moving towards a team-based teaching model. This budget also continues our core priorities, investing in rigorous and high-quality instructional materials, access to grade-level curriculum, social-emotional supports for students, Early College and Career Pathways for secondary students, Community Hub Schools, and extracurricular activities—all part of delivering a high quality student experience in Boston. These investments will enhance the BPS student experience, leading to better outcomes for our young people. In fact, 94% of expenditures in the FY2025 Budget are allocated for student services.

This budget marks the end of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), which was meant to offset the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on students and schools. The end of ESSER has created budgetary complications for school districts across the nation. To reduce impacts, BPS identified \$17 million in savings from finding efficiencies in its operations and \$10 million in savings by consolidating under-enrolled classrooms.

As Mayor, I have invested an historic \$81 million to expand priority investments like inclusive education—\$30 million goes directly to schools, including \$20 million for inclusive education—and continue initiatives that had been funded on ESSER, that are showing real impacts for students, such as equitable literacy coaches and educator recruitment and retention programs.

This budget will lay a foundation for BPS to sustainably invest in priority areas such as implementing districtwide inclusive education, building equitable literacy practices, and improving multilingual and secondary education. For years, there have been calls to reimagine

school funding, and the FY25 budget begins a transition away from the outdated Weighted Student Funding model. This will be a substantial improvement that meets the current and future needs of BPS students.

The FY25 budget will allow the district to directly attack inequities in our system and strengthen the BPS mission of inclusive education, rigorous and culturally affirming learning experiences, a supportive network of caring adults, wellness, enrichment, expanding early college and career pathways programming.

I look forward to working with you to approve the BPS budget, and I respectfully request your support of the FY25 annual appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michelle Wu', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michelle Wu
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, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, the sum of ONE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIX MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-SIX dollars (\$1,526,629,446) 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 \$1,526,629,446

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

BY _____

**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**