



CITY OF BOSTON - MASSACHUSETTS

KIM JANEY
MAYOR

June 18, 2021

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I retransmit herewith an appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22), in the amount of \$1.29 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.

Over the past year, the City, along with the entire BPS community, has worked rapidly and tirelessly to adapt to challenging and unprecedented circumstances. We have distributed tens of thousands of computers, set up meal sites across neighborhoods to serve students and their families, pushed online curriculum out to all schools, and sustained wraparound supports for students in a remote environment. Because of these efforts, students have been able to continue learning and thriving. In fact, the first graduation during the COVID-19 pandemic was a success in multiple ways: the dropout rate for the 2019-2020 school year decreased from the previous year, and BPS saw its highest graduation rate on record.

While I am immensely proud of our accomplishments – and of the hard work and tenacity that our students have demonstrated in the face of adversity – there is still work to be done. ImagineBPS, the district's strategic plan crafted last year in partnership with the BPS community, identified significant hurdles to overcome, such as persistent achievement gaps and deferred maintenance in our school buildings. Achieving the goals outlined in ImagineBPS and dismantling systemic barriers to student success is no small feat, and will require dedicated funding.

In 2020, the City made a historic three-year, \$100 million commitment to our schools. The \$1.29 billion proposed FY22 BPS budget fulfills the second year of this commitment. While other cities and school districts around the country are facing the prospect of significant budget cuts due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud that strong fiscal planning and stewardship has enabled us to not just avoid cuts to education funding, but to also grow the BPS budget to its largest appropriation in history. This budget will enable us to make great strides in offering excellent, equitable, high-quality education to all students.

With an eye towards an equitable COVID-19 recovery, BPS built their FY22 budget around three key principles: Return, Recover, and Reimagine. As we continue to reopen schools, we need to make sure students, teachers, and staffs are able to return to schools that are clean, safe, and welcoming. We need to recover from the damage done by COVID-19 by assessing student needs, bolstering supports, and tailoring interventions to improve outcomes and ensure student success. Finally, in order to come back stronger, we need to reimagine the district to provide the academic and social-emotional support structures our students deserve.

Of the \$36 million in new operating budget investments, 100 percent of it will go into schools and classrooms to facilitate a safe return to our school buildings and support our students and school communities through COVID-19 recovery. Investments in the FY22 operating budget include:

- \$18.5 million to enable schools to maintain existing programming and services, regardless of enrollment declines;
- \$16.9 million to provide a social worker and family liaison in every school, building on last year's investments to build a coordinated, multi-tiered system of support for students and their families.
- \$1.4 million for the addition of 20 daytime custodians to ensure cleanliness in school facilities as buildings reopen;

These investments will work in conjunction with federal COVID-19 recovery funding. Passage of the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act in December ushered in a new round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) funding for school districts nationwide. BPS is slated to receive an ESSER II allocation of \$123 million, which will fund additional investments in FY22 including:

- \$10.4 million to aid return-to-school efforts, ranging from school building maintenance, to online learning and engagement, to ensuring a bus monitor on every bus;
- \$13.9 million for expanding the Hub Schools initiative and implementing academic supports and interventions focused on high needs students;
- \$20.1 million to fund innovative efforts to support closing achievement and opportunity gaps.

In addition, BPS is expected to receive hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding through the recently passed American Rescue Plan. Along with the continuation of recent years' landmark investments – such as rolling out universal pre-K and providing a nurse in every school – the new infusion of City and federal funding for BPS in FY22 will strengthen our ability to achieve the goals outlined in ImagineBPS.

The FY22 Operating budget also includes a proposed \$32 million increase for our charter school students, so our total increase in public education for next year tops \$66 million and over \$1.5 billion total. This \$66 million increase in FY22 represents over 42% of the total new City resources across all categories of spending. Public Education spending remains over 40% of our City budget, and per-pupil spending at BPS will reach \$23,500, an increase of \$1,700 over last year.

While we remain committed to ensuring a safe and equitable return, the moment requires that we also take bold action to recover and reimagine a better district. I am confident that the proposed FY22 BPS budget will help us meet the moment, and I look forward to working with you to create a district where every child, in every classroom, in every school can achieve the greatness within them.

I respectfully request your support of the FY22 appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,



Kim Janey
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, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, the sum of ONE BILLION TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINETEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRE SIXTY-ONE dollars (\$1,294,719,861) 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 \$1,294,719,861

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

BY 
**HENRY C. LUTHIN
CORPORATION COUNSEL**