



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

MARTIN J. WALSH
MAYOR

June 19, 2017

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I retransmit herewith an appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for Fiscal Year 2018, in the amount of \$1.061 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. My recommended budget also includes a \$20 million collective bargaining reserve for Boston Public Schools, to be used when union agreements are reached.

This budget is the largest in BPS history, representing a projected \$40 million increase since last year, and a \$143 million increase since I took office in 2014. Funding directed to our schools will increase by almost 4%, a \$25 million increase over FY17, even before employee collective bargaining increases are negotiated. These increases are in spite of only receiving a projected \$1 million increase in Chapter 70 Education Aid from the State.

Through this budget, we are proposing to make research-backed investments to close opportunity and achievement gaps.

- A groundbreaking \$14 million investment to give 15,000 students, from kindergarten through 8th-grade, 120 additional hours of learning time — or the equivalent of 20 more school days a year is a cornerstone of my budget proposal. This expansion brings the total number of students receiving extended learning to over 23,000 at 57 schools throughout the District at a total annual investment of \$18.9 million.
- By strengthening BPS's commitment to Excellence For All, more students in the fourth and fifth grade will receive the same rigorous instruction and enriched learning opportunities as those in Advanced Work Class (AWC), such as foreign languages and robotics.
- With an anticipated 100 additional pre-kindergarten (K1) students to be served in FY18, we will have added 422 K1 seats to BPS since I took office for a total annual investment of over \$4.3 million. To accelerate this progress, this winter proposed legislation to close the "quality gap" in pre-kindergarten seats in Boston by investing in programs at BPS and in community based organizations.
- Boston is also making a strategic \$1.2 million investment to support 3,000 BPS students identified by the district as experiencing homelessness. This investment will empower principals and headmasters to best serve the needs of these students with specialized services and resources that have been proven to be most impactful for some of our most vulnerable children.
- BPS will be providing lower performing schools with a wide-range of differentiated supports, which total over \$16 million. This includes a new \$1.25 million reserve focused on supporting Level 3, 4 and 5 schools with declining enrollment.


An investment in education is an investment in Boston's future. The work is never done at Boston Public Schools, but I'm proud of the accomplishments of our district and our kids. In 2016, the four-year high school graduation rate climbed to a record high of 72.4%, marking a 13-point gain since 2006. Additionally, BPS now has more state-designated Level 1 and 2 schools than ever before, with a combined 46 schools ranked among the highest-performing in the state. More than 600

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.

Even with this proposed historic investment in BPS, I will continue to fight for more resources for our students and our schools. I filed comprehensive education finance reform legislation at the Statehouse that aims to invest equitably in public education and expand access to high-quality education for students of all ages. We will also work to unlock resources for future investments in our students through the BPS Long-Term Financial Plan. We are already seeing efficiencies from the Plan reflected in this budget, including savings in the Central Office and continued efforts to achieve transportation efficiencies. These efforts will allow us to invest more deeply in proven strategies for improving student performance and closing the achievement gap.

I respectfully request your support of the FY18 appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,

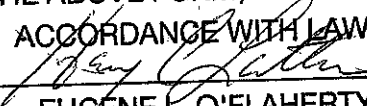
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Walsh', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, the sum of ONE BILLION SIXTY MILLION NINE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY THREE DOLLARS (\$1,060,932,783) 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 \$1,060,932,783

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