Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill

Summary

Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill are home to five percent of all BPS students. The neighborhoods have 11 BPS buildings and 13 BPS schools: four traditional high schools, one alternative high school, five K-8s, one Early Elementary Center, and two K-5 elementary schools. The West Zone EEC and the Hennigan K-8 currently occupy the same building, as do the Mission Hill K-8 and the Margarita Muniz Academy. The 9th and 10th grade of the Kennedy Health Careers are located in a BPS building in this area while the 11th and 12th grades are located in a leased space in the Fenway-Kenmore neighborhood.

There are enough elementary seats in Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill to serve the students from the area presently enrolled in BPS. On average there are roughly 1.2 seats available within 1 mile for each student living in the neighborhood. Competition for those seats rises under the home-based assignment plan, which gives access to students living more than a 1 mile



away. There is less than one seat per student (.8) when factoring these students. In other words, there are approximately 1.2 students for every elementary seat when considering students living more than 1 mile away.

By the Numbers

All student data below refers to students living in the neighborhood(s).

Total Students		Building and School Information	
Total school aged children living in the area	3,900	Number of buildings	11
Total students attending BPS Schools (K0 - 12)	2,752	Number of schools	13
% of school aged children attending BPS	71%	Number of grade configurations	5
% of total BPS population living in the area	5%		
		Racial Demographics of BPS Students	

WORKING DOCUMENT

		(All Grades)	
Elementary Seat Access (BPS Students)		% Asian	7.7%
Average students per seat within 1 mile	0.84	% Black	20.8%
Average students per seat on school choice list	1.17	% Hispanic	48.9%
% of students traveling less than 1 mile to school	59%	% Other	4.0%
% of students traveling more than 2 miles to school	16%	% White	18.5%

Special Populations (BPS Students All Grades)

% of students with ELD Levels 1 to 3	14%
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% of students with disabilities

19%

New Builds or Expansion

One of the identified areas for a potential new K-6 elementary building is on the border of Jamaica Plain and Roxbury, near Jackson Square. Current BPS schools or teams of schools would be encouraged to participate in an application process to move into the building. Applicants would agree to district requirements for the type of programs the school must offer for students with special needs and English learners. The John F. Kennedy School and Mendell

would be among the list of schools eligible to apply to move into a new building in the area to expand to K-6.

Middle School Reconfigurations

There are no middle schools in Jamaica Plain/Mission Hill..

High School Proposals

Jamaica Plain and Mission Hill are home to 5 BPS high schools: Edward M. Kennedy Health Careers Academy, Fenway High School, Community Academy, Margarita Muniz Academy, and the English High School. Of these schools, only the English High School has the space to expand 7-12. While there are not immediate proposals to add 7th and 8th grades to the English, the district would like to engage with the school community to determine the best path forward.

In order for the other four high schools to expand to a 7-12 model, they would need to participate in one of the application processes for the potential new builds, expansions, or middle school reconfigurations. The most immediate of these processes will involve the reuse of the renovated McCormack building as a 7-12 school.

Elementary School Proposals

This area has two K-5 elementary schools and one EEC/ELC. Each of these schools is limited by available space in their current buildings. For this reason, this neighborhood has been prioritized for new builds or major expansions at the Jamaica Plain/Roxbury line, specifically to create additional elementary school space.

For the existing K-8 schools, this proposed plan does not currently include any changes to their grade configurations. If school communities are interested in changing their grade configuration from a K-8 to a K-6, the district will engage them about the different options for meeting that goal.

Jamaica Plain is home to one of our Early Education Centers / Early Learning Centers (EEC/ELC), the West Zone ELC. EEC/ELCs are configured as either K-1 or K-3. BPS is not seeking to change the grade spans of these schools. However, the district will work with these schools should they desire to change their configuration.