



Boston Public Schools

# Update to the ELL Taskforce

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**Every child, in every classroom, in every school of the Boston Public Schools system has the same opportunity to achieve the greatness within them as anybody else**



## Investing in programs and whole-child supports

### **We are facing a number of challenges that will play out during budget season.**

- Schools are facing declining enrollment and rising student need.
- The District has a moral obligation and a call to action to action from our community to invest boldly in our lowest performing schools.

### **Our budget reflects the need to reorganize and recommit to tackling these challenges.**

- Investments aligned to the School Committee's Strategic Plan and Superintendent's Action Plan
- Focused on the lowest performing schools
- Prioritization for strategies with demonstrated ability to improve outcomes for our neediest students

## Overall

- BPS enrollment declined for the third year in a row, dropping by 1,059 students compared to October of last year.
- Since FY17, enrollment has declined 2,910 students (5.2%). This is the first multi-year enrollment decline during the WSF era.

## K1-5

- Grades K2 to 5 enrollment declined by 800 students compared to October of last year. This is a 1,700 student decline since FY18.
- Total K2 to 5 enrollment has declined by 2,056 students (8%) over the last three years.

## 6-8

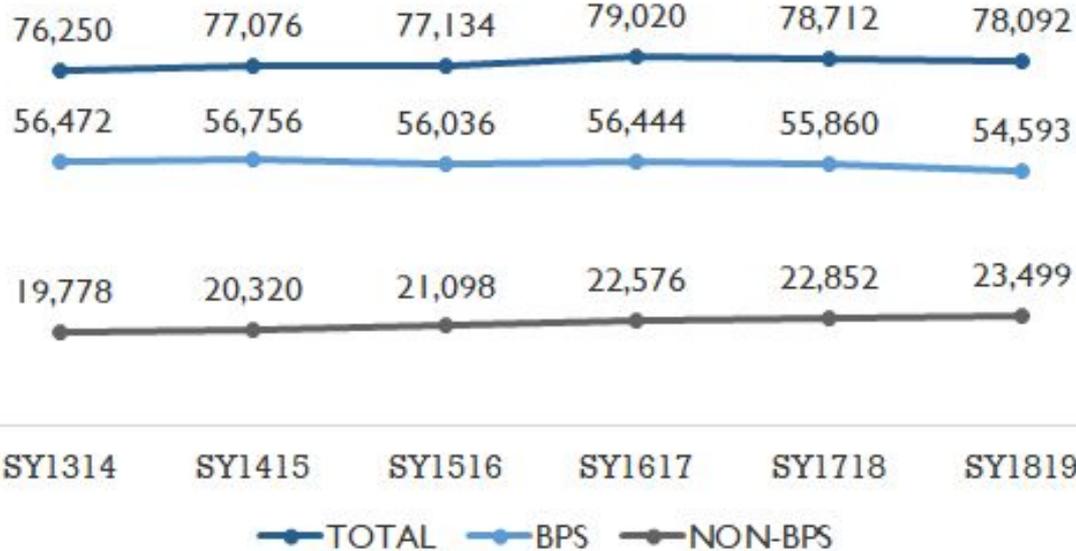
- Enrollment in 6 to 8 remained steady since last October.
- Middle grades should remain stable next year, but could start to decline in the following year as smaller cohorts enter grade 6.
- We expect this trend to shift as we finalize our pathways by expanding K-6 elementary schools and 7-12 high schools

## 9-12

- Grade 9 to 12 enrollment has declined by 1,171 students (6.8%) over the last three years, as historically small cohorts have continued to move through high school grades.
- High school enrollment should begin to stabilize next year, as one of the relatively large cohorts exits grade 12.

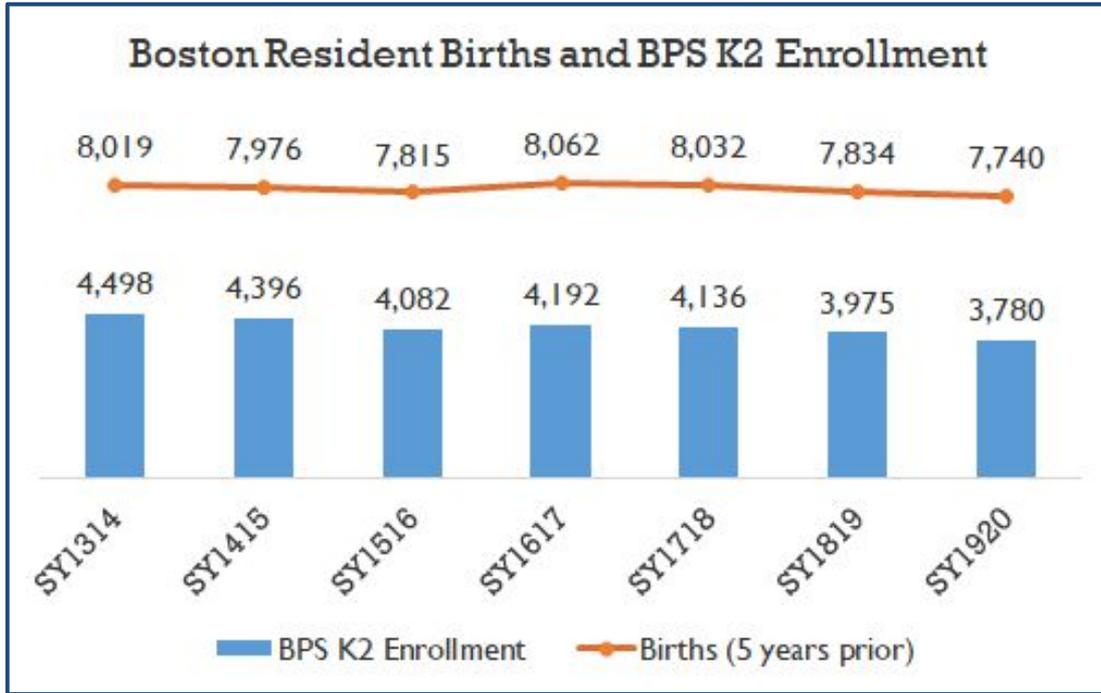
## Summary of major enrollment trends

### Total Enrollment by School Type



## Citywide Enrollment Context

Between SY1617 and SY1819 the total school age population declined by 928 students, while BPS enrollment declined 1,851 students and non-BPS enrollment grew by 211. That means that BPS' capture rate has declined.



**There has been a decline in both the population and the BPS capture rate**

- The incoming BPS K2 class has gotten successively smaller since SY1617.
- Elementary enrollment declined as these smaller cohorts continued to move through the system.

- Citywide, the number of Black students increased by 323 students, or 1.2%, across all grades.
  - In grades K2 to 5 enrollment grew by 675 students.
  - In grades 6 to 12, enrollment decreased by 352 students.
- In BPS, Black enrollment declined by 1,433 students (7.8%).
  - The decline was in grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12, which declined by 14.3% and 16.1%, respectively.
- In Charter Schools, Black enrollment increased across all grades by 1,771 students, or 42.5%. The growth was most pronounced in grades 9 to 12.

## Black Enrollment in Boston (FY14-FY19)

- Citywide, the total number of Latinx students in Boston across all grades and school types increased slightly between SY1314 and SY1819
  - K2 to 5 Latinx enrollment declined by 1,763 students (13.1%) leading to a lower percentage of Latinx students in elementary grades.
- In BPS, the number of Latinx students in grades K2 to 5 declined by 2,087 students, a decrease of 17.2%.
- In Charter Schools, Latinx enrollment increased during this time period by 1,179 students across all grades. The growth was most pronounced in grades 9 to 12, which grew by 588 students.

## Latinx Enrollment in Boston (FY14-FY19)

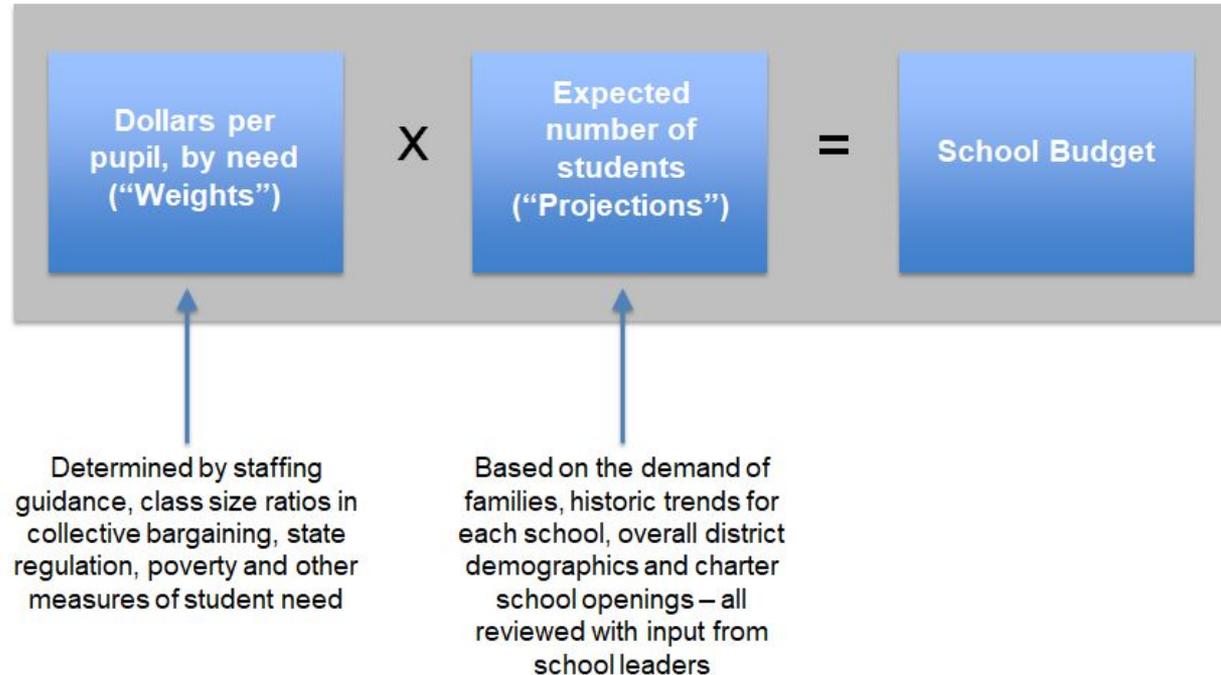
# Enrollment Projections and School Budgets



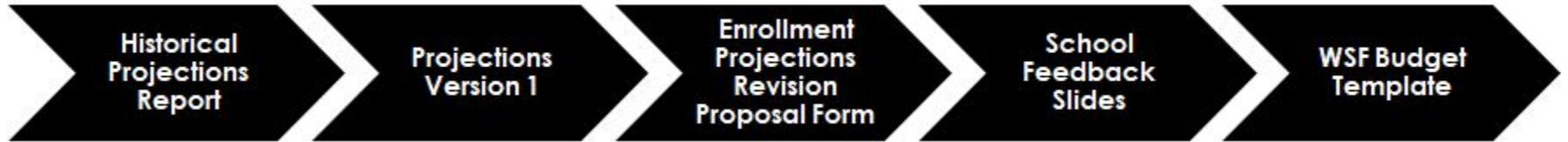
# We use Weighted Student Funding (WSF) as the primary mechanism to distribute dollars to schools

## Weighted Student Funding

*Simplified overview of WSF*



# Our Process for ensuring transparent, accurate, and smart enrollment projections for all schools



Historical Cohort Enrollment

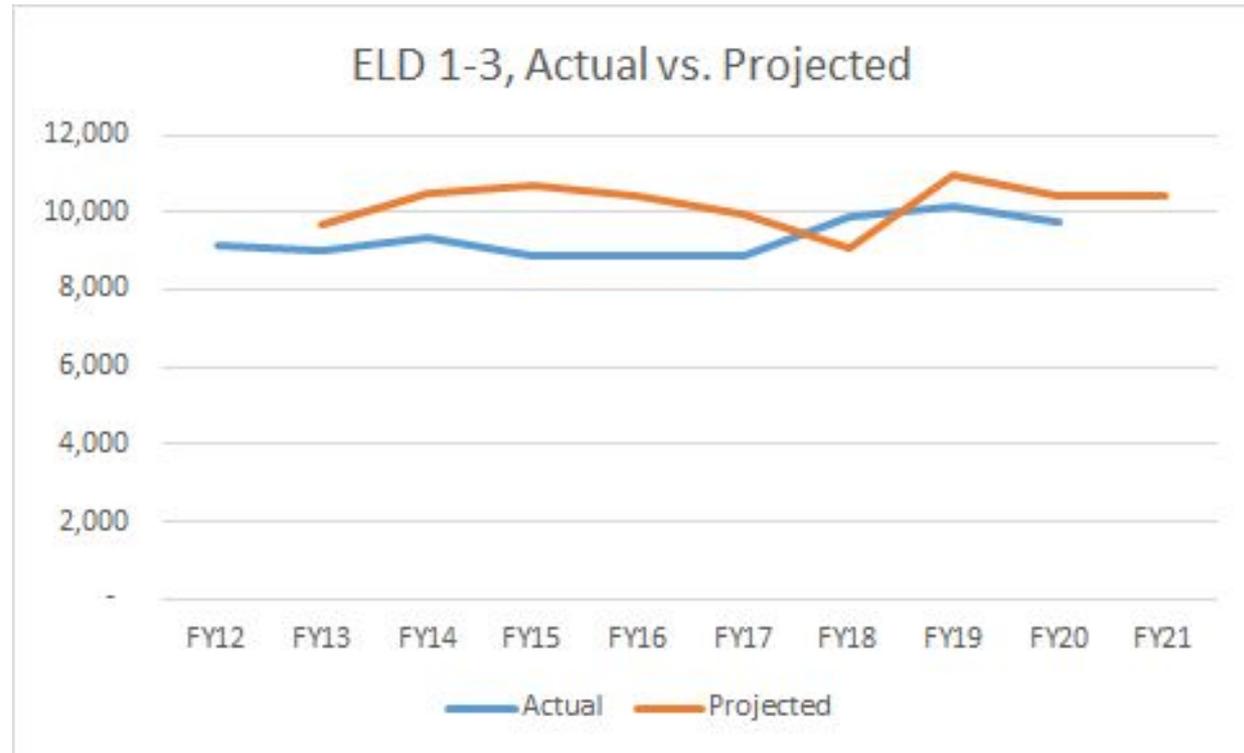


Historical Cohort Change Rate



Improving  
accuracy  
and  
usefulness  
of our  
projections

**Since FY18, our projections have been higher than actual enrollment for ELD 1-3**



# **FY21 Investments and Budget Priorities**



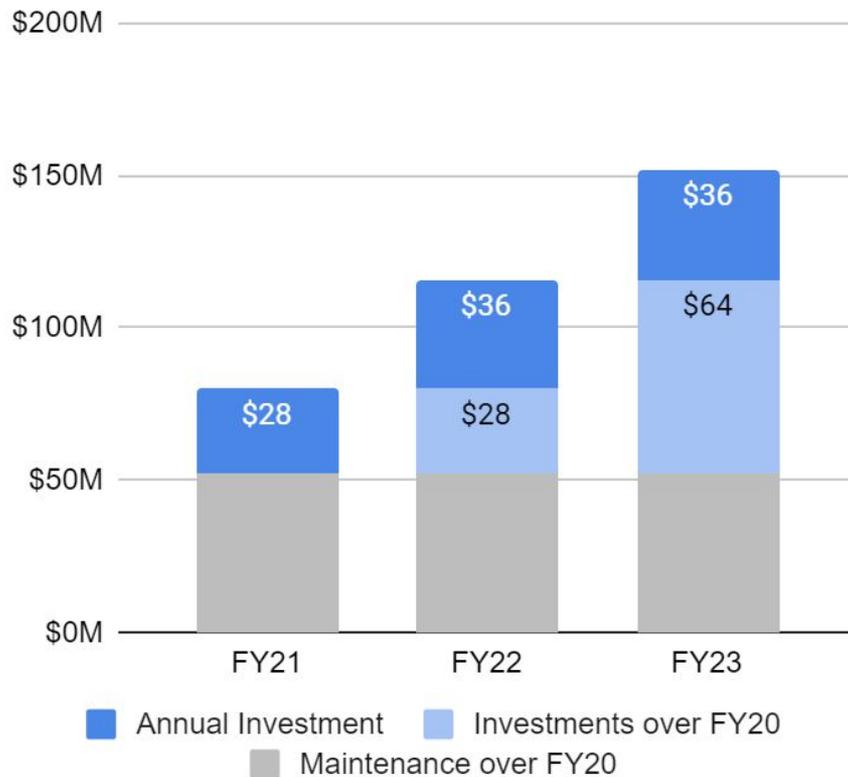
## Finance and OELL Partnership

### Finance and OELL have partnered to focus supports for ELL students

- FY15: Introduced Budget Collaboratives
- FY16: Refined Guidance and Clarified Expectations
- FY17: Provided Additional Clarity and Quantified Expectations
- FY18: Partnered on Projections and Verified Program Design
- FY19-20: Re-thinking program placement and design for EL success
- FY21: Rethinking funding mechanism for ELSWD

**The Mayor  
committed  
\$100M in new  
spending over  
the next 3  
years**

**Each year, BPS will have more to invest in student supports over and above maintenance cost increases**



## Aligning our budget to our shared vision...

### The FY21 Proposed Budget will focus on four strategies:

1. Take immediate and intensive action in our most underperforming schools;
2. Make sure all students are ready to succeed and all schools are ready to serve them;
3. Build a foundation to accelerate school improvement through investments in technology and resources for teachers and administrators;
4. Make smart investments in core operations that improve performance and efficiency of central office.

# BTU Contract Changes for ELL / Budgets

## The new contract has a few provisions that change school budgeting for English Learners

1. SEI and ESL class size ratio for grades K0-K2
  - Class size ratio of 20:1, or
  - 22 students with the addition of a para
  - Class size for 1-12 remains 20 and 25 with para
2. Schools with 1-teacher Inclusion classrooms:
  - ESL licensed inclusion classroom teachers (in a one teacher model) can receive a stipend to embed ESL instruction or to receive another ESL teacher
  - The ESL buyback option will be permitted only if the teacher opts to receive the stipend.

# Upcoming process and key dates

**Wednesday, February 5:** School Committee Meeting  
Preliminary FY21 Budget Presentation  
Bolling Building

**Thursday, February 13:** 6 p.m. Budget Hearing  
School budgets review  
Location TBD

**Wednesday, February 26:** School Committee Meeting  
Bolling Building

**Tuesday, March 10:** 6 p.m. Budget Hearing  
Review of central budgets  
Location TBD

**Wednesday, March 18:** 5 p.m. Budget Hearing  
Finance Team addresses questions on final FY21 proposal  
Bolling Building

**Wednesday, March 25:** FY21 Budget Vote  
Bolling Building

[bostonpublicschools.org/budget](https://bostonpublicschools.org/budget) | [budget@bostonpublicschools.org](mailto:budget@bostonpublicschools.org)