

January, 2012

Expanding Excellence in Boston Public Schools

Plan may add 1,304 seats at highly chosen schools

In an effort to retain BPS high school enrollment and to expand inclusion programs for special education students and greater English Language Learner (ELL) options, the Boston School Committee voted on November 15 to approve the Superintendent's Access to Excellence plan to expand seats to high performing high schools and Pilot schools in the BPS. Beginning in SY12-13, nine schools will be offering additional seats. Fenway High School and Boston Arts Academy will expand starting in SY13-14. The projected total increase of seats in these schools is 1,304 with completion expected between SY12-13 and SY17-18 at a total cost estimated at \$12.4M.

Of the 11 impacted schools, five are moving to new sites, five are expanding at current locations, and the BPS will open one Innovation School. The 10 expanding schools have high graduation rates and long waiting lists.

**Table 1
Boston Public Schools
Facilities Expansion Proposal**

School	Type	Projected Growth
Another Course to College	Horace Mann	110
Boston Arts Academy*	Pilot	80
Boston Community Leadership Academy	Pilot	75
Eliot K-8 School	Traditional	90
Fenway High School*	Pilot	120
Gardner Pilot Academy	Pilot	40
Kennedy Health Careers Academy	Horace Mann	225
Lee Elementary School	Pilot	84
Margarita Muniz Academy	Innovation	320
Mission Hill K-8 School	Pilot	30
New Mission High School	Pilot	130
Total		1304

*Expansion will begin in SY13-14. All others begin in SY12-13 and are expected to be completed in four to five years.

Of the total cost of \$12.4M, capital costs represent \$8.6M or 69.1%. The BPS estimates one-time relocation costs at \$2M or 15.9% which will be paid for from available FY11 Title 1 funds. Recurring costs for utilities, custodial and security staff will be \$1.9M or 15% to be paid from operating budgets. To accommodate Fenway High School students in the Mission Hill K-8 facility, a \$3.6M cafetorium will be built and four science labs will be renovated for \$1.2M.

**Table 2
Boston Public Schools
Facilities Expansion Cost**

Type	Total	% Total Cost
Capital	\$8,598,000	69.1%
One-Time	1,983,000	15.9%
Recurring	1,860,600	15.0%
Total	\$12,441,600	100.0%

The plan also includes opportunities for ELLs and students with disabilities. At least seven schools are planning to offer more opportunities for students with disabilities to be served in inclusive settings. With the opening of Margarita Muniz Academy, more high school ELL offerings will be available.

As this facilities plan is implemented over the next five years, BPS high schools with less enrollment demand will feel greater budget pressure since weighted student funding directs dollars to follow BPS students to schools. Charter school expansion will also have an impact on enrollment and budgets. The test will be for the BPS to manage capacity in the other high schools as more students receive assignments at highly chosen schools or leave for charter schools.