

March 2011

FY12 School Budget Approved

Salary budget is cut while key academic investments are protected

After a long budget season that began in October with hearings on school closings, the Boston School Committee unanimously approved a FY12 budget of \$829.5M, an increase of \$8.1M or 1%. [Weighted student funding](#), which establishes allocations based on individual student needs, was also approved as part of the budget vote.

The FY12 budget reflects the efforts of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) to address a \$63M budget gap while preserving academic investments. The biggest budget change is in the salary account of \$533.7M, which represents a decrease of \$15.1M or 2.8%. Salaries as a percent of the BPS budget decreased from 66.8% in FY11 to 64.3% in FY12. Meanwhile, health and life insurance costs increased by \$5.3M or 6.2% to \$91.6M.

At this point, the budget shows a reduction of 240 positions, which will be achieved primarily from retirements and attrition rather than layoffs. A decrease in teaching positions (-109) represent 45.2% of the total reduction as the result of closing nine schools and class size management. Additional position reductions include administrators (-78), aides (-70), secretaries (-13) and part-time employees (-18). The exception is the increase of 97 bilingual teaching positions to support the expansion of services for English Language Learners (ELLs). The bilingual education budget of \$51.3M represents an increase of \$7.6M or 17.3%.

The FY12 budget for instructional supplies will increase by 61.4% or \$3M over the current year

due, in part, to a \$900,000 textbook expense that had been funded by ARRA Title I funds in FY11 and now will be supported through the BPS operating fund in FY12. The remaining \$2.1M is the result of BPS principals allocating more dollars to instructional supplies in FY12. The budget for property services increased by \$9.7M or 32.4% due to the restoration of one-time deferred maintenance in FY11 and a 46.1% increase in energy costs.

Boston Public Schools Budget Summary Figures in millions

	FY11	FY12	Change FY11- FY12
Salaries	\$548.8	\$533.7	-2.8%
Benefits	\$125.1	\$128.5	2.8%
Transportation	\$71.5	\$73.6	3.0%
Property Services	\$29.8	\$39.4	32.4%
Purchased Services ¹	\$37.7	\$41.6	10.4%
Supplies	\$4.8	\$7.8	61.4%
Equipment	\$1.9	\$1.8	-3.6%
Reserve	\$0.2	\$1.4	560.8%
Miscellaneous	\$1.7	\$1.7	-0.1%
Total	\$821.4	\$829.5	1.0%

¹Increase in purchased services results from student tuitions.

Source: Boston Public Schools Chief Financial Office

The BPS's FY12 budget addresses a \$63M gap with the use of an additional \$8.1M city appropriation, \$10.1M in non-recurring Education Jobs funds, and \$44.8M in operational savings. The test for Superintendent Johnson and the School Committee will be to achieve the full \$44.8M in savings through the streamlining of central support and academic services.