



BUDGET BASICS: SCHOOL SITE COUNCILS

*David Bloom, Deputy Chief
Financial Officer*

Fall/Winter 2019

Agenda

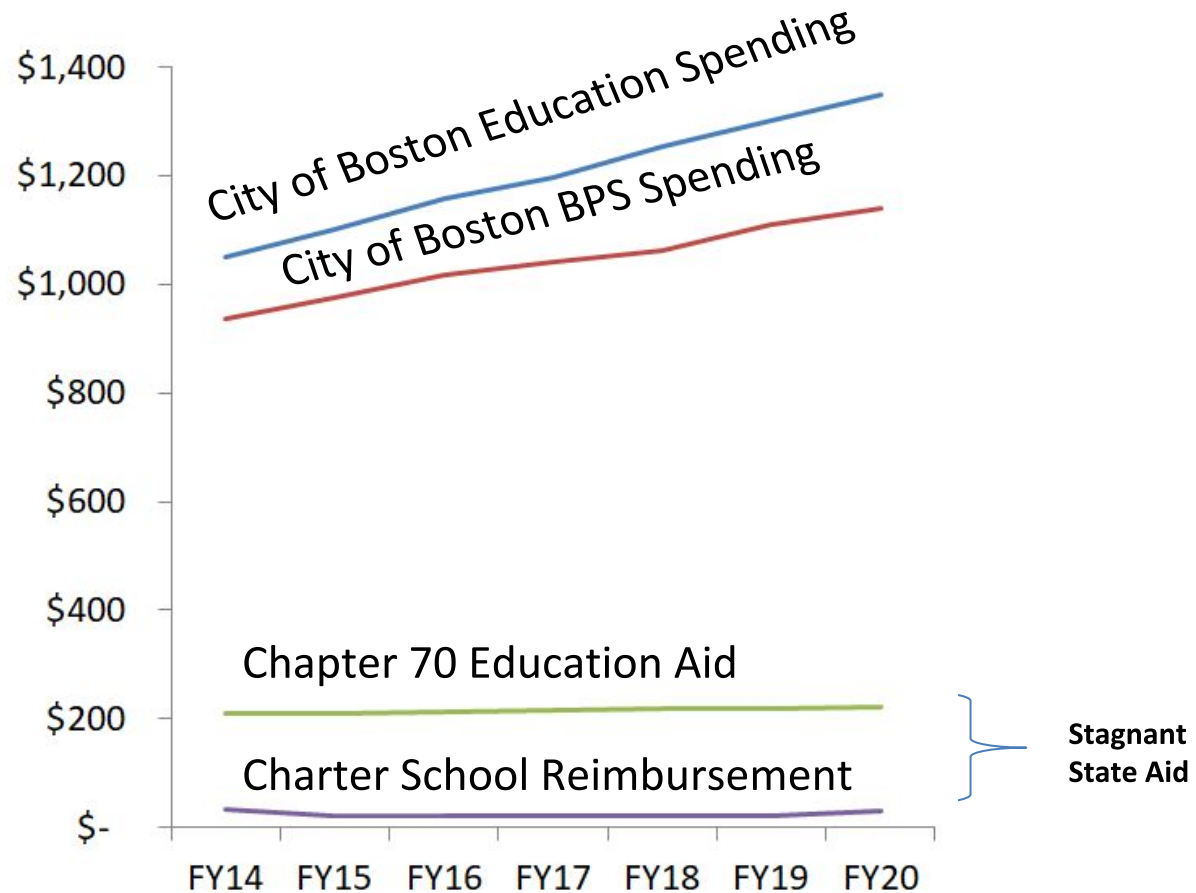
- SSC Operations and Tools
- Budget Basics
 - How much money do we have?
 - Where does it come from?
 - What do we buy with it?
 - Weighted Student Funding
- BPS School Budgets
- Role of School Site Council
- Budget Sign-off
- Other Opportunities to Influence the budget
- Title I, the 1% Requirement

The Basics

- The Boston Public Schools' Budget is organized into approximately 175 responsibility centers (schools & central departments).
- Each RC must carry out its organizational and educational responsibilities within its budget.
- The BPS operates on a fiscal year beginning July 1 & ending June 30th.
- Expenditures against a budget are generally made either through the Requisition / Purchase Order process (Business Office) or through payroll related payments (HR / Payroll).

What has happened to state aid?

The portion of BPS's General Fund budget covered by net Chapter 70



Where we spend our money today

	Category	FY19 Adopted	FY20 Proposed	Change	Percent Change	Notes	
Direct School Expenses	School Budgets	\$594	\$598	\$4	0.8%		89% in BPS schools
	ELT	\$14	\$16	\$2	11.0%	• Three additional schools onto Schedule A	
	Benefits & Salary Savings	\$115	\$116	\$1	1.3%	• Limited growth due to City cost control efforts	
	Total Schools	\$723	\$730	\$7	1.0%		
School Services Budgeted Centrally	Transportation	\$92	\$96	\$4	4.7%		5.4% central admin
	Special Education	\$41	\$43	\$2	4.1%	• Reflecting increasing student need	
	Facilities	\$67	\$68	\$0	0.6%	• Complementary capital budget investments	
	Other	\$57	\$60	\$4	6.8%	• Increases in psychological services, food services, high school supports	
	Benefits & Salary Savings	\$20	\$21	\$0	1.3%		
	Total SSBC	\$277	\$288	\$11	3.8%		
Central Administration	Central Administration	\$52	\$54	\$2	3.8%	• Increases in ISEE in the classroom, Welcome Services, 2 new Academic Superintendents for school support, Special Education leadership and ABA program oversight	5.3% for non BPS students
	Benefits & Salary Savings	\$7	\$7	\$0	1.3%		
	Total Central	\$59	\$61	\$2	3.5%		
Non-BPS Student Services	Student services	\$26	\$31	\$5	18.8%	• Replacing federal funding for PEG grant (pre-K at community based partners); also includes out of district special ed and vocational placements and adult ed	
	Transportation	\$28	\$29	\$1	4.7%	• Transportation for charter, private, parochial and out of district special education students	
	Total Non-BPS	\$54	\$60	\$6	11.5%		
Total		\$1.112B	\$1.139B	\$26M	2.4%		

New Budget Transparency Website

<http://bostonpublicschools.org/explorebudget>

Boston Public Schools has long been a national leader in its commitment to public education. Boston is home to the nation's first public school and its oldest public elementary school. Our commitment to public education is reflected in our budget. Including state and federal grants, we plan to spend almost \$1.3B dollars next school year, and more than \$22,000 per pupil for our more than 55,000 students. This website helps to explain where and how we propose spending those resources next year.

Proposed FY20 Budget

\$1,271,532,816

Total Budget



General Fund

School Budgets

\$611,832,378

School Supports

\$516,253,397

Central Administration

\$60,676,776

\$82,770,265

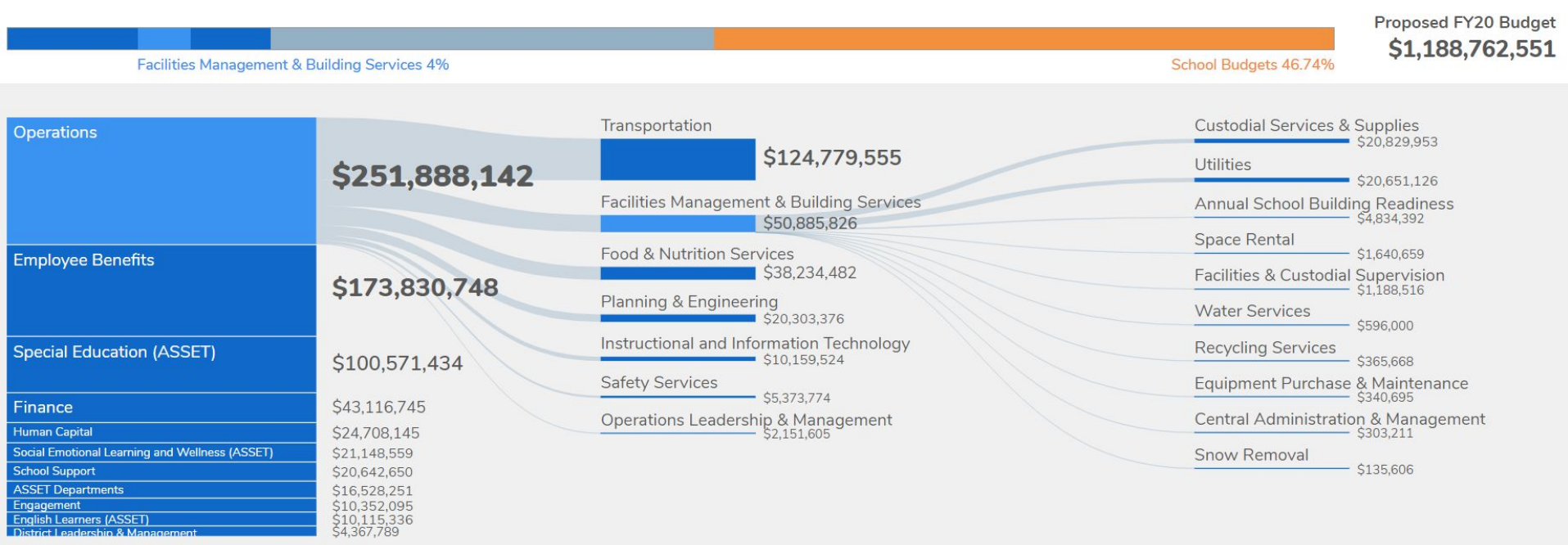
Non-BPS Student Services



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Home All Schools Individual Schools Central Administration & School Supports



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How Money is Allocated



How Money is Spent

Total School Funding



How Money is Spent

Transportation & Operations



Benefits



Other



Special Education



What is Weighted Student Funding?

- **Weighted Student Funding, or WSF, or Weighted Student Formula, is a way to distribute resources to schools.**
- **It is based on a per pupil allocation: “the dollars follow the student”**
- **The per pupil allocation is differentiated by student need**
- **WSF is not new to school districts**

The methodology is used successfully in San Francisco, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Washington, DC, New York City, Edmonton, and others.

Each district has implemented a model that responds to its own unique needs. This is not a “one size fits all” approach.

WSF is not new to Boston Public Schools



Allocates funds based on student needs, improving equity, transparency and simplicity

Weighted student funding:

Principles for effective school budgeting

Principle	Description
Student focused	Provides resources based on students, not on buildings, adults, or programs
Equity	Allocate similar funding levels to students with similar characteristics, regardless of which school they attend
Transparency	Easily understood by all stakeholders
Differentiation based on need	Allocate resources through a comprehensive framework that is based on student needs
Predictability	School allocation process is predictable and is structured to minimize school-level disruption
School empowerment	Empowers school-based decision-making to effectively use resources
Alignment with district strategy	Supports the Acceleration Agenda, our five-year strategic plan

Weighted Student Funding is a more equitable, transparent and empowering budget approach

WSF Example: Adams Elementary

(Projected Enrollment - 261 students)

Category		Enrollment	Weight	Per Pupil Rate	Budget Allocation (\$* Enrollment)
Grade	K0 - K1	44	1.80	\$7,724	\$339,847
	K2	36	1.60	\$6,866	\$247,162
	1 - 2	75	1.40	\$6,007	\$450,555
	3 - 5	106	1.30	\$5,578	\$591,300
Poverty	% Poverty	70.98%			
	# of Students (Poverty)	185	0.10	\$429	\$79,495
	# Above 60% threshold	55	0.10	\$429	\$23,497
English Language Learners	K0 - 5 ELL Students w ELD Levels 1-3	123	0.24	\$1,030	\$126,670
	ELL Students w ELD Levels 4-5	67	0.02	\$86	\$5,750
Students with Disabilities	Low Severity	16	1.00	\$4,291	\$68,656
	Moderate Severity	1	1.40	\$6,007	\$6,007
	High Severity – Autism	30	3.90	\$16,735	\$502,047
	High Severity – Early Childhood (Ages 5-6)	0	1.90	\$8,153	-
School Foundation					\$210,151
TOTAL					2,651,137

School Site Council - Roles

Contract Agreement

- Review and approve Quality School Plan (QSP)
- Review and approve the discretionary portion of the budget
- Review and comment on the entire school budget (see next slide)
- Develop and approve plans for parental involvement
- Approve waivers
- Review and approve recommendations of the (Instructional Leadership Team) ILT and other committees
- Receive information on outside programs

Budget language for School Site Councils

“To review and comment on the entire budget, including the General Fund and External Funds budgets, in a timely fashion. Upon written request, school site council members shall be provided with written or electronic copies of school budgets.”

School Site Council – Information Sharing

“All available information concerning the school budget and/or any other matter over which the School Site Council has authority must be shared with members of the School Site Council at least five school days before they are expected to vote on these issues.”

Expectations for School Site Councils

- Budget information is shared with the Council
- The school's budget is consistent with the QSP
- The school's budget is balanced
- Sign-off by Principal/ Headmaster, Parent Member and Teacher Member of the SSC
- It is recommended that the Chairs of the Site Council sign off

Budget Sign Off: Principal's Role (1 of 2)

Due diligence statement (BD-6 Form) – Principal

Provides assurance that every effort has been made to comply with:

- BPS policy and program requirements
- Federal, State and Local laws and regulations
- Court Orders
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- School Committee Policies
- Goals and Objectives of the BPS
- Textbook and Material Assurance
- Ensure Review by School Site Council

Budget Sign Off: Principal's Role (2 of 2)

From the
BD-6 form

The undersigned school leader confirms that every effort has been made to comply with the programmatic and policy requirements of the Boston Public Schools within the budgetary allocation received. In particular, every reasonable effort has been made to comply with Federal, State and Local statutes and regulations, applicable Court Orders, collective bargaining agreements, School Committee policies and the goals and objectives of the Boston Public Schools.

The undersigned school leader also affirms:

_____ Our school community has budgeted all of its general fund instructional materials allocation to instructional materials line items.

- OR -

_____ Our school community has reallocated some of its general fund instructional materials allocation to support other priorities (stipends, contracts, personnel, etc.) But, I hereby attest that we have budgeted ample resources to ensure that each student will have adequate and appropriate textbooks and instructional supplies in FY _____.

Principal/Headmaster _____ Date _____

The undersigned parent(s) or School Site Council Representatives for this School have seen and reviewed the FY Budget. Our written comments (if any) are attached.

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Budget Sign-Off: SSC Role

SSC role: Attest to participation in the budget process:

- “Seen and reviewed” the budget submitted
- Attach written comments

Can I refuse to sign-off on the budget?

Yes, but the intent is to reach consensus on the best use of available funds to meet the priorities of the school. If this does not occur, please provide written comments.

What will happen if I do not sign-off?

Your principal will be instructed to submit the budget without your signature, and the budget will be recognized as the formal school request.

Other Opportunities to Influence the Budget

- Provide detailed written comments with budget submission - we do look at them
- School Committee public hearings: February- March (interpreters are available)
- City Council public hearings: April – June
- State Budget

Title I – The 1% Requirement

District Requirement:

1% of total Title I budget must be spent to support parental involvement

School requirement:

1% of school's allocation must be spent to support parental involvement

This does not have to come from Title I funds

Q&A

