In November 2014, the Boston School Committee voted to adopt the School Quality Framework (SQF) developed by the School Quality Working Group (SQWG) with input from a broad and diverse set of community stakeholders, a holistic means to assess school quality. School level SQF data has been calculated three time utilizing six years of data:

2015 Tiers: 2013 & 2014 Data - Not Implemented for student assignment
2017 Tiers: 2015 & 2016 Data - Implemented for student assignment
2018 Tiers: 2017 & 2018 Data - Implemented for student assignment

Since 2017 SQF tiers have been used for student assignment, however since in 2017 tiers were primarily based on PARCC data, mirroring the state's accountability methodology, schools were "held harmless", meaning that their tier could improve from their initial SQF tier, but schools would not be penalized based on PARCC data. High schools were also exempted from being tiered as they do not require a tier for home-based assignment. In November 2018 tiers were updated based on 2017 and 2018 data. Since the tiers were updated using current year data (2018), it was not possible to make tiers available to schools and families until immediately prior to school choice season. Due to this short timeline families choice lists were expanded to include schools available to them based on either of the most recent tier calculations.

Moving forward BPS would like to provide more transparency and predictability for schools and families with respect to when tiers will be updated.

Proposed Shifts to SQF Implementation

Update tiers every year while maintaining continuity of choice lists
Initially the SQF was calculated every two years to create stable tiers of schools and because the calculation process is onerous the scores were based on the previous year's data. Moving forward SQF data will be calculated every year (Next calculation in Fall 2019). In order in increase stability for families, families will receive all schools on their home-based list from the two most recent tier calculations. Most recently calculated tiers will be displayed.

Remove Tier 4 Override Provision
The SQF policy from 2014 states:

> "Regardless of Quality Score, any school determined by the State to be a level 4 or 5 will automatically be given Tier 4 status in the Quality Framework."

This policy has resulted in a number of schools in each calculation with data that demonstrated substantial improvement nevertheless being counted as a Tier 4. Given the changes in state assessments, and changes to the state accountability, schools have had fewer opportunities to exit turnaround status. In addition under the current state accountability framework there are no longer numerical accountability levels. For all of these reasons Turnaround schools would no longer automatically be designated Tier 4. These schools will receive the tier as calculated like all other schools. State accountability status is noted in DiscoverBPS for all schools.

Display High School Tiers in DiscoverBPS

The existing SQF policy does not delineate any difference in implementation for high school versus non-high schools, even though high schools do not require tiers for student assignment. However during the initial implementation of SQF Tiers in 2017 high school tiers were not displayed in DiscoverBPS. In 2018, tiers were displayed in schools' detailed information, but were not displayed when users were presented with the citywide school list. Moving forward the district would like to re-affirm that high schools tiers will be displayed in DiscoverBPS, while they are not required from assignment

Implementation of Access and Opportunities Domain

Five Domains were delineated in the policy with associated metrics. However the Access and Opportunities domain was not completed due to a lack of data sources that accurately measure the outcomes delineated.

Holistic Assessment of Access and Opportunities Domain
- Medium-length list of metrics that are representative and balanced
- Binary scoring system for metrics
- Scoring based on number of opportunities a school provides
- All opportunities counted equally

SQF - Other Proposed Shifts to Metrics Moving Forward

As outlined in the SQF policy the district has analyzed the results of the SQF on the school level as well the metric level as new data has been produced each year. Overall the framework has performed well, despite changes to statewide student achievement assessments, and other underlying data sources. As data sources have evolved, metric calculations have been adjusted to utilize current data sources. Furthermore, there are certain metric and implementation changes that BPS analysis has identified moving forward. The framework will continue to be calculated based on the Domains, and Outcomes delineated by the School Quality Working Group and approved by School Committee in 2014. However due to data source changes the metrics themselves will continue to be improved when possible. The SQWG will continue to monitor and provide feedback on any proposed changes.

Examples of adjustments that will be made this year:

Target setting for proficiency metrics

This was previously based on 6-year gap halving of proficiency rates, but with the change to MCAS this is not achievable. The state has provide targets for schools, based on analysis of school improvement statewide. We will align with these target increments for SQF proficiency calculations.

Climate survey participation scoring metrics

Currently schools receive zero points if their participation rate is below 30%. We would like to do some sensitivity analysis to consider graduated penalties for low participation aligned with possible margins of error of the sample.

Attendance metric

Current target of 92% rate is not differentiated by grade band, and does not substantially reward growth. State has moved to chronic absenteeism as accountability indicator, aligned with research around school improvement.

Student Growth Percentile (SGP)

State has transitioned from median SGP to mean SGP, aligned with established research.

Drop-Out Metric

Drop-Out rate scoring may need to be adjusted, as almost all schools gets 75 points for this metric.

Science Proficiency Metric

Currently the SQF does not incorporate data from the MCAS science assessment. While there is no growth data available, it may be worth considering whether science proficiency should be included. It would broaden the subject area performance data considered, and better align with the state accountability system.