



Boston Public Schools
**Exam School Admissions
Task Force Update**

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Exam School Admissions Task Force Charter

Building upon the work initiated by the Superintendent's Exam Schools Admissions Criteria Working Group, the Boston School Committee Exam Schools Admissions Task Force shall develop a set of recommendations for the admissions policy for Boston Public Schools exam schools. The desired outcome is to expand the applicant pool, and create an admissions process that will support student enrollment at each of the exam schools such that rigor is maintained and the student body better reflects the racial, socioeconomic, and geographic diversity of all students (K-12) in the city of Boston. The Task Force shall consider use of the new NWEA assessment and other factors, and leverage learning from a full review of the implementation of the SY 21-22 admissions criteria, as well as a thorough review of practices in other districts.

Admissions Recommendation Recap

Duration & Eligible Applicants

- Suspension of current policy for **one year**
 - The district would revert to the current policy after the school choice process for this school year
- **All Boston residents** who are currently in grades 6, 8 (except current exam school students), or 9, and meet the eligibility requirements, regardless of school type
 - Minimum B average in ELA and Math for the fall and winter marking periods of last school year (between September 2019 and January 2020); **OR** received a meet expectation score or higher on the 2019 MCAS in ELA and Math. **Students do not need to meet both.**
 - School district (or equivalent) verification that the student is performing at grade level based on the Massachusetts Curriculum standards.

Overview of the Invitation Process

- **Distribute invitations** to students based on admissions criteria of prior report card grades and invitation mechanism of zip code.
 - 20% of seats at each exam school are reserved for the top ranking students in the city based on GPA.
 - The remaining 80% of invitations are distributed by using a combination of GPA and student home zip code.

Invitation Process - 20% of Seats

- **20% of seats in each exam school will be filled using GPA only**, placing the top ranking students citywide.
 - The order of placement will be based on GPA rank, with the student having the highest GPA placed first.
 - If two or more students rank the same, a random number will be used to determine which student will be placed first.
 - Students will only be considered for the school that they ranked as their top choice. If a student does not secure a seat in this process, they will be a part of the second process.
 - Students going into the second part of the process have another opportunity to be placed in their first-choice school, and are likely to get a seat in since they rank among the highest in the district.

Invitation Process - 80% of Seats

The **remaining 80%** of invitations will be **extended based on a combination of zip code and GPA.**

- Each zip code will be allocated a number of available exam school seats based on the proportion of school-aged children living in that zip code.
- 10% of seats available within each zip code will be distributed through ten assignment rounds.
- Students will be placed into a pool of applicants living in the same zip code and ranked by GPA.
- Zip codes will be ordered from the *lowest median family income (with children under 18) to the highest median family income (with children under 18)* according to the American Community Survey. Students in the zip code with the lowest median family income (with children under 18) will be placed first, followed by students in the next zip code.
- **Students experiencing homelessness or in DCF care outside of Boston**, will be placed in a separate “zip code”, 99999. This zip code will be treated as the zip code with the lowest median family income (with children under 18) and students from this zip code will be placed first.
- If a student’s first choice seat is not available when it is their turn to be assigned, then the student will be assigned to their second or third-choice seat. If two or more students in a zip code rank the same, a random number will be used to determine which will be placed first.

Additional Recommendations Adopted

- Provide appropriate support – both before and during the school year - for SY21-22 admittees who, while academically prepared for exam school content, may require more time to get acclimated to the pace of exam school study.
- Expand the Exam School Initiative (ESI), beginning as early as 4th grade and running through October of the 6th grade year, focused on academic acceleration in both ELA and math
- Secure the appropriate additional funding required for student support and ESI as outlined above.
- Continue convening a working group to advise on permanent efforts to expand the applicant pool, considering use of the new NWEA test and other factors, based on what can be learned from applying the recommendations to this year's admissions and what the working group has learned in reviewing practices in other districts.
- Amend current policy to remove “[non-traditional entry](#)” (approved December 16, 1992) and “[deferment of acceptance](#)” (approved September 16, 1992) provisions.

Outcomes of the 1-Year Policy Implementation



Historical Applicant Pool and Invitations by School Type

Applicant Pool

	7th Grade				9th Grade			
	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Number	2138	2043	2833	1666	1440	1238	1177	760
BPS	65%	65%	75%	77%	65%	65%	66%	81%
Non-BPS	35%	35%	25%	23%	35%	35%	34%	19%

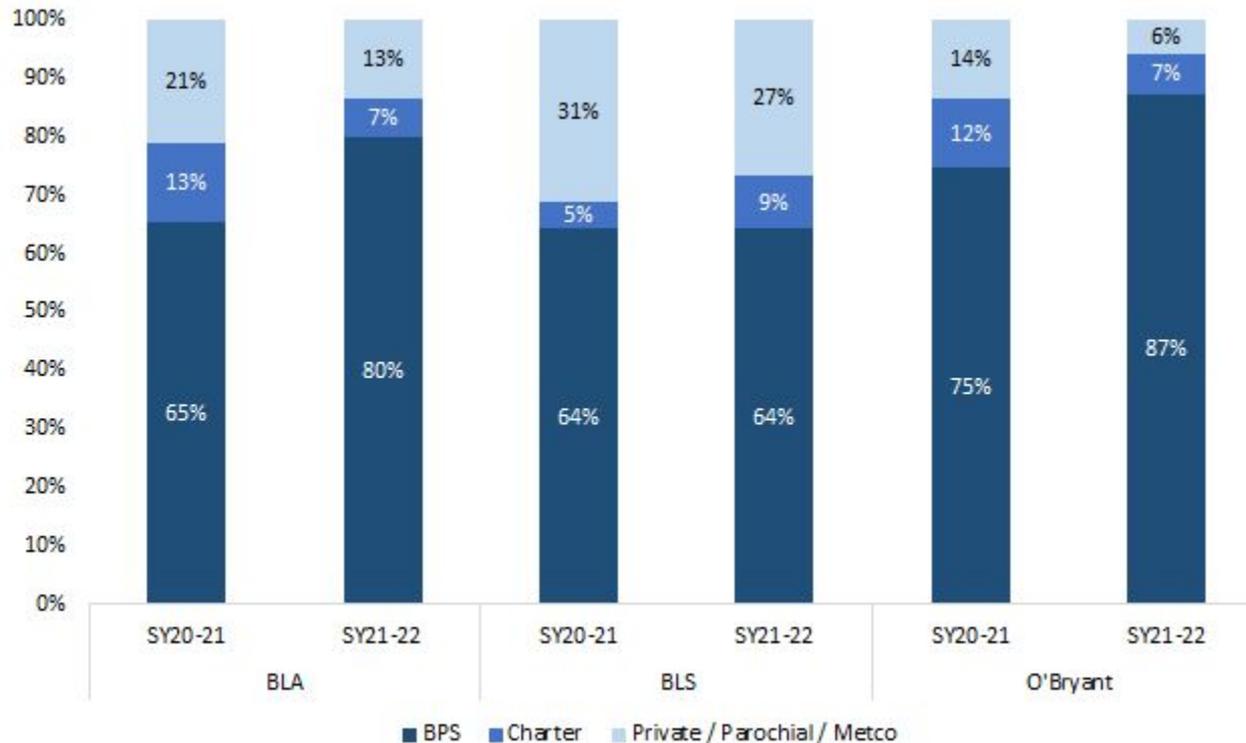
Invitations

	7th Grade				9th Grade			
	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Number	1077	1077	1025	974	453	454	408	340
BPS	57%	61%	67%	74%	58%	59%	60%	77%
Non-BPS	43%	39%	33%	26%	42%	41%	40%	23%

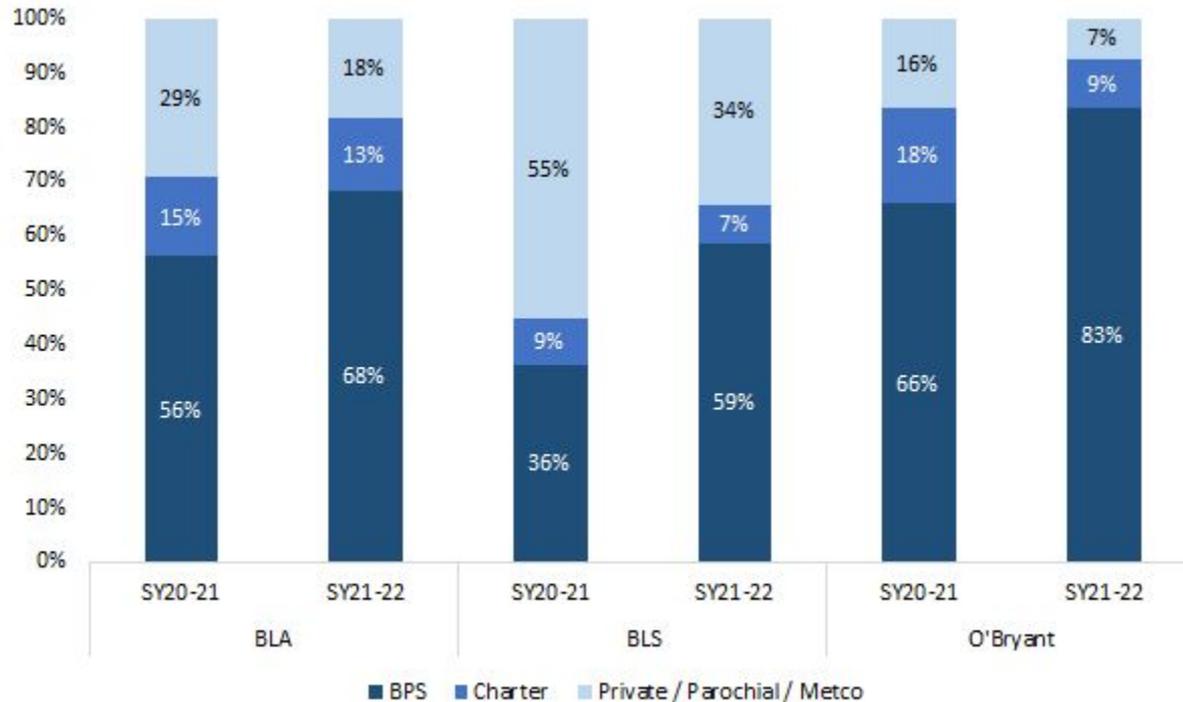
Invitations by Exam School



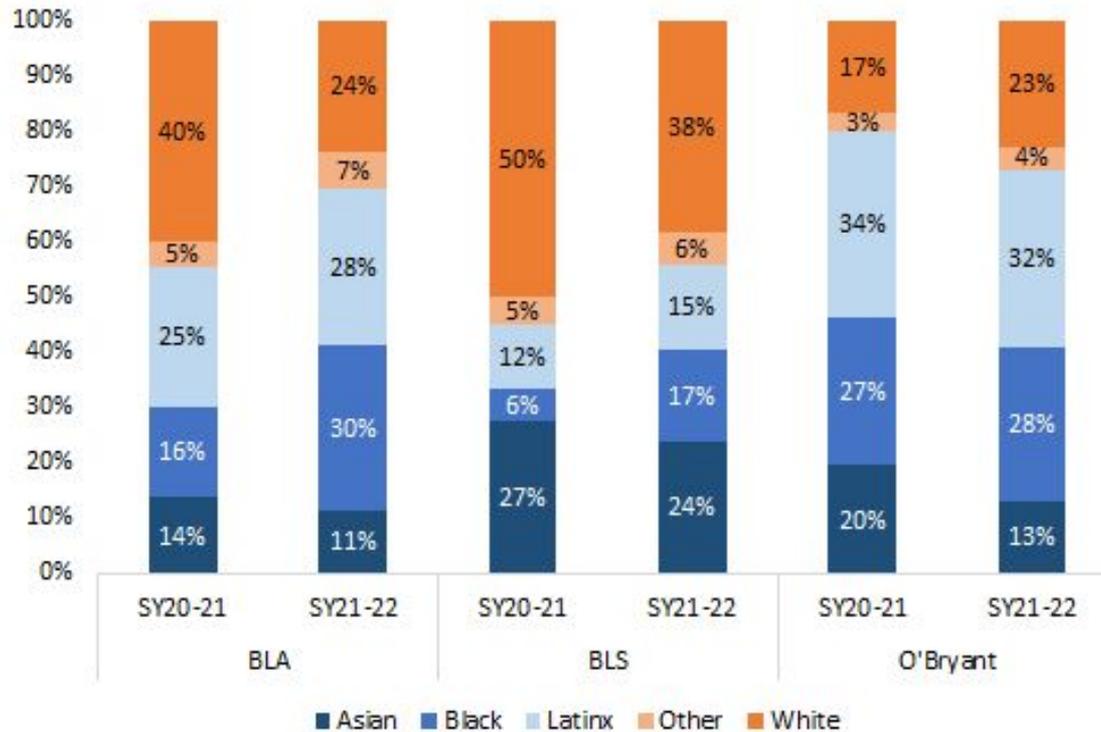
7th Grade Invitations by School and Sending School



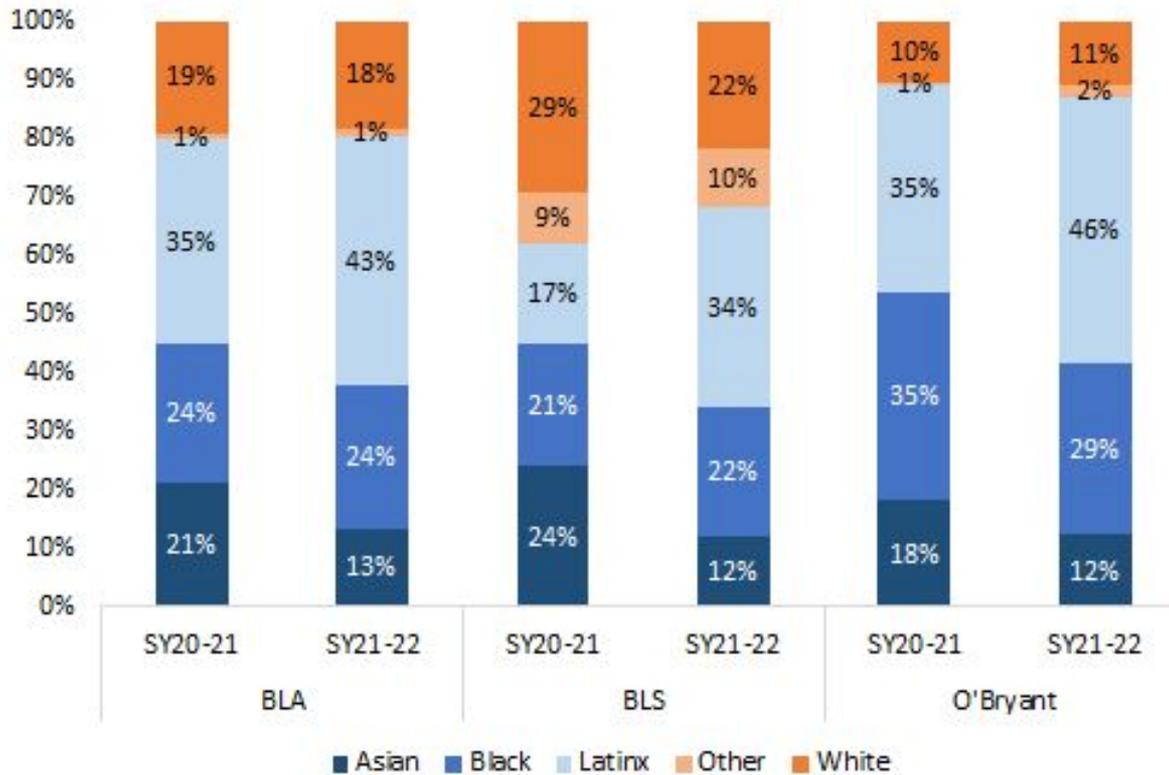
9th Grade Invitations by School and Sending School



7th Grade Invitations by School and Race



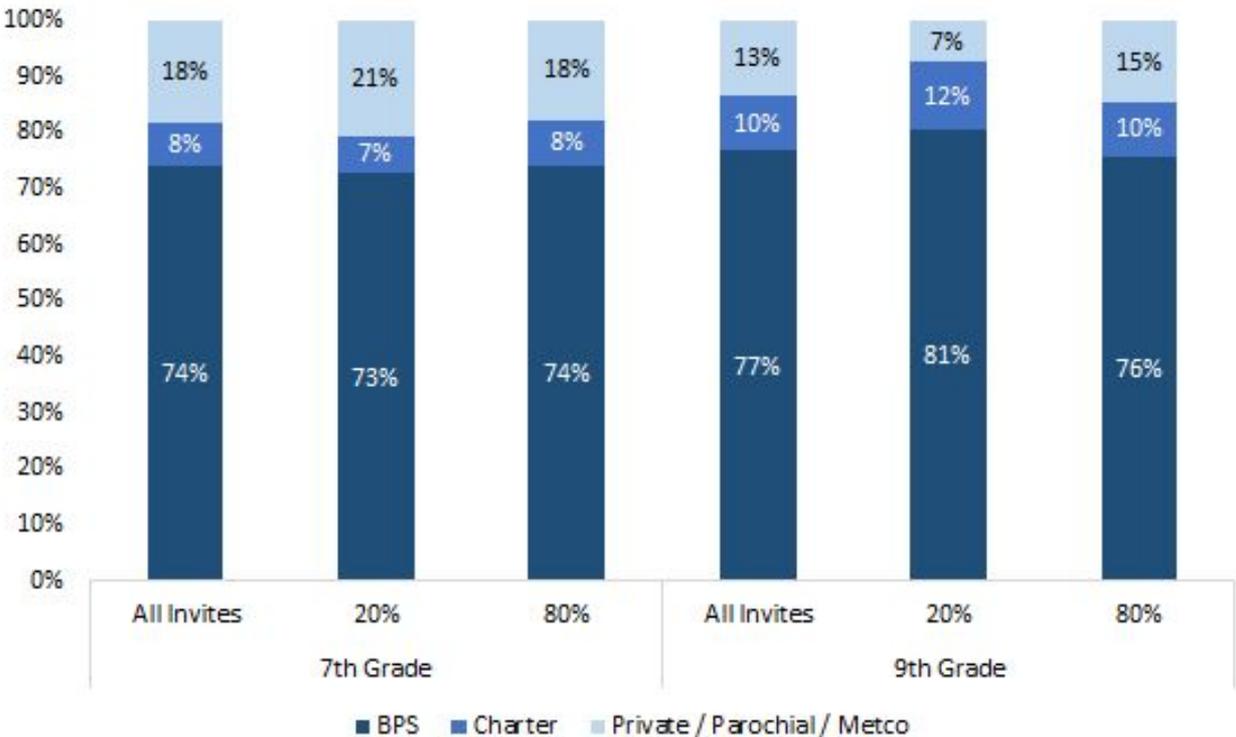
9th Grade Invitations by School and Race



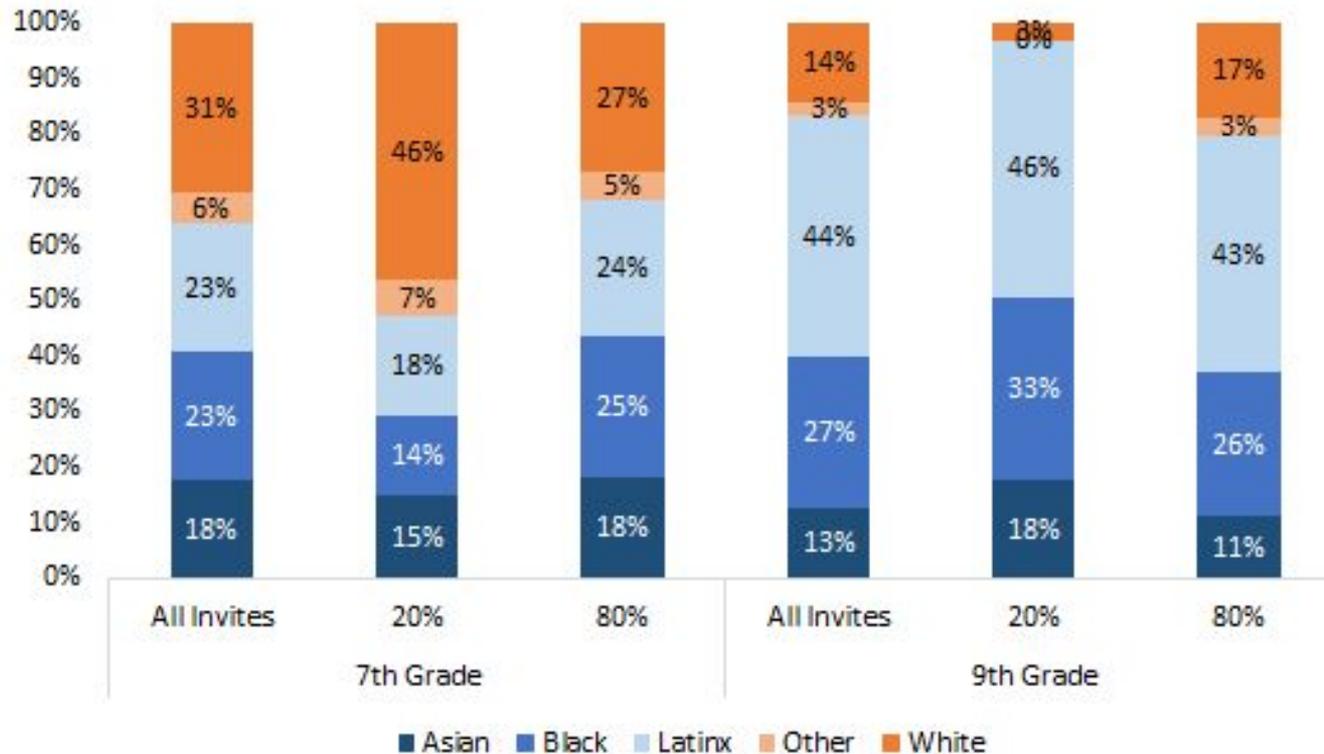
Invitations for the 20% and 80% Rounds



Invitations Distributed in 20% and 80% by Sending School Type



Invitations Distributed in 20% and 80% by Race



7th Grade Invitations Distributed in 20% and 80% by Zip Code

Note: The zip code shown indicates the zip code that was used as part of the exam school invitation process. Zip Code 9999 is reserved for students experiencing homelessness or in DCF custody.

Zip Code	Neighborhood	All Invites		20%		80%	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2108	Beacon Hill	6	1%	3	2%	3	0%
2109	Downtown	2	0%	1	1%	1	0%
2110	Downtown	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2111	Chinatown	7	1%	1	1%	6	1%
2113	North End	2	0%	0	0%	2	0%
2114	Beacon Hill / West End	7	1%	2	1%	5	1%
2115	Longwood/Fenway	10	1%	0	0%	10	1%
2116	Back Bay	13	1%	3	2%	10	1%
2118	South End	27	3%	3	2%	24	3%
2119	Roxbury	50	5%	5	3%	45	6%
2120	Roxbury	11	1%	0	0%	11	1%
2121	Dorchester	67	7%	7	4%	60	8%
2122	Dorchester	48	5%	14	7%	34	4%
2124	Dorchester	109	11%	17	9%	92	12%
2125	Dorchester	59	6%	13	7%	46	6%
2126	Mattapan	51	5%	8	4%	43	6%
2127	South Boston	35	4%	4	2%	31	4%
2128	East Boston	75	8%	9	5%	66	8%
2129	Charlestown	35	4%	13	7%	22	3%
2130	Jamaica Plain	54	6%	16	8%	38	5%
2131	Roslindale	67	7%	19	10%	48	6%
2132	West Roxbury	69	7%	33	17%	36	5%
2134	Allston	11	1%	2	1%	9	1%
2135	Brighton	29	3%	1	1%	28	4%
2136	Hyde Park	67	7%	9	5%	58	7%
2163	Allston	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2199	Back Bay	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2210	South Boston Waterfront	2	0%	1	1%	1	0%
2215	Fenway/Kenmore	2	0%	0	0%	2	0%
2467	Chestnut Hill	4	0%	2	1%	2	0%
9999	Homeless/DCF	53	5%	9	5%	44	6%
Total		974	100%	195	100%	779	100%

9th Grade Invitations Distributed in 20% and 80% by Zip Code

Zip Code	Neighborhood	All Invites		20%		80%	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2108	Beacon Hill	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2109	Downtown	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2110	Downtown	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2111	Chinatown	2	1%	0	0%	2	1%
2113	North End	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2114	Beacon Hill / West End	2	1%	0	0%	2	1%
2115	Longwood/Fenway	5	1%	1	1%	4	1%
2116	Back Bay	4	1%	2	3%	2	1%
2118	South End	11	3%	3	4%	8	3%
2119	Roxbury	20	6%	5	7%	15	5%
2120	Roxbury	4	1%	0	0%	4	1%
2121	Dorchester	23	7%	2	3%	21	8%
2122	Dorchester	20	6%	8	12%	12	4%
2124	Dorchester	42	12%	10	15%	32	12%
2125	Dorchester	20	6%	4	6%	16	6%
2126	Mattapan	27	8%	11	16%	16	6%
2127	South Boston	12	4%	1	1%	11	4%
2128	East Boston	28	8%	5	7%	23	8%
2129	Charlestown	9	3%	1	1%	8	3%
2130	Jamaica Plain	17	5%	4	6%	13	5%
2131	Roslindale	18	5%	2	3%	16	6%
2132	West Roxbury	12	4%	0	0%	12	4%
2134	Allston	4	1%	1	1%	3	1%
2135	Brighton	10	3%	1	1%	9	3%
2136	Hyde Park	24	7%	4	6%	20	7%
2163	Allston	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2199	Back Bay	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
2210	South Boston Waterfront	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2215	Fenway/Kenmore	1	0%	0	0%	1	0%
2467	Chestnut Hill	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
9999	Homeless/DCF	20	6%	2	3%	18	7%
Total		340	100%	67	100%	273	100%

Note: The zip code shown indicates the zip code that was used as part of the exam school invitation process. Zip Code 9999 is reserved for students experiencing homelessness or in DCF custody.

Invitations by Zip Code



7th Grade Invitations Distributed in SY20-21 and SY21-22 by Zip Code

Note: The zip code shown indicates the zip code that was used as part of the exam school invitation process. Zip Code 9999 is reserved for students experiencing homelessness or in DCF custody. This zip code was not used in SY20-21. Students experiencing homelessness outside of Boston not included in SY20-21 numbers.

Zip Code	Neighborhood	Median Family Income (with children under 18)	SY20-21		SY21-22	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2108	Beacon Hill	\$245,781	1	0%	6	1%
2109	Downtown	\$226,518	7	1%	2	0%
2110	Downtown	\$191,099	7	1%	1	0%
2111	Chinatown	\$38,846	24	2%	7	1%
2113	North End	\$167,566	7	1%	2	0%
2114	Beacon Hill / West End	\$191,131	19	2%	7	1%
2115	Longwood/Fenway	\$26,958	14	1%	10	1%
2116	Back Bay	\$206,054	27	3%	13	1%
2118	South End	\$51,000	36	4%	27	3%
2119	Roxbury	\$29,568	27	3%	50	5%
2120	Roxbury	\$34,981	16	2%	11	1%
2121	Dorchester	\$28,964	27	3%	67	7%
2122	Dorchester	\$51,354	62	6%	48	5%
2124	Dorchester	\$45,906	84	8%	109	11%
2125	Dorchester	\$53,828	47	5%	59	6%
2126	Mattapan	\$50,011	20	2%	51	5%
2127	South Boston	\$61,524	34	3%	35	4%
2128	East Boston	\$40,313	57	6%	75	8%
2129	Charlestown	\$150,000	56	5%	35	4%
2130	Jamaica Plain	\$105,750	77	8%	54	6%
2131	Roslindale	\$84,670	94	9%	67	7%
2132	West Roxbury	\$138,800	133	13%	69	7%
2134	Allston	\$62,132	17	2%	11	1%
2135	Brighton	\$98,013	52	5%	29	3%
2136	Hyde Park	\$58,453	67	7%	67	7%
2163	Allston	\$63,333	0	0%	1	0%
2199	Back Bay	\$91,125	0	0%	0	0%
2210	South Boston Waterfront	\$213,068	2	0%	2	0%
2215	Fenway/Kenmore	\$78,487	8	1%	2	0%
2467	Chestnut Hill	\$195,539	3	0%	4	0%
9999	Homeless/DCF	**	Not used in SY20-21		53	5%
Total			1025	100%	974	100%

9th Grade Invitations Distributed in SY20-21 and SY21-22 by Zip Code

Note: The zip code shown indicates the zip code that was used as part of the exam school invitation process. Zip Code 9999 is reserved for students experiencing homelessness or in DCF custody. This zip code was not used in SY20-21. Students experiencing homelessness outside of Boston not included in SY20-21 numbers.

Zip Code	Neighborhood	Median Family Income (with children under 18)	SY20-21		SY21-22	
			Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2108	Beacon Hill	\$245,781	0	0%	1	0%
2109	Downtown	\$226,518	1	0%	1	0%
2110	Downtown	\$191,099	0	0%	1	0%
2111	Chinatown	\$38,846	9	2%	2	1%
2113	North End	\$167,566	2	0%	1	0%
2114	Beacon Hill / West End	\$191,131	3	1%	2	1%
2115	Longwood/Fenway	\$26,958	11	3%	5	1%
2116	Back Bay	\$206,054	8	2%	4	1%
2118	South End	\$51,000	11	3%	11	3%
2119	Roxbury	\$29,568	25	6%	20	6%
2120	Roxbury	\$34,981	13	3%	4	1%
2121	Dorchester	\$28,964	22	5%	23	7%
2122	Dorchester	\$51,354	32	8%	20	6%
2124	Dorchester	\$45,906	43	11%	42	12%
2125	Dorchester	\$53,828	32	8%	20	6%
2126	Mattapan	\$50,011	17	4%	27	8%
2127	South Boston	\$61,524	11	3%	12	4%
2128	East Boston	\$40,313	21	5%	28	8%
2129	Charlestown	\$150,000	14	3%	9	3%
2130	Jamaica Plain	\$105,750	20	5%	17	5%
2131	Roslindale	\$84,670	25	6%	18	5%
2132	West Roxbury	\$138,800	22	5%	12	4%
2134	Allston	\$62,132	10	2%	4	1%
2135	Brighton	\$98,013	17	4%	10	3%
2136	Hyde Park	\$58,453	35	9%	24	7%
2163	Allston	\$63,333	0	0%	0	0%
2199	Back Bay	\$91,125	0	0%	0	0%
2210	South Boston Waterfront	\$213,068	0	0%	1	0%
2215	Fenway/Kenmore	\$78,487	1	0%	1	0%
2467	Chestnut Hill	\$195,539	1	0%	0	0%
9999	Homeless/DCF	**	Not used in SY20-21		20	6%
Total			406	100%	340	100%

English Learners and Students with Disabilities



Invitations for English Learners by ELD Level

Grade 7 - Invited Students by ELD Level - All Schools				
ELD Level	SY2021	SY2122	SY2021 - %	SY2122 - %
1	0	2	0%	3%
2	0	4	0%	6%
3	1	5	8%	7%
4	1	45	8%	67%
5	11	11	85%	16%
Total	13	67	100%	100%

Grade 9 - Invited Students by ELD Level - All Schools				
ELD Level	SY2021	SY2122	SY2021 - %	SY2122 - %
1	2	2	7%	5%
2	1	5	4%	12%
3	5	8	18%	19%
4	14	15	50%	36%
5	6	12	21%	29%
Total	28	42	100%	100%

Invitations for Students with Disabilities by Setting

Grade 7 - Invited Students by Setting - All Schools				
Setting	SY2021	SY2122	SY2021 - %	SY2122 - %
Substantially Separate	0	4	0%	9%
Inclusion	7	16	27%	37%
Resource / Related Services	19	23	73%	53%
Total	26	43	100%	100%

Grade 9 - Invited Students by Setting - All Schools				
Setting	SY2021	SY2122	SY2021 - %	SY2122 - %
Substantially Separate	0	5	0%	22%
Inclusion	0	4	0%	17%
Resource / Related Services	8	14	100%	61%
Total	8	23	100%	100%

Sending School



Sending Schools Receiving Fewer 7th Grade Invitations for SY21-22

Decline of 10+ Seats (12)	Decline of 5 - 9 seats (16)	Decline of 5 or Fewer Seats (29)	
Boston Teachers Union K-8 Pilot School	Boston Collegiate Charter School	Academy Of Pacific Rim	Neighborhood Schools
Edwards Middle*	Boston Green Academy	Atrium School	Perry K-8 School
Eliot K-8 Innovation School	Brooke Roslindale	Belmont Day School	Roxbury Prep Charter at Lucy Stone
Jackson-Mann K-8 School	Edison K-8 School	Boston College High School	Roxbury Prep Charter School
Kilmer K-8 School (4-8)	Frederick Pilot Middle School	Boston Collegiate Charter Lower School	Solomon Schecter Day S
Lyndon K-8 School	Gardner Pilot Academy	Brimmer & May School	St Brendan School
Mario Umana Academy	Hennigan K-8 School	British School Boston	St Columbkille Elementary
McKay K-8 School	Holy Name School	Brooke Mattapan	St Joseph Middle Need
Ohrenberger School (3-8)	Kingsley School	Chestnut Hill School	St Mary Elementary
Park Street School	Metco	Dexter School	St Mary Of The Hills
Quincy Upper School	Mt Alvernia Elementary	Hurley K-8 School	St Patrick Elementary Roxbury
Warren-Prescott K-8 School	Pope John Paul II	Jackson School	Thacher Montessori
	St Agatha School	Learning Project	Timilty Middle School
	St John School	Lyon K-8 School	Tobin K-8 School
	St Peter Academy	Media and Technology Middle school	

*Indicates school did not offer 6th grade in SY20-21

Sending Schools Receiving More 7th Grade Invitations for SY21-22

No Change (8)	Increase of 5 or Fewer Seats (37)	Increase of 5 - 9 Seats (13)	Increase of 10+ Seats (10)	
Benjamin Banneker School Bridge Boston Charter School Conservatory Lab Charter 3-8 Excel Academy Charter School Orient Heights Pope John Paul II Roxbury Prep Charter School, Dorchester Thayer Academy The Park School	Alighieri Dante Montessori School Berea Elem & Jr Boston Preparatory Charter School Brooke East Boston Charles Brown Middle School (Newton) Codman Academy Charter K-8 Conley Elementary Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy Dedham Country Day School Delphi Academy East Boston Central Excel Academy Charter Guild Elementary* Haley Pilot School Hernandez K-8 School Higginson-Lewis K-8 School Irving Middle School KIPP Academy Boston McCormack Middle School	Mission Hill K-8 School Mother Caroline Academy Neighborhood House Orchard Gardens K-8 School Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Perkins Elementary* Pope John Paul II Rashi School Renaissance Elementary Roosevelt K-8 School (2-8) Shady Hill School Shaloh House South Boston Catholic Academy St Joseph School (Needham) St Theresa School TechBoston Academy (6-12) The Advent School Young Achievers K-8 School	Harvard/Kent Elementary* Henderson K-12 Inclusion School Upper Kennedy Patrick Elem* Lee K-8 School Murphy K-8 School Otis Elementary* Sacred Heart Sch Rosli Trotter K-8 School UP Academy Dorchester	Bradley Elementary* Curley K-8 School Everett Elementary* Hale Elementary* Kenny Elementary* King K-8 School Manning Elementary* Mildred Avenue K-8 School O'Donnell Elementary* UP Academy Boston

*Indicates school added 6th grade in SY20-21

Ranking Data



Percentage of First Choice Rankings by Zip Code (7th Grade)

Zip Code	Neighborhood	Total Applicants	BLS	BLA	O'Bryant
02111	Chinatown	33	81.8%	12.1%	6.1%
02113	North End	10	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
02114	Beacon Hill / West End	15	80.0%	13.3%	6.7%
02115	Longwood/Fenway	23	82.6%	8.7%	8.7%
02116	Back Bay	20	80.0%	20.0%	0.0%
02118	South End	65	60.0%	13.8%	26.2%
02119	Roxbury	54	46.3%	25.9%	27.8%
02120	Roxbury	20	55.0%	25.0%	20.0%
02121	Dorchester	83	36.1%	39.8%	24.1%
02122	Dorchester	98	60.2%	32.7%	7.1%
02124	Dorchester	181	55.2%	28.7%	16.0%
02125	Dorchester	89	53.9%	31.5%	14.6%
02126	Mattapan	52	38.5%	40.4%	21.2%
02127	South Boston	55	60.0%	27.3%	12.7%
02128	East Boston	148	60.8%	18.9%	20.3%
02129	Charlestown	73	69.9%	21.9%	8.2%
02130	Jamaica Plain	101	62.4%	31.7%	5.9%
02131	Roslindale	140	57.1%	34.3%	8.6%
02132	West Roxbury	146	75.3%	20.5%	4.1%
02134	Allston	23	65.2%	13.0%	21.7%
02135	Brighton	47	89.4%	6.4%	4.3%
02136	Hyde Park	111	59.5%	24.3%	16.2%
99999	Homeless/DCF	53	32.1%	49.1%	18.9%

*Zip codes with less than 10 applicants not included

Percentage of First Choice Rankings by Race (7th Grade)

Race	Total Applicants	BLS	BLA	O'Bryant
Asian	280	77.1%	13.2%	9.6%
Black	368	47.0%	33.2%	19.8%
Latinx	457	48.1%	30.4%	21.4%
Multi-Race/Other	82	70%	23%	7%
White	479	70.1%	24.8%	5.0%

Percentage of First Choice Rankings by Zip Code (9th Grade)

Zip Code	Neighborhood	Total Applicants	BLS	BLA	O'Bryant
02111	Chinatown	10	60.0%	30.0%	10.0%
02115	Longwood/Fenway	10	50.0%	30.0%	20.0%
02118	South End	24	20.8%	29.2%	50.0%
02119	Roxbury	43	25.6%	39.5%	34.9%
02120	Roxbury	18	33.3%	38.9%	27.8%
02121	Dorchester	63	25.4%	44.4%	30.2%
02122	Dorchester	55	34.5%	40.0%	25.5%
02124	Dorchester	79	44.3%	31.6%	24.1%
02125	Dorchester	61	31.1%	29.5%	39.3%
02126	Mattapan	39	38.5%	30.8%	30.8%
02127	South Boston	28	35.7%	28.6%	35.7%
02128	East Boston	77	51.9%	19.5%	28.6%
02129	Charlestown	19	21.1%	57.9%	21.1%
02130	Jamaica Plain	32	21.9%	34.4%	43.8%
02131	Roslindale	42	35.7%	40.5%	23.8%
02132	West Roxbury	26	50.0%	34.6%	15.4%
02134	Allston	8	37.5%	25.0%	37.5%
02135	Brighton	24	45.8%	29.2%	25.0%
02136	Hyde Park	54	37.0%	44.4%	18.5%
99999	Homeless/DCF	34	32.4%	35.3%	32.4%

**Zip codes with less than 10 applicants not included*

Percentage of First Choice Rankings by Race (9th Grade)

Race	Total Applicants	BLS	BLA	O'Bryant
Asian	84	40.5%	29.8%	29.8%
Black	227	33.9%	35.2%	30.8%
Latinx	340	35.0%	34.4%	30.6%
Multi-Race/Other	21	62%	29%	10%
White	88	39.8%	36.4%	23.9%