

Memorandum

To: Carol Costello, Superintendent of Schools
From: John Campbell, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator
Date: October 4, 2023
Re: Report on 2023 Accountability Reports for Berlin Memorial and Boylston Elementary Schools



Information on School Accountability Reports

Massachusetts' accountability system is designed to measure how a school or district is doing and what kind of support it may need. It's goal is to more objectively identify schools and districts in need of assistance, and what sort of assistance might be needed. The accountability system considers:

- Achievement - MCAS scores in English language arts, math, and science
- Student Growth - Student growth percentiles in English language arts and math
- Progress Towards English Proficiency - Percentage of English learners meeting annual targets in order to reach English proficiency in six years (Neither school received a rating here as our subgroup is too small)
- Chronic Absenteeism - Percentage of students missing 10 percent or more of the days they were enrolled at a given school during a school year

Each of these areas receives a score from 0-4 depending on how much progress is made towards improvement goals. That scale ranges from a 0 for a declining score to a "4" for meeting or exceeding DESE established goals.

Accountability reports were first established in 2019. COVID disrupted the reporting cycle, and 2022 saw a limited return to this report. The 2023 accountability report is the first full implementation, and we are still learning what value this information might have. The actual reports for Berlin Memorial and Boylston Elementary follow this report.

The Accountability system has two components:

1. **Normative Component** (Accountability Percentile) which measures the performance of all students in a school compared to other schools in the state that serve similar grades, and is reported as a percentile from 1 to 99
2. **Criterion-Referenced Component** (Targets) which measures a district's or school's progress towards improvement targets, and is reported as a percentage

The mission of Berlin Memorial School is to empower each student to achieve personal excellence by fostering respect, responsibility, and resourcefulness with the support of the entire community.

As noted, the report looks at factors both for all students and then for the lowest performing students in the school. Because both schools are small, the list of “lowest performing students” in each school is simply the lowest performing 20 children in each grade. This obviously skews the data a bit, since the lowest 20 students at BMS represent roughly two-thirds of each grade. At BES, that would be more like half of each grade. In those groups, there would be a significant number of typically performing peers.

In both schools the points for progress towards goals look similar when looking at all students.

Category	Berlin Memorial	Boylston Elementary
Achievement	11/12	9/12
Growth	6/8	5/8
Chronic Absenteeism	4/4	4/4
Weighted Totals for All Students	9.2/10.3	7.6/10.3

These are the results for the “Lowest performing” group

Category	Berlin Memorial	Boylston Elementary
Achievement	7/8	2/8
Growth	5/8	3/8
Chronic Absenteeism	4/4	4/4
Weighted Totals for Lowest Performing Students	6.3/7.6	2.4/7.6

Based on these results, Berlin Memorial scored a criterion-referenced target percentage of 86% which puts the school in the 84th accountability percentile and earns the classification of “Meeting or exceeding targets”. Boylston Elementary scored a criterion-referenced target percentage of 53% which puts the school in the 77th accountability percentile and earns the classification of “Substantial progress toward goals”.

Observations and Next Steps

The School and District Accountability reports are an effort by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to provide data-based feedback to struggling school systems. Because it is essentially a brand new measure, it is hard to tell what value it has for us here in Berlin and Boylston. The points earned for “all students” in each school reflect MCAS results and so do not present much of a surprise. There is an apparent discrepancy between the scores for the two schools when we look at the “lowest performing” group, but again, the students included in that value for Berlin Memorial are *most* of the students, which will skew the scores higher.

In terms of next steps, staff at each school will look at the results for those “lowest performing” students and try to identify any patterns that might aide our efforts to improve our student outcomes.

Massachusetts School and District Profiles
Berlin Memorial School

2023 Official Accountability Report - Berlin Memorial School

Organization Information	
DISTRICT NAME Berlin-Boylston (06200000)	TITLE I STATUS Title I School
SCHOOL Berlin Memorial School (06200005)	GRADES SERVED PK,K,01,02,03,04,05
REGION West/Central	FEDERAL DESIGNATION -

Accountability Information

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention
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Reason for classification
Meeting or exceeding targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
86% - Meeting or exceeding targets	84

OVERALL RESULTS	STUDENT GROUP RESULTS	DETAILED DATA FOR EACH INDICATOR
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Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2023
Criterion-referenced target percentage	86%
Progress towards targets	Meeting or exceeding targets

2023 Points awarded

2023 Progress toward improvement targets							
Indicator		All students (Non-high school grades)			Lowest performing students (Non-high school grades)		
		Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %
Achievement	English language arts achievement	4	4	-	4	4	-
	Mathematics achievement	3	4	-	3	4	-
	Science achievement	4	4	-	-	-	-
	Achievement total	11	12	67.5	7	8	67.5
Growth	English language arts growth	4	4	-	4	4	-
	Mathematics growth	2	4	-	1	4	-
	Growth total	6	8	22.5	5	8	22.5
High school completion	Four-year cohort graduation rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Extended engagement rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Annual dropout rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	High school completion total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Progress toward attaining English language proficiency	English language proficiency total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional indicators	Chronic absenteeism	4	4	-	4	4	-
	Advanced coursework completion	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Additional indicators total	4	4	10.0	4	4	10.0
Weighted total		9.2	10.3	-	6.3	7.6	-
Percentage of possible points		89%		-	83%		-
2023 Criterion-referenced target percentage		86%					

About this report

Overall classification: All Massachusetts districts and schools with sufficient data are classified into one of two accountability categories: districts and schools requiring assistance or intervention, and districts and schools not requiring assistance or intervention. The reason(s) for the district's or school's classification are noted on this report.

Progress toward improvement targets: The criterion-referenced target percentage combines multiple years of data related to achievement, growth, high school completion, English learner progress, advanced coursework completion, and chronic absenteeism into a single number between 0 and 100. For a group to be considered to be meeting targets it must have a criterion-referenced target percentage of 75% or higher.

The criterion-referenced target percentage is calculated by dividing the weighted total points earned by the weighted total possible points. The calculation for each is displayed below.

Weighted total of points earned = (Total achievement points earned x Achievement weight) + (Total growth points earned x Growth weight) + (Total high school completion points earned x high school completion weight) + (EL progress points earned x EL progress weight) + (Total additional indicator points earned x Additional indicator weight)

Accountability percentile: An accountability percentile between 1 and 99 is reported for most schools. This number is an indication of the school's overall performance relative to other schools that serve similar grades, and is calculated using multiple years of data for all accountability indicators. School percentiles are not calculated for districts.

Resources



Interpretive Materials



Glossary of Accountability Terms

Massachusetts School and District Profiles
Boylston Elementary School

2023 Official Accountability Report - Boylston Elementary School

Organization Information	
DISTRICT NAME Berlin-Boylston (06200000)	TITLE I STATUS Title I School
SCHOOL Boylston Elementary School (06200010)	GRADES SERVED PK,K,01,02,03,04,05
REGION West/Central	FEDERAL DESIGNATION -

Accountability Information

Overall classification	Not requiring assistance or intervention
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Reason for classification
Substantial progress toward targets

Progress toward improvement targets	Accountability percentile
53% - Substantial progress toward targets	77

OVERALL RESULTS	STUDENT GROUP RESULTS	DETAILED DATA FOR EACH INDICATOR
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Overall progress toward improvement targets

	2023
Criterion-referenced target percentage	53%
Progress towards targets	Substantial progress toward targets

2023 Points awarded

2023 Progress toward improvement targets							
Indicator		All students (Non-high school grades)			Lowest performing students (Non-high school grades)		
		Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %	Points earned	Total possible points	Weight %
Achievement	English language arts achievement	4	4	-	2	4	-
	Mathematics achievement	3	4	-	0	4	-
	Science achievement	2	4	-	-	-	-
	Achievement total	9	12	67.5	2	8	67.5
Growth	English language arts growth	3	4	-	2	4	-
	Mathematics growth	2	4	-	1	4	-
	Growth total	5	8	22.5	3	8	22.5
High school completion	Four-year cohort graduation rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Extended engagement rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Annual dropout rate	-	-	-	-	-	-
	High school completion total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Progress toward attaining English language proficiency	English language proficiency total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Additional indicators	Chronic absenteeism	4	4	-	4	4	-
	Advanced coursework completion	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Additional indicators total	4	4	10.0	4	4	10.0
Weighted total		7.6	10.3	-	2.4	7.6	-
Percentage of possible points		74%		-	32%		-
2023 Criterion-referenced target percentage		53%					

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