

November 28, 2017

Dear Partners,

The purpose of this memorandum is to update Boston Public Schools' (BPS) partner organizations that received FY18 BPS Central Office Partnership Funds about the Partnership Fund: a new approach the district will utilize for strategically and equitably allocating partnerships funds in FY19 and beyond.

In the current fiscal year (FY18), the BPS central office provided a total of \$6.7 million to a portfolio of fourteen partner organizations, including your organization; this does not include funding that partners receive directly from individual schools or other central office departments. We make these investments because we deeply value the essential role that school-community partners play in our collective efforts to improve holistic student outcomes and eliminate opportunity and achievement gaps. We remain committed to maintaining these partnership investments, yet we will implement a new approach to increase equity, coherence and innovation of these investments going forward.

This new approach involves two major changes:

- 1.) The Partnership Fund will equitably allocate funding for partnerships to a subset of schools that serve the greatest concentrations of high need students. To allocate these Partnership Funds, the district plans to apply the Opportunity Index, a new measure of student need that incorporates student and family factors as well as factors from students' home neighborhoods, such as socioeconomic and public safety data.
- 2.) Decision-making responsibility for partner selection and funding will be moved from central office to schools: school leaders, their School Site Councils and other key members of the school community. The Office of Engagement's (OoE) School-Community Partnerships team will work in close collaboration with schools, partners, Instructional Superintendents, and other key BPS Central Office Departments to ensure this a thoughtful, data-driven process that meets schools' and partners' needs and advances their goals.

We recognize that this proposed shift from past practices in Central Office Partnership Funding will present significant changes to schools and partner organizations alike. We believe these changes will be vital steps toward advancing our district's core values of equity, coherence, and innovation, and we deeply appreciate your collaboration as we implement this shift. We will be setting up individual meetings with each of you to discuss this strategy, gain your feedback, answer your questions and address your concerns. Jonathan Sproul, OoE's Director of School-Community Partnerships, will follow up with you to schedule this meeting.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment and ongoing partnership toward ensuring that our students acquire the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.

Sincerely,



Tommy Chang, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



Monica Roberts  
Assistant Superintendent of Engagement

