

November 20, 2020

Dear Families,

I am writing to provide an update regarding the admission process to the three Boston Public Schools (BPS) exam schools: Boston Latin Academy (BLA), Boston Latin School (BLS), and John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science.

Due to the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and families, an [Exam School Admissions Criteria Working Group](#) was appointed in August to provide me with a recommendation for the admissions process for the 2021-2022 school year. The Working Group's recommendation was approved by the Boston School Committee on October 21. This recommendation included a temporary suspension of the entrance exam and proposed an alternative admission process. In this alternative process, the eligibility pool of applicants is determined based on the student's 2019-2020 grades in ELA and Math prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, or their performance on the 2019 MCAS.

The recommendation to suspend the entrance exam this year was based on a number of factors including the health and safety of students and staff, the challenge of ensuring test security in a remote test administration, learning loss caused by COVID-19, and the disparate impact of the pandemic on low-income families and families of color.

All exam schools serve students in grades 7-12. The admissions process is open to all City of Boston residents currently in grades 6, 8, and 9. BLA and BLS admit students entering grades 7 and 9. The O'Bryant School admits students entering grades 7 and 9 as well as a small number of students entering grade 10. The admissions process is also open to students who are not currently enrolled in a BPS school.

The application process for exam schools will open on **Monday, November 23, 2020 and will run until December 31, 2020. Current BPS students are not required to complete an application or submit any information for inclusion in the eligibility pool.** The district will consider all students that meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Families will be notified if their student(s) is eligible for exam school consideration by email and telephone in the coming weeks. BPS students that meet the eligibility criteria and would like to be considered for an exam school invitation will need to rank their school preferences during the school choice process in January 2021.

Students attending private, parochial, and Commonwealth charter schools are required to complete a registration application, which will include verification of Boston residency and authorization to release the child's grades to BPS. Parents will also need to rank their school choice preferences during the registration process. **To complete the application process, please visit the BPS website at bostonpublicschools.org/exam on Monday, November 23.**



We also invite you to join us on Monday, November 23 at 5:00 p.m. for a virtual info session to review the admissions plan for students applying to the exam schools for the 2021-2022 school year. BPS will host additional info sessions over the next few weeks. For more information, please visit our [website](#) or email exam@bostonpublicschools.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda Cassellius".

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent