

April 17, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Community,

In February, [we notified you](#) that the Boston Public Schools (BPS) was conducting a search for a new test for our three “exam schools,” Boston Latin Academy, Boston Latin School, and John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science. These three high schools serve grades 7-12 and require an exam as one part of the admissions criteria. The exam is available to all Boston residents in grades 6, 8, and 9.

As we previously stated, the current contract with the organization that administers the test expires on June 30, 2020. Due to the contract ending, BPS began the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) last school year, which is required by law in order to contract with an organization for the admissions exam.

We released this RFP on February 17th, inviting organizations to submit their test proposals. The due date for proposals was March 19th, which was in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic outbreak. Boston Public Schools did not receive any test proposals, so BPS is reissuing the RFP to provide another opportunity for organizations to respond. The deadline for proposals to be submitted is May 15, 2020. The goal of this RFP continues to be the selection of a new exam that is aligned to the Massachusetts [English Language Arts](#) and [Mathematics](#) standards and free of bias.

We understand the current school closure could impact students’ grade point averages (GPA), which is one of the admissions criteria. We are working to address this issue as well as how we will provide test preparation materials and other support through programs such as the [Exam School Initiative \(ESI\)](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Welcome Services at examschoolsrfp@bostonpublicschools.org. Information on the process and our progress will be available at www.bostonpublicschools.org/examrfp.

Thank you for choosing Boston Public Schools and for your support in helping us provide an excellent education for your child and all of our students.

Stay safe and take care,



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent

