



## Office of Capital Planning

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To: Boston School Committee  
From: Del Stanislaus, Chief of Capital Planning  
Date: January 22, 2025  
Subject: Proposals for School Closures, Mergers, and Grade Reconfigurations

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In the School Committee Meeting on January 22, 2025, the Capital Planning team, in collaboration with other central office teams, will present an overview of the vision for right-sizing our district in the next five years, as well as a summary of the Superintendent's recommendations for closures and mergers. These recommendations, as well as grade reconfigurations, were made public on January 6 and January 7th, 2025. The School Committee will be asked to vote on this package of proposals later this spring.

The current physical footprint of Boston Public Schools does not support our collective vision for a high-quality education and student experience. The plan and recommendations presented on January 22, 2025 will bring us closer to transforming our physical footprint in order to support our shared vision for students.

### Long-Term Facilities Plan Proposals: Winter 2025

The proposal package recommended by the Superintendent is as follows, and would be effective as of June 30, 2026:

- Close Excel High School
- Close Mary Lyon Upper School
- Close the Dever Elementary School
- Merge and relocate the the Winthrop and Clap Elementary Schools together to become the new Lilla G. Frederick school
- Close Community Academy as a diploma-granting school; redesign and maintain Community Academy as a program that provides a supportive environment for students who violate the BPS code of conduct (who need to be removed from their assigned school) and as a transition program for students needing additional Academic and Social-Emotional supports (ex. transitioning from DYS, hospitalization, etc).

### Supporting Students and Staff through Transitions

All students whose schools are closing will be given priority in the assignment process, starting in January 2026. Moreover, we have written [Transition Guides](#) for both students and families as well as staff to detail the coherent, central office-wide support that will be provided to our impacted schools.

For our multilingual learners there will be individualized support from the Office of Multilingual and Multicultural Education (OMME) for students and families to identify schools that best fit students needs.

For our students with disabilities, the Office of Specialized Services (OSS) will work with students and families through the IEP process to ensure students have great school options,



and that all of our students with disabilities receive the services they need to succeed. Special Education timelines will be maintained, IEP meetings will continue and teams will work collaboratively to support any and all transitions for students.

### **Community Engagement**

We are making decisions based on criteria that were co-developed with the BPS community. The measures for a High-Quality Student Experience were informed by over 9,000 survey responses and 75 extended, small-group conversations in 21 public listening sessions and community focus groups with over 500 participants.

Through the implementation phase of our work we will continue to collaborate with the community, hear their concerns, and work with them on transition planning. The district is currently engaging in a series of community meetings and has opened a public feedback survey to gather input and feedback regarding the recommendations between the public announcement of proposals and when the School Committee will vote on the recommendation package. The School Committee will receive a memo on the outcomes and stakeholder analysis from the community engagement before the scheduled vote later this spring.

### **Budget Implications**

We are estimating that this set of proposals will lead to cost savings of about \$10-\$20 million. The exact cost implications will be determined as transition plans are finalized. For example, if a highly specialized program is impacted by a school closure, that program may be relocated to another school to ensure continuity of programming for students, which would mitigate any cost savings. We are committed to ensuring that all students are supported through this process and that cost savings are intentionally and responsibly reinvested in our students' education.

### **Grade Reconfigurations**

Grade reconfigurations are designed to provide fewer transitions and more seamless pathways for our families and students. They provide more sections per grade for middle schoolers – resulting in more desirable programming, teacher collaboration time, and the structure to support a full continuum of services. These reconfigurations also help to align our district to the 2019 Boston School Committee Policy regarding a shift to primarily a K-6/7-12 and K-8/9-12 district. Because these reconfigurations align to the policy, they do not require a School Committee vote.

The grade reconfigurations announced by the Superintendent that will be effective on June 30, 2026 are as follows:

- Reconfigure Mary Lyon K-8 from a K2-8 to a PreK-6
- Reconfigure BTU Pilot from a K1-8 to a K1-6
- Reconfigure Young Achievers K0-8 to a K0-6
- Reconfigure Dearborn STEM Academy from a 6-12 to a 7-12 (effective Fall 2025)

### **Pursuing Our Vision for Students**

The work of the Long-Term Facilities Plan is guided by a vision to create a well-rounded BPS ecosystem that provides high-quality learning environments for every student and strong teaching environments for every educator close to home.

To achieve this vision, we must take a comprehensive approach to tackle the challenges facing our district. This includes actions such as school closures, mergers, and reconfigurations, as well as constructing new buildings, renovating existing ones, and improving academic programming.

While some of these proposals will be difficult in the short-term for families, educators, and students, we are confident that they are a critical next step in achieving our collective vision.

We look forward to sharing more detail about the recommendations and having the opportunity to answer your questions on January 22, 2025.