

To: Boston School Committee
From: Mary Skipper, Superintendent
Date: September 25, 2025
Subject: Exam School Admissions Policy Recommendation

Tonight we are sharing a recommendation to revise the Exam Schools Admissions Policy. This recommendation follows the June 17, 2025 presentation of the results of analysis related to the outcomes of the Exam School Admission Policy changes since 2020. The policies in use for the last five years are outlined in the table below:

Admission Year	Policy
SY20-21	Citywide Ranking (ISEE + Grades)
SY21-22	20% Citywide + 80% Zip code (Grades only)
SY22-23	Tiers (8) + Additional (10/15) points (Grades only)
SY23-24	Tiers (8) + Additional (10/15) points (Grades + MAP)
SY24-25	Tiers (8) + Additional (tier-determined/15) points (Grades + MAP)
SY25-26	Tiers (4) + Additional (tier-determined/15) points (Grades + MAP)

Following the June presentation, we conducted community engagement from July through September to collect feedback on the admissions policy from the broader BPS community. Through this engagement, we heard from 326 individuals through the feedback form and engaged with over 500 individuals through two webinars. The themes heard from engagement included:

- Need for clarity, simplicity, and stability
- Importance of building a portfolio of high-quality high school options beyond exam schools
- Families want a stable policy that will be left alone for a period of years and a more predictable window for future review

Additional feedback specific to different variables of the policy are included in the appendix of tonight's slide deck.

Tonight, I am bringing forward a recommendation for an updated Exam School Admissions Policy. This recommendation will be voted on at the November 5 meeting, and if approved, will be in place for, at minimum, three admissions cycles.

My recommendations for a revised Exam School Admissions Policy are:

- Remove all school-based points

- Reduce the number of housing points from 15 to 10
- Add a citywide round that will allocate the first 20% of invitations at each school to the highest ranking students
- Maintain the socioeconomic tier structure where tiers are sized by population

We look forward to discussing this recommendation and answering any questions.