



# **Boston Public Schools Inter-district School Choice Program SY 2026-2027**

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***Dr. Ana Tavares***  
***Deputy Superintendent of Community and Family Advancement***

***Magaly Sanchez***  
***Chief Family Advancement Officer***



# Inter-district School Choice Program

According to the Massachusetts Education Reform Act of 1993, school districts are automatically included in the Inter-district School Choice Program **unless** their School Committee votes to **withdraw** by June 1 each year.

Since 1994, the Boston School Committee has voted annually to opt out of the program.



# Factors for Consideration

Each year, Boston considers multiple factors before making a recommendation to the School Committee about participating in the Inter-district School Choice Program:

- **Alignment with District Priorities**

Our current priorities are aligned to providing students with equitable access to high-quality seats across our district. This requires us to concentrate our resources and capacity in alignment to actualizing our priorities - including high-quality instructional materials and equitable literacy, inclusive education, programs for multilingual learners, and implementation of the long-term facilities plan.

- **Non-Reciprocal Benefit**

BPS is expanding access to high-quality, diverse learning opportunities for students. Through the the inter-district program, Boston residents will not have reciprocal access to seats outside of the district due to surrounding districts not participating.



# Do Boston's neighbors participate in school choice?

## In School Year 2025–2026:

- **141 school districts chose not to participate** in the Inter-district School Choice Program, including Boston Public Schools.
- **None of the cities and towns near Boston participated**, including Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Dedham, Milton, Needham, Revere, and Somerville
- **Cities and towns that participate** are primarily smaller or regional districts outside Greater Boston (e.g., Amherst, North Adams, Pittsfield)



## Financial Considerations

- According to state law, the tuition for a non-resident student enrolling in a receiving district is 75 percent of the receiving district's actual per pupil spending, but not to exceed \$5,000.



# School Committee Priorities

## **Priority 1: Accelerating Academic Performance**

- High-quality academic experiences
- Equitable literacy
- High-quality instructional materials
- Redesigning high schools under the Strategic Vision to support diverse school models and personalized learning; expanding college and career pathways

## **Priority 2: Ensuring Access for All Students**

- Inclusive education: multilingual learners, students with disabilities, multilingual learners with disabilities
- Expanding programs for multilingual learners including: dual language, transitional bilingual education (TBE), students with limited or interrupted formal education (SLIFE) and newcomers
- Focus on serving our diverse population well: Socioeconomic status, race/ethnicity, geography, language

## **Priority 3: Consistency in High-Quality Learning Opportunities**

- Implementation of the Long-Term Facilities Plan
- Access for every student to a High-Quality Student Experience
  - Rigorous and culturally affirming learning experiences
  - Wellness and enrichment
  - Supportive network of caring adults
  - Physical spaces that support learning



## Recommendation

Due to these factors, and consistent with the district's long-standing practice of prioritizing school capacity, resources, and access for Boston residents, it is our strong recommendation that the Boston School Committee vote **to opt out** of the Inter-district School Choice Program for School Year 2026–2027. This approach ensures that seats and funding remain focused on serving students who live in Boston and supports the district's ability to plan programs, staffing, and facilities around the needs of Boston families.



## Understanding the Yes/No Vote

Annually, school committees in Massachusetts must vote by **June 1** to determine if their district will participate the Inter-district School Choice Program for the next school year.

A "**Yes**" vote means:

The School Committee decides **not to join** the Inter-district School Choice Program. This means Boston Public Schools (BPS) will continue to **accept only students who are residents of Boston.**

A "**No**" vote means:

The School Committee **agrees to join** the Massachusetts Inter-district School Choice Program. This means the district will start accepting **students who live outside of Boston** beginning in SY 2026–27.



## Boston Inter-District School Choice Program Key Dates

- **March 25:** Presentation to School Committee
- **May 6 :** Required Hearing and School Committee Vote
- **By June 1:** Resolution submitted to DESE