



# WHAT FAMILIES HAVE BEEN TELLING US

**FAMILY VOICE, STUDENT OUTCOMES, AND THE WORK AHEAD**

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Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SpEdPAC)  
2nd Annual School Committee Presentation

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# FAMILIES CONSISTENTLY RAISED: FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

- Early Engagement
- Transparency
- Shared Problem Solving
- Communication
- Decision-Making Process



Families want to be partners in shaping solutions

# INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING

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**1989** - Henderson Inclusion Founded

**1990s** - Inclusion Models Prove Successful

**2000s** - BPS Expands LRE opportunities

**2010** - District wide Inclusion Growth

**Today** - BPS commitment to Inclusive  
Education

## **Families Asked:**

- What have we learned?
- What works?
- What are the metrics for success?
- What should be scaled?
- What should NOT be repeated?

**Institutional learning should lead to action**



# FAMILIES RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT:

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- Access
- Consistency
- Implementation
- Outcomes

Special education  
is a **service**, not a place.

# BLACK STUDENTS REMAIN DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED

## Families Raised Concerns About:

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### Subseparate Placements

- Black students represent **29%** of enrollment but **43%** of students in substantially separate classrooms.

### Out-of-School Suspensions

- Black students represent **43.6%** of suspensions.

### Physical Restraint

- Black students account for **44.3%** of physical restraints.

### Seclusion

- Black students account for **51%** of seclusion incidents.



# MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES

## Families Raised Concerns About:

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- Access to ESL, SEI, bilingual, and special education services
- Accurate and culturally responsive evaluations
- Language differences being mistaken for disabilities or underrepresentation
- Coordination between language acquisition and special education supports
- Shortages of bilingual and multilingual educators



# STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

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## **FAMILIES DISCUSSED:**

- School Climate
- Attendance
- Academic Engagement
- Postsecondary Readiness
- Transition
- Belonging
- Engagement
- Achievement
- Graduation
- Postsecondary Success

Students are more than a placement



# SERVICES, STAFFING & CAPACITY



## FAMILIES RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT:

- Literacy
- Autism Services
- Staffing
- Professional Development

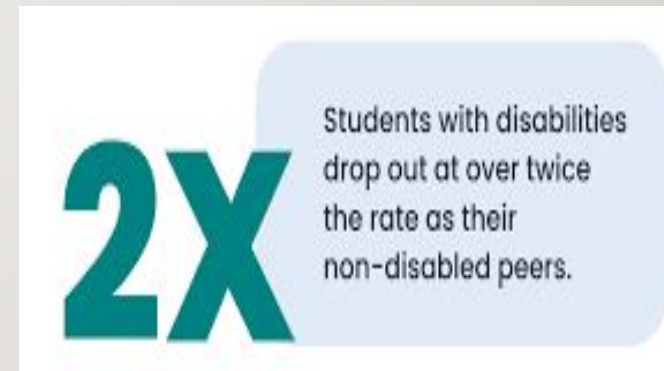


Support implementation at the school & classroom levels

# URGENCY

## FAMILIES EMPHASIZED:

- Timely Services
- Timely Intervention
- Timely Action



Childhood operates on developmental timelines

# RECOMMENDATIONS: WHAT FAMILIES WANT

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- **Partnership:** Engage families as co-creators
- **Inclusion:** Define, measure, and strengthen inclusion
- **Equity:** Apply an equity lens and monitor outcomes
- **Capacity:** Invest in staffing, educator diversity and development
- **Accountability:** Improve transparency, reporting, and outcome monitoring



# CLOSING THOUGHT

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The challenge is not identifying what students need.



The challenge is acting on what we already know.