

Overview

To apply for admission to an exam school for admission year 2027-2028, students must meet the following criteria:

- Earn a B or higher-grade point average (GPA), which is equivalent to a score of 8 or higher
- Have a complete (Reading and Mathematics) MAP Growth score from a BPS administered test from either May/June 2026 or January 2027.

A student's GPA will be calculated using grades from the last term of SY25-26 and the beginning of SY26-27 (First two quarters, or first semester/trimester).

Prior Year	Current Year			
	If semesters/trimesters:		If quarters:	
① Final term ELA Grade	① Term 1 ELA Grade	① Term 1 ELA Grade	① Term 2 ELA Grade	
② Final term Math Grade	② Term 1 Math Grade	② Term 1 Math Grade	② Term 2 Math Grade	
	③ Term 1 Science Grade	③ Term 1 Science Grade	③ Term 2 Science Grade	
	④ Term 1 Social Studies Grade	④ Term 1 S.S. Grade	④ Term 1 S.S. Grade	

Note: Students who attended an international school in the prior year may not have previous year grades available. In this case, the GPA will be calculated using current year grades only.

Students must have grades in all subjects for a GPA to be calculated. As shown in the table below, grades will be converted to an 11-point scale for averaging. The result will be a GPA* between 1 and 11, with 11 being the highest possible grade point average.

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D+	F
Point Value	11	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0

*GPAs will not be rounded to the nearest whole number.

	Prior Year		Current Year								GPA
	Final Term Grade		Term 1				Term 2				
Letter Grade	A	B	A	C+	B+	A-	A-	B-	B+	A-	9.25
Point Value	11	8	11	6	9	10	10	7	9	10	
	①	②	①	②	③	④	①	②	③	④	
Average GPA	(11 + 8) / 2 = 9.50		11 + 6 + 9 + 10 + 10 + 7 + 9 + 10 = 72 / 8 = 9								
	9.5 + 9 = 18.5 / 2 = 9.25										

For more information on the BPS Exam School admission process for the **2027-2028 admission year**, please visit us online at bostonpublicschools.org/exam.

For BPS students applying for grade 7 admissions:

BPS grade 5 report cards do not include an “overall” grade for ELA and Math. Instead students are graded on multiple standards for each subject area. These standards-based grades will be used to determine “overall” grades for the prior year marking periods (SY25-26) mentioned above. To calculate the GPA for a BPS student, the first step is finding their standards-based grades on their report card. This report card from SY26-27 shows the ELA and Math standards that are used in the 2027-2028 admission year process.

Reading Standard Areas	Fall	Winter	Spring
Reads with fluency and accuracy	3	4	4
Understands what is read	3	3	4
Reads a variety of material on a level	3	3	4

Writing, Listening, Speaking Standard Areas

Spelling & Vocabulary	2	2	3
Mechanics & Usage	3	3	3
Content & Organization	2	2	3
Style & Voice	3	3	4

Math Standard Areas

Demonstrates fluency/accuracy in number sense	3	3	4
Develops and explains strategies to solve problems	2	3	4
Understands and applies mathematical thinking	3	3	4

These scores will be converted to a 12-point scale by multiplying the standards-based grades by 3, as shown in this table.

BPS Standards-Based Scores	4	3	2	1
Point Value	12	9	6	3

Points will be averaged together to get an “overall” grade for each subject (ELA and Math). The resulting average by subject will be rounded to the closest whole number. If the closest whole number is 12, it gets rounded down to 11. The student above would have the following prior year grades:

	ELA							Math			GPA
BPS Standards-Based Scores	4	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	ELA
Point Value	12	12	12	9	9	9	12	12	12	12	11
Calculation	Reading Standard Areas			Writing, Listening, Speaking Standard Areas				Math Standard Areas			
	12+12+12 = 36			9+9+9+12 = 39				12+12+12 = 36			MATH
	(36 + 39)/7 = 75/7 = 10.71 ≈ 11							36/3 = 12 ≈ 11			11

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Exam School Composite Score Calculation

The maximum overall composite score a student can receive in the Exam School Application process is 110. The student's Grade Point Average (GPA) accounts for 70 points and the test score accounts for 30 points. These two components will be combined to generate a composite score from 1-100. Ten additional points will be given to students that meet specific criteria (e.g., students experiencing homelessness).

Test Score Allotment (30 points)

Test scores in Reading and Math from the NWEA MAP Growth assessment are required as part of the exam school admissions process for the 2027-2028 admission year. Students will receive a percentile test score in each section between 1 and 99, with 99 being the highest score possible. If the student tested twice in each subject (May/June 2026 and January 2027), BPS will use the highest score in Reading and Math, even if the scores come from different tests.

The thirty (30) points allotted for test scores is separated into fifteen (15) points for Reading and fifteen (15) points for Math. The student's percentile score is divided by 99 and multiplied by 15. Final points for Reading and Math are summed to provide the overall test points.

Example:

Student A took both Reading and Math tests in May and January. Their highest MAP Reading score is at the 50th percentile and their highest MAP Math score is the 75th percentile. That means their total number of assessment points is estimated as follows:*

$$(50 \div 99) \times 15 + (75 \div 99) \times 15 = 7.57 + 11.36 = 18.90$$

Grade Point Average (GPA) Allotment (70 points)

As shown in the first two pages of this document, the GPA is initially calculated based on the required marks from the previous and current school years based on the 0-11 scale. The overall GPA points is determined by dividing the GPA by 11 and multiplying it by 70.

Example:

Student A received an overall GPA of 9, which is divided by 11 and multiplied by 70. Their final points for GPA would be:*

$$(9 \div 11) \times 70 = 57.20$$

Additional Points (10 points)

Students living in housing owned by the Boston Housing Authority, in the care of the Department of Children and Families or experiencing homelessness will receive an additional ten (10) points.

Composite Score Calculation

The overall test score points, the overall GPA points, and additional points (if applicable) are added together to obtain the final composite score, which will be used in the invitation process.

Example:

Student A is experiencing homelessness and qualifies for the additional 10 points. As such, Student A's final composite score is as follows:*

$$18.90 + 57.20 + 10 = 86.10$$

*Please note the numbers in the sample calculations are rounded to one decimal point; however, during the actual composite score calculation process, BPS will not round the final average and will maintain all decimal points.