

Office of Data and Accountability

Apryl Clarkson, Senior Executive Director

2300 Washington Street

Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119

617-635-9450

aclarkson@bostonpublicschools.org

bostonpublicschools.org

To: Mary Skipper, Superintendent
From: Apryl Clarkson, Senior Executive Director, Data and Accountability
CC: Drew Echelson, Chief of Schools and Accountability
Denise Snyder, Chief of Family Advancement
Subject: SY23-24 Exam School Invitation Summary
Date: June 7, 2023

Executive Summary

This memo summarizes the applicant pool and invitations for the 2023-24 Exam Schools Admission year. In June 2023, a more comprehensive review of the exam schools admissions process will be presented to the School Committee. This memo examines the applicant pool, invitations for each exam school, as well as the use of additional points and student ranking.

Grade 7

- **Invitations:** 1,000 invitations were distributed, which is the same number of invitations that were sent out in SY22-23. 74% of eligible applicants received an invitation to an exam school. Overall, 63% of applicants received an invitation to their first-choice school, 10% to their 2nd choice school, 1% to their third-choice school, and 26% did not receive an invitation.
- **Tiers:** Students from every socioeconomic tier received an invitation to each exam school, with each tier receiving between 7% and 18% of available seats at each school, based on student preference.
- **Student Groups:** Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY22-23 continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY23-24, including students experiencing homelessness, in the care of DCF, and living in BHA housing (8%); economically disadvantaged students (49%); English learners (6%); and students with disabilities (6%). Approximately 75% of invitations went to students of color, consistent with the percentage in SY22-23 invitations.
- **Additional Points:** Students in every tier received an invitation to each school based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received additional points ranged from 34% in tier 8 to 96% in tier 1. Overall, 72% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

Grade 9

- **Invitations:** 480 invitations were distributed, an increase of 56 invitations from SY22-23. 54% of eligible applicants received an invitation to an exam school. Overall, 31% received an invitation to their first-choice school, 18% to their second-choice school, 13% to their third-choice school, and 46% did not receive an invitation.
- **Tiers:** Students from every socioeconomic tier received an invitation to each exam school, with each tier receiving between 7% and 17% of available seats at each school, based on student preference.
- **Student Groups:** Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY22-23 continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY23-24, including students experiencing homelessness, in the care of DCF, and living in BHA housing (12%); economically disadvantaged students (54%); English learners (6%); and students with disabilities (5%). Approximately 85% of invitations went to students of color, an decrease of 4 percentage points from SY22-23 invitations.
- **Additional Points:** Students in every tier received an invitation to each school based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received additional points ranged from 28% in tier 8 to 94% in tier 2. Overall, 81% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

Applicant Pool

To be eligible for exam school consideration, a student needed to have a B or higher GPA, have a valid MAP test score, and have ranked at least one exam school. This was the third year requiring a B GPA, the second year of adding Science and Social Studies to the GPA used in exam school admissions, and the first year using test scores as 30% of the composite score calculated for each student.

Table 1. Number of Applicants by Grade and School Type

School Type & Grade	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Grade 7	2,833	1,666	1,283	1,355
BPS, Grade 7	2,133	1,287	953	1,030
Non-BPS, Grade 7	700	379	330	325
Grade 9	1177	760	984	882
BPS, Grade 9	780	618	756	670
Non-BPS, Grade 9	397	142	228	212
Total	4,010	2,426	2,267	2,237

Of eligible grade 7 applicants, 65% of students received 10 additional points based on their prior-year school, and 7% of students received 15 points because they are experiencing homelessness, in the care of the Department of Children and Families or are living in housing owned by the Boston Housing Authority. Students in every tier received either 10 or 15 points. Of eligible grade 9 applicants, 68% of students received 10 additional points, and 9% received 15 additional points. Overall, the percentages of students who received the points among grade 7 or 9 applicants remained consistent in SY23-24.

Table 2a. Grade 7 Applicants by Tier and Additional Point Status over Time

Tier	2022-23			2023-24		
	Applicants	Percent Receiving 10 Points	Percent Receiving 15 Points	Applicants	Percent Receiving 10 Points	Percent Receiving 15 Points
1	116	70%	18%	125	73%	23%
2	99	94%	4%	131	79%	9%
3	110	85%	9%	111	84%	3%
4	134	72%	8%	141	83%	6%
5	115	74%	6%	131	76%	11%
6	155	72%	5%	182	64%	7%
7	234	63%	3%	262	64%	3%
8	320	32%	2%	272	31%	3%
All	1283	63%	6%	1355	65%	7%

Table 2b. Grade 9 Applicants by Tier and Additional Point Status over Time

Tier	2022-23			2023-24		
	Applicants	Percent Receiving 10 Points	Percent Receiving 15 Points	Applicants	Percent Receiving 10 Points	Percent Receiving 15 Points
1	139	68%	22%	92	63%	30%
2	151	80%	11%	95	83%	11%
3	130	82%	6%	100	79%	6%
4	96	78%	14%	145	81%	7%
5	110	83%	4%	103	79%	11%
6	121	67%	15%	110	72%	9%
7	152	65%	3%	138	60%	3%

8	85	36%	4%	99	24%	4%
All	984	71%	10%	882	68%	9%

7th Grade Invitations

In 7th grade, 1,000 invitations were sent for SY23-24, this was the same number of invitations as was sent out in SY22-23. Additionally, as implemented during the SY22-23 admissions cycle, each school will maintain a waitlist of up to 100 students until November 30, 2023.

Table 3. Number of 7th Grade Invitations by School

School Name	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Boston Latin Academy	336	320	321	335
Boston Latin School	484	465	462	456
O'Bryant School	205	189	217	209
Total	1,025	974	1,000	1,000

74% of eligible applicants received an invitation to an exam school, with 63% receiving an invitation to their first choice school, 10% to their 2nd choice school, 1% to their third choice school and 26% not receiving an invitation.

In order to distribute invitations, students are assigned to a socioeconomic tier based on the census tract in which they reside. Census tracts are grouped into equally-sized tiers based on socioeconomic factors from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. The policy seeks to assign invites evenly across the 8 tiers. With 1,000 Grade 7 invites, the policy thus seeks to assign 125 invites per tier. While the tiers are designed to have the same number of children in grades 5-8 living in each tier, eligible applicants were not equally distributed across tiers. For instance, there were 111 eligible applicants from Tier 3 as compared to 272 from Tier 8. Invitations that were not distributed in tiers without enough eligible applicants (less than 125) were re-distributed to tiers with remaining applicants in an 11th and 12th round in order to distribute 1,000 invitations. Students in every tier received an invitation to each school, based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received points ranged from 34% in tier 8 to 96% in tier 1. Overall, 72% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

Table 4. Number of 7th Grade Applicants and Students Invited by Tier and School

Tier	Applicants	Invitations	BLA	BLS	OB	Percent of Invitees Receiving Points*
1	125	124	38	59	27	96%
2	131	128	36	55	37	88%
3	111	111	44	40	27	86%
4	141	128	48	53	27	90%
5	131	128	39	53	36	88%
6	182	127	40	64	23	77%
7	262	127	50	60	17	82%
8	272	127	40	72	15	54%
All	1355	1000	335	456	209	82%

*Points is inclusive of invitees receiving 10 and 15 points

Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY22-23 continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY23-24.

Table 5. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Student Group

Student Group	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Homeless Students and Students in the Care of DCF*	1%	5%	7%	8%
Economically Disadvantaged	35%	43%	45%	49%
English Learners	1%	7%	6%	6%

Students with Disabilities	3%	4%	6%	6%
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**In SY22-23 and SY23-24, this category also includes students living in BHA housing. This group of students received an additional 15 points on their composite score.*

Compared to SY22-23, the percentage of students receiving invitations in individual zip codes increased in some zip codes (Longwood/Fenway 02115 +1.3; Dorchester 02121 +1.9;) and decreased in other zip codes (Roxbury 02119 -4.1; Dorchester 02125 -1.4; South Boston 02127 -1.3; Roslindale 02131 -1.6;). This fluctuation is expected each year based on the number of qualified applicants and their rank choices.

Table 6. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	Citywide	SY20-21 Invitees	SY21-22 Invitees	SY22-23 Invitees	SY23-24 Invitees
Beacon Hill	0.4%	0.1%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%
Downtown	0.4%	1.4%	0.3%	0.7%	0.5%
Chinatown	0.8%	2.3%	0.7%	2.2%	2.8%
North End	0.3%	0.7%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%
Beacon Hill / West End	0.7%	1.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.5%
Longwood/Fenway	1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%	2.3%
Back Bay	1.3%	2.6%	1.3%	1.5%	1.0%
South End	3.3%	3.5%	2.8%	4.5%	3.9%
Roxbury	7.6%	4.2%	6.3%	7.0%	9.2%
Dorchester	31.4%	21.5%	29.1%	30.3%	30.4%
Mattapan	6.3%	2.0%	5.2%	3.7%	4.5%
South Boston	4.2%	3.3%	3.6%	3.8%	2.5%
East Boston	9.0%	5.6%	7.7%	8.9%	8.1%
Charlestown	3.0%	5.5%	3.6%	4.1%	4.9%
Jamaica Plain	5.1%	7.5%	5.5%	5.7%	6.6%
Roslindale	6.4%	9.2%	6.9%	7.6%	6.1%
West Roxbury	4.7%	13.0%	7.1%	5.3%	5.2%
Allston	1.2%	1.7%	1.2%	1.6%	1.1%
Brighton	3.7%	5.1%	3.0%	3.8%	3.4%
Hyde Park	7.8%	6.5%	6.9%	5.9%	6.4%
South Boston Waterfront	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Fenway/Kenmore	0.5%	0.8%	0.2%	0.8%	0.2%
Chestnut Hill	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%
Homeless/DCF	Not used	0.0%	5.4%	Not used	Not used

Approximately 75% of invitations went to students of color, consistent with the rate for the SY22-23 invitations. The percentage of Asian (-3), Black (-2), and Latinx (+3) students receiving invitations increased from SY21-22, while the percentage of White students receiving an invitation decreased by 1 percentage point from the previous year.

Table 7. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Race

Race	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Asian	21%	18%	21%	18%
Black	13%	23%	24%	22%
Latinx	21%	23%	26%	29%
Other	5%	6%	6%	5%
White	40%	31%	25%	24%

The racial breakdown of the incoming class at each exam school has changed over the last four admissions cycles, with the largest consistent increase for Latinx students whose representation has risen to 34% at Boston Latin Academy, 20% at Boston Latin School, and 41% at John D. O'Bryant.

Table 8. Percentage of 7th Grade Invitations by Race and School

Race	Boston Latin Academy				Boston Latin School				O'Bryant School			
	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Asian	14%	11%	12%	11%	27%	24%	29%	27%	20%	13%	15%	11%
Black	16%	30%	24%	26%	6%	17%	22%	18%	27%	28%	27%	27%
Latinx	25%	28%	29%	34%	12%	15%	21%	20%	34%	32%	31%	41%
Other	5%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%	5%	5%	3%	4%	6%	5%
White	40%	24%	28%	23%	50%	38%	23%	30%	17%	23%	22%	15%

9th Grade Invitations

In 9th grade, 480 invitations were sent for SY23-24 admissions, an increase of 56 invitations from SY22-23. The increase in invitations is primarily due to an increase in the number of invitations to Boston Latin School and the O'Bryant School. Similar to the SY22-23 admissions cycle, each school will maintain a waitlist of up to 100 students until November 30, 2023.

Table 9. Number of 9th Grade Invitations by School

School Name	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Boston Latin Academy	89	82	123	117
Boston Latin School	58	41	43	93
O'Bryant School	261	217	258	270
Total	408	340	424	480

Students are assigned to a socioeconomic tier based on the census tract in which they reside. The policy seeks to assign invites evenly across the 8 tiers. With 480 Grade 9 invites, the policy seeks to assign 53 invites per tier. Students in every tier received an invitation to each school, based on individual student preferences. The percentage of students in each tier who were invited and received points ranged from 28% in tier 8 to 94% in tier 2. Overall, 77% of students invited received either 10 or 15 additional points on their composite score.

Table 10. Number of 9th Grade Applicants and Students Invited by Tier and School

Tier	Applicants	Invitations	BLA	BLS	OB	Percent of Invitees Receiving Points*
1	92	60	8	11	41	93%
2	95	60	11	13	36	92%
3	100	60	17	11	32	88%
4	145	60	16	16	28	90%
5	103	60	16	8	36	93%
6	110	60	17	10	33	88%
7	138	60	15	11	34	68%
8	99	60	17	13	30	35%
All	882	480	117	93	270	81%

*Points are inclusive of 10 and 15 points.

Groups that received higher percentages of invitations in SY21-22 (the interim zip code policy) continued to receive similar percentages of invitations in SY23-24.

Table 11. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Student Group

Student Group	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Homeless Students and Students in the Care of DCF*	4%	6%	11%	12%
Economically Disadvantaged	52%	63%	63%	54%
English Learners	7%	12%	13%	6%
Students with Disabilities	2%	7%	6%	5%

**In SY22-23 and SY23-24, this category also includes students living in BHA housing. This group of students received an additional 15 points on their composite score.*

Compared to SY22-23, the percentage of students receiving invitations in individual zip codes increased in some zip codes (Chinatown +3.3; Charlestown +2.3, Jamaica Plain +1.7; Roslindale +1.3; West Roxbury +3.3; Hyde Park +2.4) and decreased in other zip codes (Roxbury -3.2; Dorchester -7.0; Mattapan -2.3).

Table 12. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	SY20-21 Invitees	SY21-22 Invitees	SY22-23 Invitees	SY23-24 Invitees
Beacon Hill	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Downtown	0.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.0%
Chinatown	2.2%	0.6%	0.5%	3.8%
North End	0.5%	0.3%	0.0%	0.6%
Beacon Hill / West End	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%
Longwood/Fenway	2.7%	1.5%	1.7%	1.9%
Back Bay	2.0%	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%
South End	2.7%	3.2%	3.5%	2.8%
Roxbury	9.3%	7.1%	8.3%	5.1%
Dorchester	31.6%	30.9%	40.3%	33.3%
Mattapan	4.2%	7.9%	5.9%	3.6%
South Boston	2.7%	3.5%	4.0%	3.4%
East Boston	5.1%	8.2%	8.7%	7.9%
Charlestown	3.4%	2.6%	2.6%	4.9%
Jamaica Plain	4.9%	5.0%	2.8%	4.5%
Roslindale	6.1%	5.3%	5.7%	7.0%
West Roxbury	5.4%	3.5%	3.5%	6.8%
Allston	2.5%	1.2%	1.4%	1.7%
Brighton	4.2%	2.9%	3.8%	4.5%
Hyde Park	8.6%	7.1%	4.2%	6.6%
South Boston Waterfront	0.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Fenway/Kenmore	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.0%
Chestnut Hill	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%
Homeless/DCF	0.0%	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%

The percentage of students receiving invitations by race in grade 9 has fluctuated over the last four admissions cycles.

Table 13. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Race

Race	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Asian	20%	13%	17%	20%
Black	31%	27%	29%	25%
Latinx	33%	44%	38%	37%
Other	2%	3%	4%	3%
White	15%	14%	11%	15%

The racial breakdown of the incoming class at each exam school has changed over the last four admissions cycles, due to smaller invitation percentages at grade 9

Table 14. Percentage of 9th Grade Invitations by Race and School

Race	Boston Latin Academy				Boston Latin School				O'Bryant School			
	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24	SY20-21	SY21-22	SY22-23	SY23-24
Asian	14%	13%	20%	16%	27%	12%	40%	41%	20%	12%	12%	14%
Black	16%	24%	27%	23%	6%	22%	26%	14%	27%	29%	31%	29%
Latinx	25%	43%	39%	34%	12%	34%	28%	26%	34%	46%	39%	42%
Other	5%	1%	2%	5%	5%	10%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%	2%
White	40%	18%	11%	21%	50%	22%	5%	15%	17%	11%	12%	12%

Appendix

Table 15. Invited School by Rank for 7th Grade Applicants

Top Choice	Boston Latin School	Boston Latin Academy	O'Bryant School
Boston Latin School	77%	17%	6%
Boston Latin Academy	0%	98%	2%
O'Bryant School	0%	0%	100%

Table 16. Rank by Tier for 7th Grade Applicants

Tier	Boston Latin School	Boston Latin Academy	O'Bryant School
1	55%	26%	19%
2	50%	25%	24%
3	41%	35%	23%
4	50%	32%	18%
5	51%	24%	24%
6	63%	24%	13%
7	69%	19%	12%
8	74%	19%	7%

Table 17. 7th Grade Exam School Invitations by Tier

Tier	Boston Latin School	Boston Latin Academy	O'Bryant School
1	48%	31%	22%
2	43%	28%	29%
3	36%	40%	24%
4	41%	38%	21%
5	41%	30%	28%
6	50%	32%	18%
7	47%	39%	13%
8	57%	32%	12%

Table 18. 7th Grade Invitations by Sending School over Time

Sending School Name	SY20-21		SY22-23		SY23-24	
	Total Applicants	Invited	Total Applicants	Invited	Total Applicants	Invited
Murphy K-8 School	136	51%	96	96%	97	91%
Quincy Upper School	117	46%	68	96%	77	78%
Eliot K-8 Innovation School*	74	78%	69	57%	67	49%
Curley K-8 School	58	48%	44	84%	48	90%
Lyndon K-8 School*	79	58%	56	43%	41	24%
Ohrenberger School (3-8)	80	51%	42	86%	36	92%
Warren-Prescott K-8 School	52	54%	20	80%	25	80%
King Elementary School	24	21%	30	100%	24	79%
Mendell Elementary School	0	--	0	--	24	88%
Mildred Avenue K-8 School	39	13%	15	100%	22	91%
Harvard-Kent Elementary School	0	--	17	88%	20	75%
Blackstone Elementary School	0	--	0	--	20	70%
Kennedy John F Elementary School	0	--	0	--	19	89%
Henderson K-12 Inclusion School Upper	39	28%	21	90%	18	89%
Kilmer K-8 School (4-8)*	69	59%	24	38%	18	56%
Dever Elementary School	0	--	4	100%	18	94%
Hurley K-8 School	27	33%	12	83%	18	89%
Sumner Elementary School	0	--	0	--	17	65%
Hale Elementary School	0	--	12	100%	15	93%
Gardner Pilot Academy	31	26%	10	90%	15	80%
Everett Elementary School	0	--	7	57%	14	93%
Haley Pilot School	33	52%	23	87%	14	71%
Manning Elementary School*	0	--	9	44%	14	43%
Orchard Gardens K-8 School	33	15%	7	100%	14	93%
Taylor Elementary School	0	--	0	--	13	77%
Bradley Elementary School	0	--	18	100%	12	100%
Hennigan K-8 School	51	41%	7	86%	12	83%
Lee K-8 School	46	30%	13	100%	12	83%
Boston Teachers Union K-8 Pilot School*	36	53%	29	55%	12	58%
Mozart Elementary School*	0	--	0	--	11	55%
Winship Elementary School	0	--	0	--	11	73%
Roosevelt K-8 School (2-8)	28	25%	12	83%	11	45%
Otis Elementary School	0	--	11	100%	11	91%
Kenny Elementary School	0	--	16	94%	11	91%
O'Donnell Elementary School	0	--	7	100%	11	82%
Mattahunt Elementary School	0	--	0	--	11	91%
Boston Green Academy	34	29%	5	100%	10	70%
Bates Elementary School	0	--	0	--	10	70%
Condon K-8 School	61	30%	16	94%	10	70%
UP Academy Boston	69	12%	16	94%	9	89%
Guild Elementary School	0	--	7	100%	9	100%

Sending School Name	SY20-21		SY22-23		SY23-24	
	Total Applicants	Invited	Total Applicants	Invited	Total Applicants	Invited
Clap Elementary School	0	--	5	100%	9	78%
Trotter Elementary School	20	10%	4	100%	9	100%
Edison K-8 School	37	38%	10	80%	8	75%
Ellis Elementary School	0	--	0	--	8	100%
McKay K-8 School	67	21%	8	100%	8	88%
Conley Elementary School	0	--	16	75%	7	71%
Grew Elementary School	0	--	0	--	7	71%
Tynan Elementary School	0	--	0	--	7	86%
Young Achievers K-8 School	47	11%	10	90%	7	86%
Perkins Elementary School	0	--	2	100%	6	83%
Holmes Elementary School	0	--	0	--	6	83%
Alighieri Dante Montessori School*	3	67%	5	80%	6	83%
Mario Umana Academy	113	18%	12	100%	6	67%
UP Academy Dorchester	73	3%	9	89%	6	100%
Philbrick Elementary School	0	--	0	--	6	83%
Adams Elementary School	0	--	10	90%	5	100%
Kennedy Patrick J Elementary School	0	--	2	100%	5	100%
TechBoston Academy (6-12)	52	12%	9	100%	4	100%
Tobin K-8 School	17	12%	11	91%	4	100%
Frederick Pilot Middle School	62	23%	26	96%	3	100%
Hernandez K-8 School	22	23%	5	40%	3	100%
Greenwood Sarah K-8 School	39	0%	0	--	3	100%
Perry K-8 School	20	25%	5	100%	3	100%
Perry Elementary School	20	25%	5	100%	3	100%
Dearborn 6-12 STEM Academy	44	7%	9	89%	2	50%
Winthrop Elementary School	0	--	0	--	2	100%
Chittick Elementary School	0	--	0	--	2	0%
Lyon K-8 School	14	57%	9	67%	2	50%
Channing Elementary School	0	--	3	0%	2	50%
Higginson-Lewis K-8 School	34	3%	4	100%	2	100%
McKinley So. End Academy	0	--	0	--	1	100%
Mather Elementary School	0	--	0	--	1	0%
BPS Schools	2133	32%	953	83%	1031	78%
Charter Schools	281	32%	116	81%	127	72%
Private/Parochial/METCO	389	61%	161	55%	150	51%

*School that did not receive 10-points in SY23-24 admissions