



FY15 Budget Recommendation

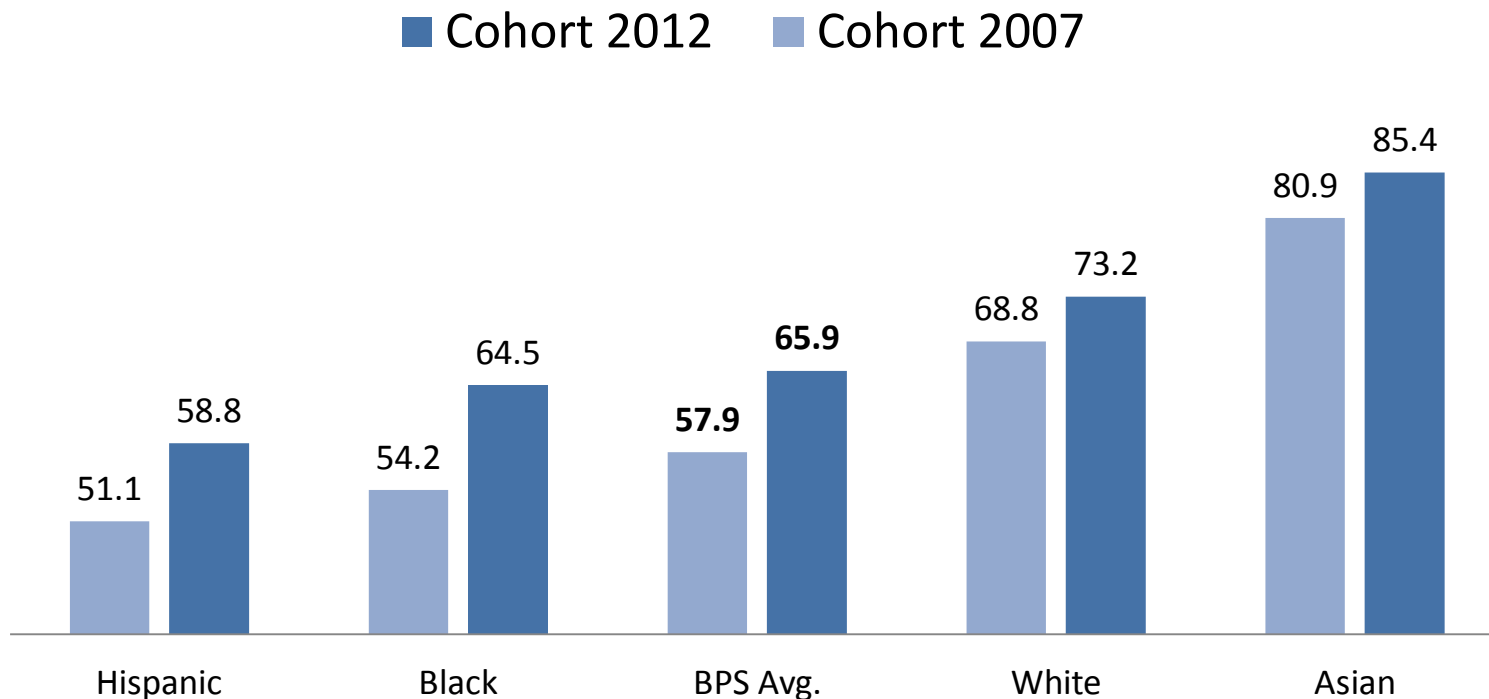
City Council Budget Hearing
May 5, 2014

“As the birthplace of public education in this nation, the Boston Public Schools is committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools. We partner with the community, families and students to develop within every learner the knowledge, skill, and character to excel in college, career, and life.”

- BPS mission statement

Our work is achieving historical results

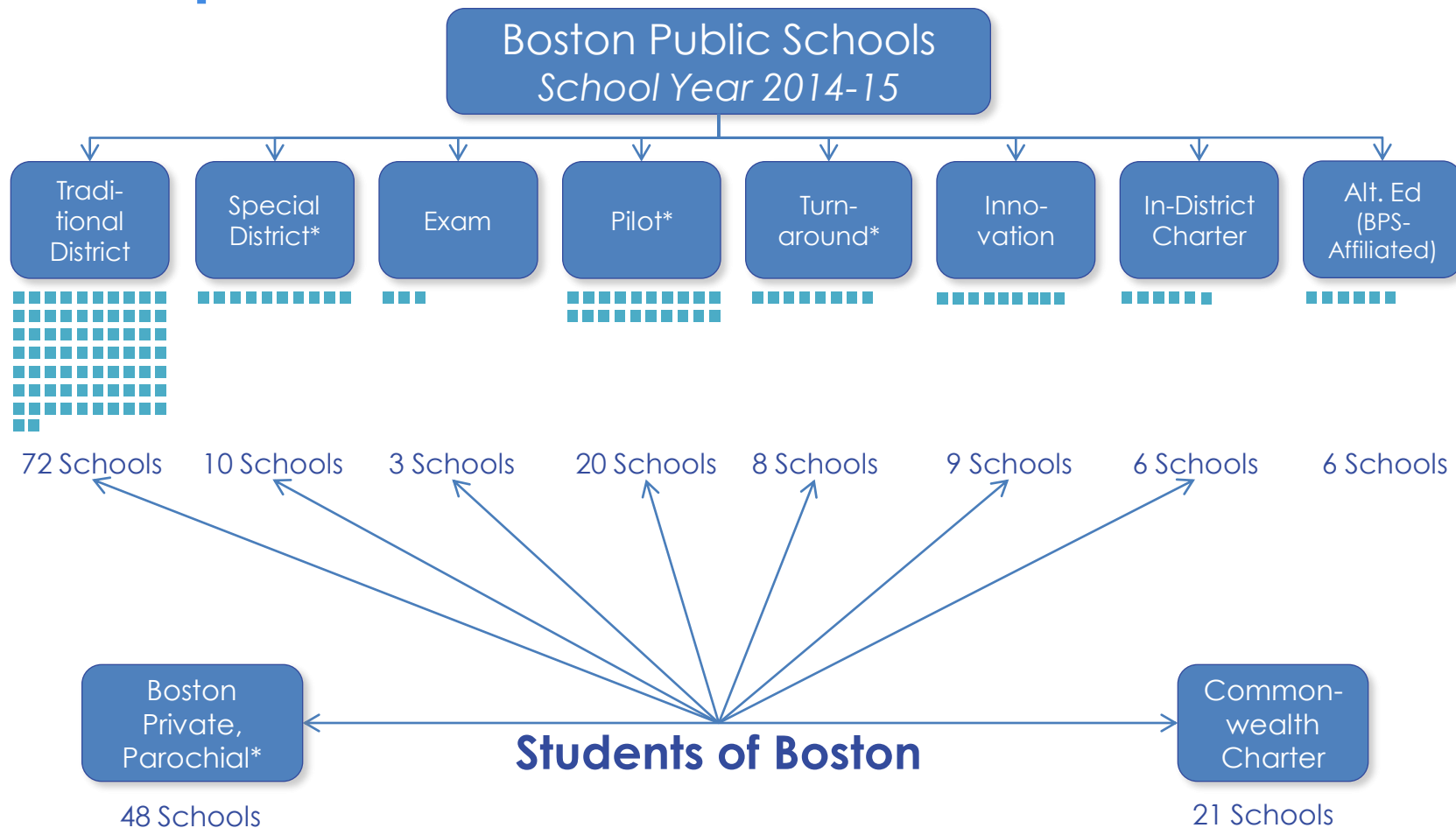
4 Year Graduation Rate by Racial / Ethnic Group (Cohort 2007 vs. 2012)



Our work is achieving historical results

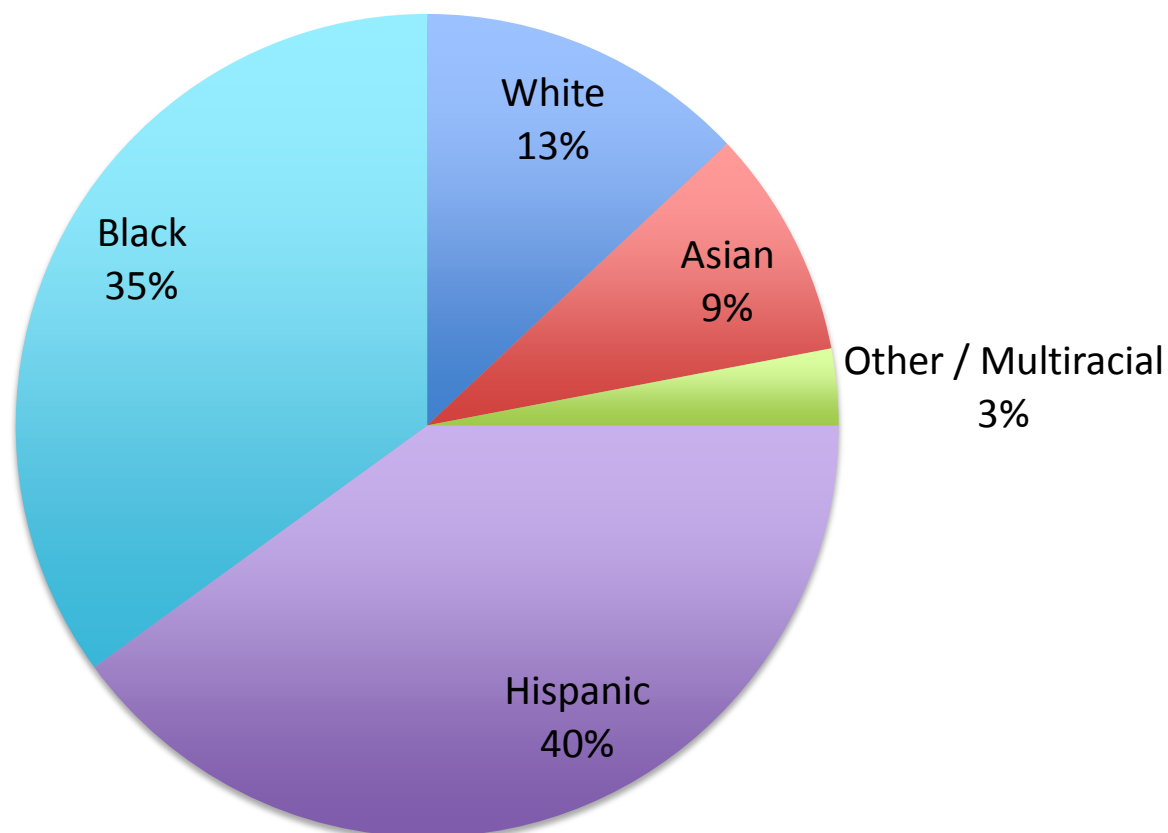
- **In 1996, fewer than one in four high school students earned passing grades on state mathematics exams. Today, 86 percent pass on their first attempt.**
- **We are closing the Achievement Gap, but we still have work to do**
 - Turnaround Schools are beating district growth averages, and 44 percent more families are selecting these schools as their first choice. Now, we must sustain this work and use these strategies to improve quality in more schools
 - A Harvard study finds that BPS early childhood education programs close achievement gaps better than any other program in the nation, but by 3rd grade, literacy trends show challenges
 - English Language Learners have increased their MCAS proficiency rates by 10 points in 3rd grade and 17 points in 10th grade since 2008

Students in the City of Boston can choose from a diverse portfolio of schools



- “Special” District includes schools for students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and alternative/over-age.
- Note that two turnaround schools are Level 5 schools. BPS will have a total of 128 schools this year.
- 2 district schools also have some curricular autonomy as “Discovery Schools” (Hernandez K-8 and Rogers MS)
- Students also attend 38 different Metco schools

School Year 2013-2014 Student Demographics



BPS FY15 Budget Overview

- The BPS general fund budget for FY15 rose \$37 million to \$974.9 million, a 3.9% increase from FY14
- Unfortunately, external funds are shrinking, and we expect a decline of \$30M compared to FY14
- This budget serves to enable our strategic work, and in FY15, that work is focused on:
 - Eliminating the **achievement gap**
 - Implementing the **Common Core Standards**
 - Providing more **fully inclusive programs** for our students with disabilities

Agenda

- What this budget accomplishes
- Where the funds come from and where they go
- Funding schools equitably and transparently
- The work ahead

We are expanding K1 seats across the city...

- We are investing \$1.0 million to add 106 new K1 seats at programs across the city
- As we expand our K1 programming, we are focused on maintaining the high quality that has made these programs a national model
- We use 3 key criteria to guide K1 expansion:
 - Programs are sustainable
 - Classes are spread across the city
 - Additional classes offer a positive increase in seats (not a repurposing of existing classrooms)



...extending hiring autonomy to all schools to hire qualified, diverse candidates early...

- **\$400,000** to support Teacher Diversity Action Plan
- **\$6.1 million** to make our early hiring initiative a success



- \$1.2 million budgeted centrally to help schools offer stipends for close to 1,000 open posted positions
- \$4.9 million to support professional development and transition support for excessed educators
- We are also seeking external funding to support this initiative

...introducing a new school choice process...

- We are moving forward deliberately to implement the new process of student assignment, including the recommendations from the External Advisory Committee:
 - More **K-8 pathways** (Blackstone, Hennigan, Trotter, UP Dorchester)
 - More **inclusive and dual language** program options
 - **Overlays for English Language Learners (ELLs) and Special Education** to provide services closer to home
- The associated costs of these changes are built into the school funding process through enrollment projections and start-up costs for new classrooms
- We are also working toward **improving our school facilities**
 - General fund costs for the facilities changes approved in November and December 2013 add up to approximately \$1.6 million in FY15

...preparing to implement the Common Core standards and PARCC assessments...

- **\$1 million in equipment** and another **\$1 million in upgrades to technology infrastructure** in preparation for the online PARCC assessments*



...renewing our investments in technology to support teachers, families, and students...

- **\$1.2 million** to support Laptops for Learning
- **\$675,000** for continued use of the Student Information System

...investing in upgrades to our facilities...

- an increase of **\$1 million** to meet deferred maintenance needs



...supporting Extended Learning Time (ELT) in schools across the district...



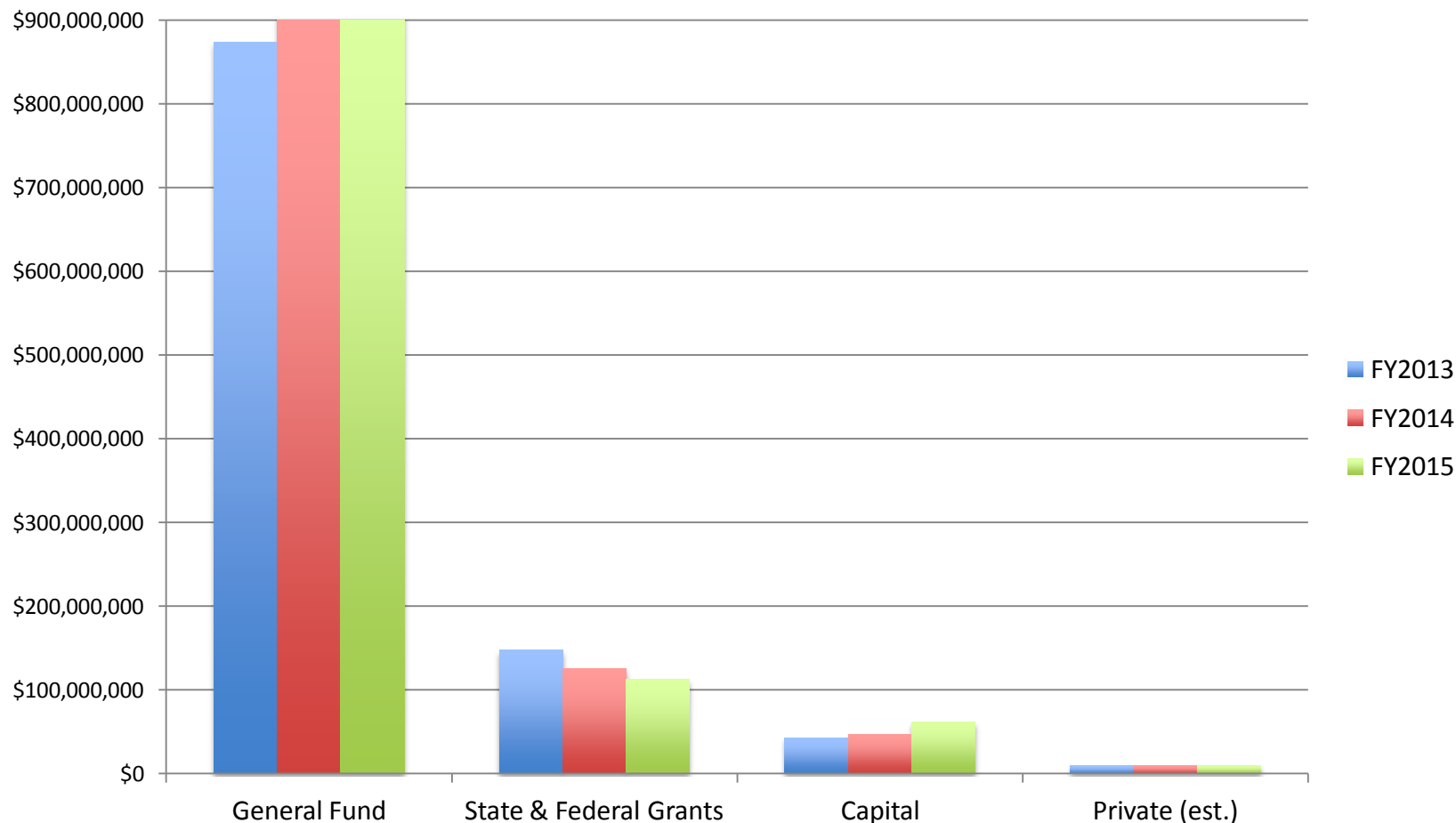
- **\$2.75 million** for ELT at current and former turnaround schools and **\$2.5 million** for ELT at other BPS schools
- **\$1.4 million** for Acceleration Academies during school vacations

...and making additional investments in services for some of our highest-need students.

- **\$3.2 million** for students with Emotional Impairment
- **\$5 million** for English Language Learners in grades 6-12
- **\$1.5 million** for inclusion specialists in 26 schools

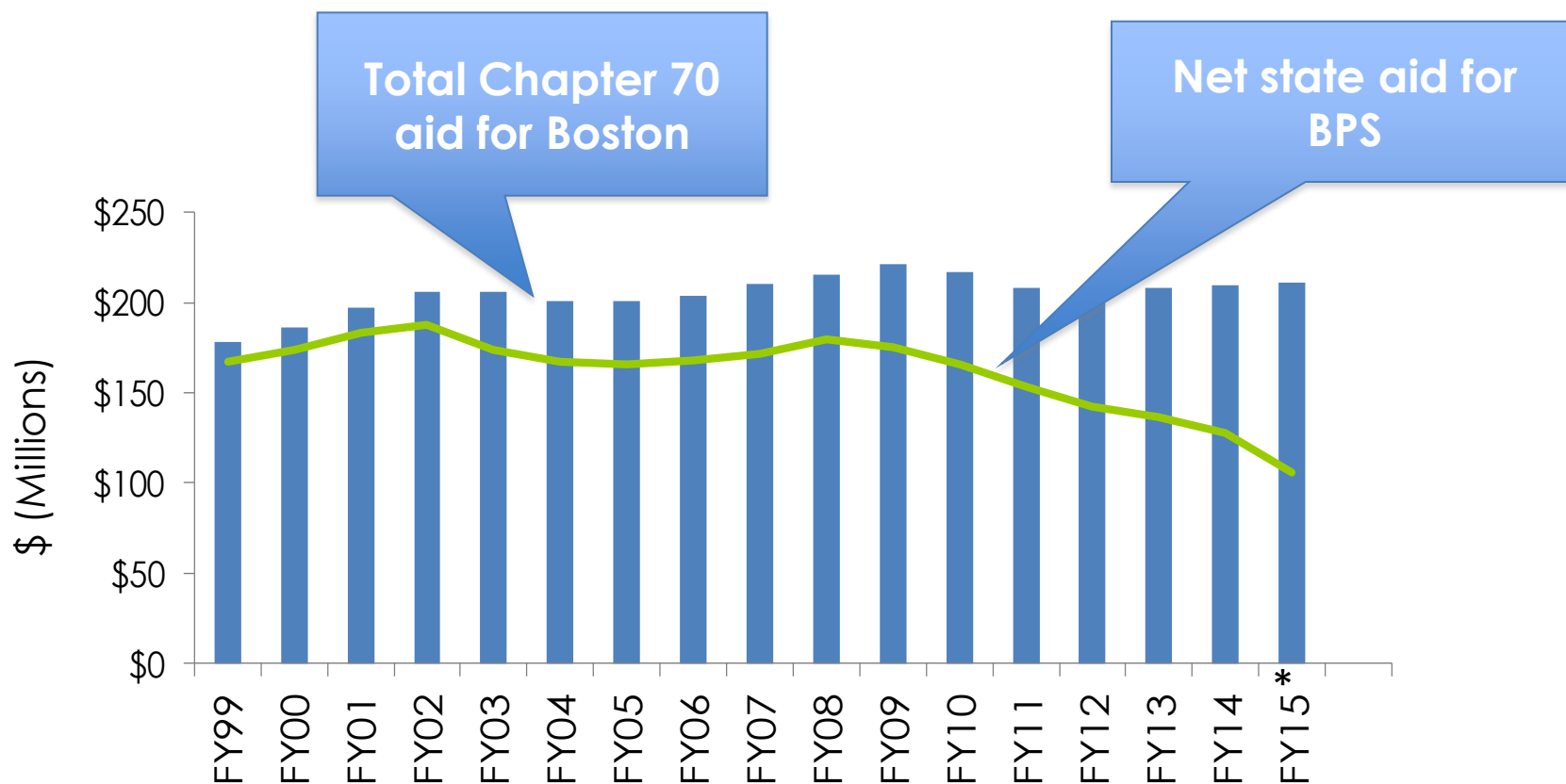
Where do our funds come from?

Boston Public Schools FY2015 All Funds Budget



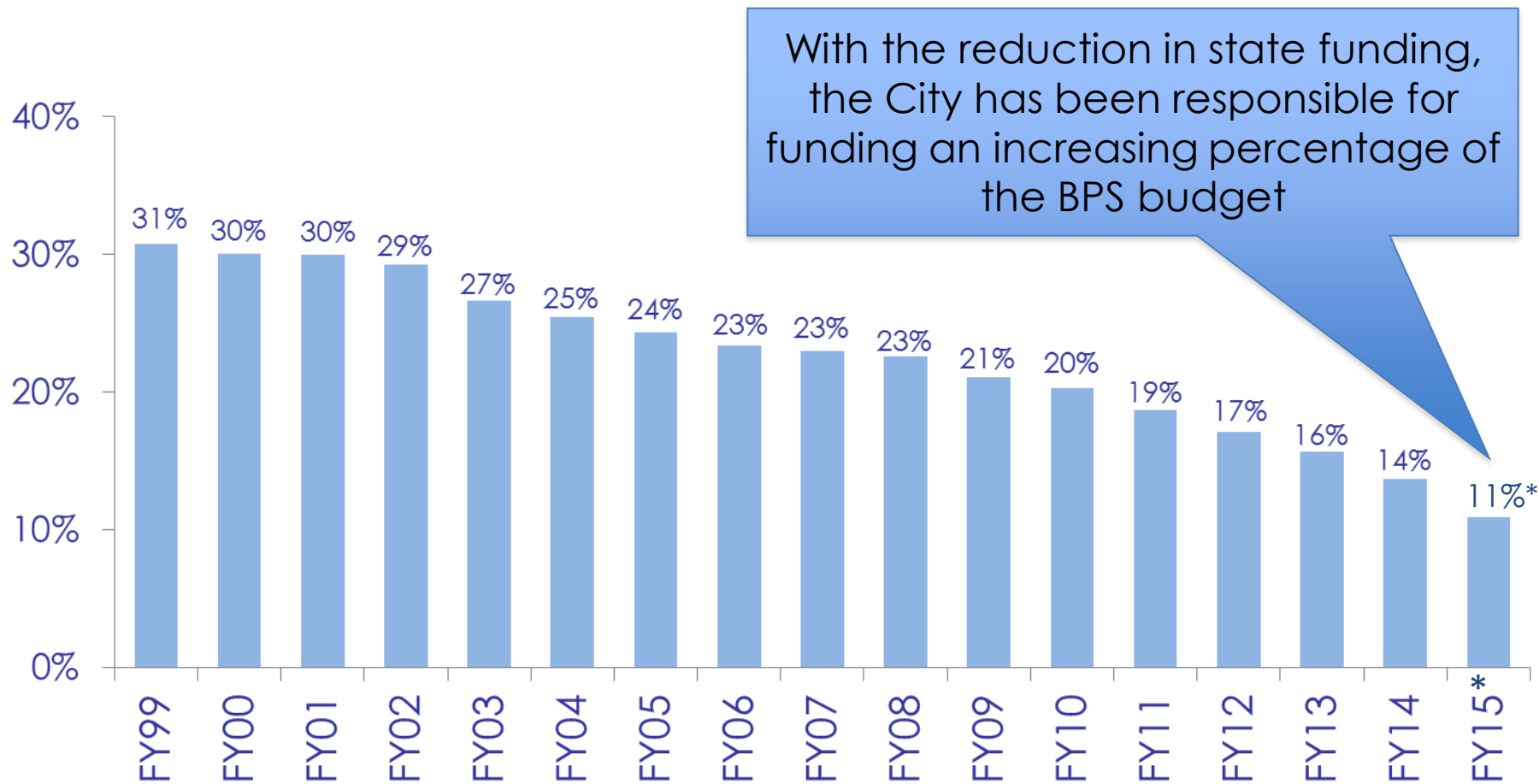
**BPS's general fund budget increased by \$144 million in three years,
While losing \$49 million in state and federal grants**

State requirements on funding for charters have led to decreases in net Chapter 70 for BPS...



*FY15 figures are estimates based on the Governor's budget proposal

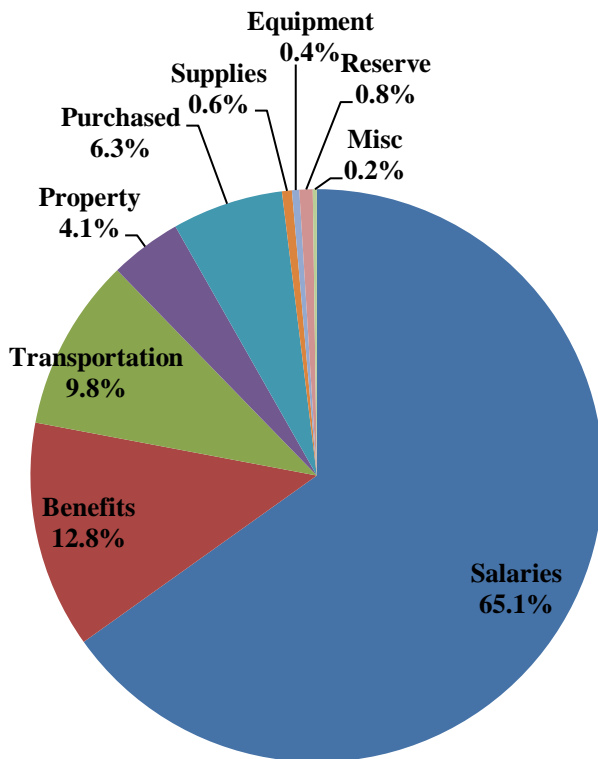
...and the portion of BPS's General Fund budget covered by net Chapter 70 has declined



*FY15 figures are estimates based on the Governor's budget proposal

What do we buy with our funds

FY15 Budget by Account Code Summary General Fund

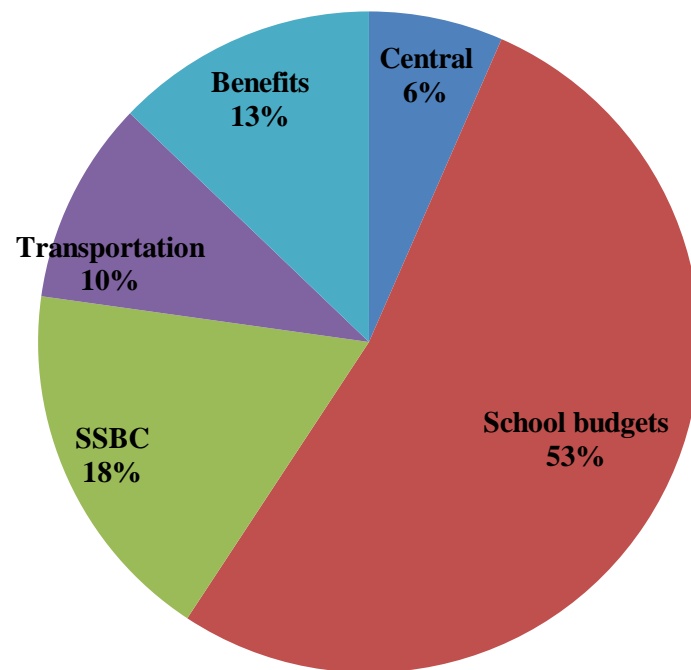


Salaries	\$635,021,049	65.1%
Benefits	\$125,082,035	12.8%
Transportation	\$95,134,240	9.7%
Property Services	\$39,552,533	4.1%
Purchased Services	\$61,124,734	6.3%
Supplies	\$5,455,388	0.6%
Equipment	\$4,023,254	0.4%
Reserve	\$7,318,388	0.8%
Miscellaneous	\$2,215,079	0.2%
TOTAL	\$974,928,600	100%

Central office services represent approximately ~6% of the BPS budget

- **More than 90% of funding goes to schools**
 - This includes direct funding to schools, centrally allocated services to schools, and the vast majority of employee benefits
 - School Services Budgeted Centrally include utility costs, custodians, and occupational/physical therapists

**FY15 Budget by Service Area
(General Fund)**



Sources of school funding



1.	Weighted Student Funding	\$452M
2.	Special programs (non-WSF)	\$28M
3.	Title I funding	\$14M
4.	Standard allocations built into school budgets (nurses, special education coordinators, and food services staff)	\$22M
5.	Rules-based soft landings	\$6M
6.	Buybacks for Autonomous Schools	\$2M
7.	Additional adjustments ¹	\$4M
Total:		\$528M

¹Additional adjustments include EEC/ELC supplements and other non-rules-based allocations

Notes: These figures do not include the school services that are budgeted centrally. All figures are current as of January 31st and may change as the budgeting process continues.

Weighted Student Funding (WSF) reflects our principles as a district

Principle	Description
Student focus	Provides resources based on students, not on buildings, adults, or programs
Equity	Allocate similar funding levels to students with similar characteristics, regardless of which school they attend
Transparency	Easily understood by all stakeholders
Differentiation based on need	Allocate resources through a comprehensive framework that is based on student needs
Predictability	School allocation process is predictable and is structured to minimize school-level disruption
School empowerment	Empowers school-based decision-making to effectively use resources
Alignment with district strategy	Supports the Acceleration Agenda, our five-year strategic plan

Our starting point is to fund the needs of students through Weighted Student Funding (WSF)

- Students receive a per-pupil allocation that is weighted based on certain characteristics:
 - Grade level
 - Program (e.g., English Language Learners, Special Education, Vocational Education)
 - Student characteristics (e.g., poverty)
 - Academic performance (e.g., high risk)
- Schools receive a minimal foundation budget plus the sum of the allocation for each student

Example weights:

Type	Weight	FY15 Funding
Base weight	1.0	\$3,923
High Risk (Grade 9)	0.2	\$785
ELL (Grade K0-5, ELD Level 1-3)	0.09	\$353
Student with Disabilities: Low Severity (Resource Room)	1.0	\$3,923
Student with Disabilities: Autism	4.3	\$16,868

What is a soft landing?

- In general, we expect schools to meet their needs using their WSF allocations
- In some cases, however, schools may require additional allocations because of extraordinary circumstances
- In these cases, the district may provide a “soft landing” (one-time funding)
- Guiding principles on soft landings:
 - This funding is a **temporary** measure to address particular challenges, not a permanent allocation
 - The situations that may require soft landings **change from year to year** as the context changes
 - All soft landings are **rules-based**, and rules are applied uniformly across all schools

Soft landings in FY15

For FY15, \$8 million in **rules-based soft landings** have been issued to schools in 6 categories:

1. Supports for under-enrolled classrooms due to district priorities (**SPED and ELL Overlays, inclusion rollout**, programs being phased out)
2. Clinical/administrative supports for substantially separate classes for emotional impairment
3. Supports for **Primary Transition Classes (PTC classes) being phased out**
4. Supports for under-enrolled classes for Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE students)
5. Supports for **inclusion start-up for schools implementing formal K2 inclusion for the first time**
6. English as a Second Language (ESL) supports for English Language Learners in general education seats

We will focus on a significant amount of work in the coming year

- How to rethink the funding support for high needs students at the Mary Lyons
- Analysis of the adequacy of WSF foundation funding
- How best to fund and deliver alternative education
- Sustainable funding for dual language education
- How the Early Education Centers / Early Learning Centers can be better incorporated into the WSF model

For more information:

Website: bostonpublicschools.org/budget

Email: budget@bostonpublicschools.org

Twitter: #bpsbudget

A number of documents are available on our website:

- Budget Presentation
- FY15 Budget Memo
- FY15 Allocations
- FY15 WSF School-by-School comparison
- WSF Templates for all schools
- Preliminary budget by Account Code summary
- Preliminary budget by Program Code summary
- Preliminary budget by Department Code summary