

Planning for the Future

Superintendent's Acceleration Agenda, Phase II: **Strengthening Operations**

BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS • DR. CAROL R. JOHNSON, SUPERINTENDENT • MAY 2008

Phase II of the Superintendent's Acceleration Agenda strengthens the district's **operational functions** in order to complement and support the **academic priorities**.

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CONTEXT

- Declining school-age population, lower enrollment
- Aging and under-utilized facilities
- Limited state and federal funding
- Complex student assignment and choice process
- Increasing transportation costs
- Increased market competition

OPPORTUNITIES

- Greater flexibility for new and expanded programming
- Investment in early education (Montessori, K1)
- Seamless educational experience (K-8 pathways)
- Equitable distribution of special education, English Language Learners and Advanced Work Class programs
- Arts, music, athletics and enrichment
- Alternative education options for off-track students
- Expansion of innovative programs (International Baccalaureate, Newcomers' Academy)
- Extended day and after-school programming

COMPONENTS

- **Facilities:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of all buildings, with the goal of reprogramming schools based on academic objectives, student needs, equitable distribution of programs across the district, and resource availability.
- **Transportation:** Analyze and implement enhanced routing options and other opportunities to maximize operational efficiencies.
- **Finances:** Design and institute a multi-year budget planning process and establish an Institutional Advancement Office to identify and secure new resources for the district's priorities.

TIMELINE

May 2008:

- Present framework and preliminary work plan to the Boston School Committee and the community.

May – September 2008:

- Conduct comprehensive needs assessments (facilities, academic programs, student performance data) to prioritize opportunities for school reprogramming.
- Identify and execute measures for immediate, short-term cost savings in transportation.
- Develop process and framework multi-year budget planning.
- Present findings of needs assessments and preliminary recommendations to the Boston School Committee and affected stakeholders for feedback.
- Launch Institutional Advancement Office.

By October 2008:

- School Committee vote on facilities to be reprogrammed for 2009-2010 school year.

By December 2008:

- Identify additional opportunities for short-term and long-term cost savings in transportation, based in part on facilities reprogramming.



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