

BUDGET TERMS

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Chapter 70: The major State Education Aid fund to cities/towns for Education Reform.

Adjusted Chapter 70: Chapter 70 funds minus money paid to Charter Schools.

City Funds for BPS: The city contribution to the “General Fund” budget for the Boston Public Schools.

Chapter 636: State grants to promote desegregation and parent information.

Class size reduction: State grant to reduce class size.

External Funds: Funds beyond Chapter 70 State Aid and basic City Funds for BPS. Includes formula grants (funds, such as Title I, awarded on the basis of specific factors like the number of children eligible for free lunch, etc.) from the federal government and the state, and competitive grants.

All Funds Budget: The total of General Fund and External Funds, but does not include the Annenberg Challenge Fund, Carnegie, or other private funds and staff going directly into the schools.

Boston Parent Organizing Network
C/O Institute for Responsive Education
21 Lake Hall
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115

Massachusetts Advocacy Center
100 Boylston St., Suite 200
Boston, MA 02116

Citywide Parents Council
21 DeCard St.
Boston, MA 02121

MASS ADVOCACY CENTER
BOSTON PARENT ORGANIZING
NETWORK
CITYWIDE PARENTS COUNCIL
VOICES FOR CHILDREN

Information Bulletin

THE BUDGET of the BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUDGET PROCESS

and

PARENT ROLE

for further information, contact:

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How Parents Can Make the School Budget Work for All Children

Parent representatives on the School Site Council have a clearly defined role in approving the school budget.

The School Site Council at your school must approve an “all funds budget” as part as part of the Whole School Improvement Plan in June (for the upcoming school year)

and

“sign off” on the principal’s budget proposal in December (for the following school year).

What Parents Can Do

Ask your principal to schedule a meeting for all parents to explain how the proposed budget meets the needs of all children in your school.

KEY ISSUES

WHAT CAN PARENTS DO?

- 1) *Ask the questions – Demand answers*
- 2) *If you don’t ask, no one will answer!*
- 3) *At your School Site Council, the School Committee Budget Hearings, at the State Legislature*

ASK IF THERE IS ENOUGH MONEY FOR:

- *Parent Involvement and Advocacy?*
- *Class size reduction?*
- *Books and school supplies?*
- *Building maintenance and repair?*
- *Support for students at risk of failing?*
- *Transition programs?*
- *Individual plans for failing 10th graders?*
- *Staff Development & Mentoring?*
- *Math and Literacy programs?*
- *High School restructuring?*
- *Special Education?*
- *Bilingual and Limited English Proficiency?*

THE PROCESS & TIMETABLE

September-October

Enrollment Projections

November

Preliminary School Allocations Developed

December

Schools and School Site Councils sign off on School Budgets

January

Schools review probable staffing
Governor Submits State Budget

February - First Wednesday

Superintendent Submits Budget to School Committee

February/March

Budget Hearings in Communities
and Court Street

March - Fourth Wednesday

School Committee votes on Budget

April

Mayor submits budget to City Council

May

City Council Hearings on Budget

June/July

State Budget determines Chapter 70
State Aid for Boston AND
School Site Council approves Whole School
Improvement Plan with All Schools Budget

