

May 2011

New BPS Schools to Open in September

Enrollment in traditional BPS schools will continue to drop as schools with more flexibility grow

Taking further advantage of the Race to the Top school reform law (Ch. 12, Acts of 2010), the Boston Public Schools (BPS) will open two new in-district [Horace Mann](#) charter schools and the first [Innovation](#) school in September 2011. Growth of both types of school can be expected in future years as the BPS seeks to expand the number of schools with added features believed to be more beneficial to improving student achievement. These schools will also provide the BPS with alternatives for Boston parents and students, allowing the BPS to be more competitive with Commonwealth Charter schools.

Expansion among these more flexible schools comes as enrollment in traditional schools declines. The combination of eight traditional school closings, Pilot school enrollment increases the three new school openings next year is expected to result in an enrollment decrease of 1,646 students or 3.7% at traditional BPS schools in September. The expected change in schools by type in SY11-12 is shown below.

School Openings/Closings in Boston
SY10-11 and SY11-12

Type	SY10-11	SY11-12	Change SY10-11 to SY11-12
Traditional*	101	88	-13
Horace Mann	2	4	2
Innovation	0	1	1
Pilot	21	21	0
Commonwealth Charter	12	16	4

*Variance is -13 schools due to 8 school closings and the merger of 5 schools.
Source: Boston Public Schools

Flexible In-District Schools - Pilot, Horace Mann and Innovation schools have more flexibility over staff selection, scheduling, budget,

and extended time than BPS traditional schools. Unlike Pilot schools, the creation of Innovation and Horace Mann charter schools is less dependent on union approval. Recent efforts to expand Pilot schools were not supported by the Boston Teachers' Union. Innovation schools allow expedited arbitration for contract waivers. Horace Mann schools require discussions with the unions, but if agreement is not reached within 30 days before school starts, the contract waivers sought are implemented.

Horace Mann Schools - UP Academy and Boston Green Academy will become in-district Horace Mann charter schools opening in September 2011. Boston is authorized to establish two more Horace Mann charter schools in the coming years. Horace Mann school enrollment will increase by 783 students or 135.7% in SY11-12 over SY10-11 levels.

Innovation Schools - Boston's first Innovation school will open this September in the Roger Clapp facility with 158 students. The BPS received 15 Innovation school applications this winter, nine for new schools and six for conversion of BPS schools. Seven Innovation schools are in the planning phase and may open within the next few years.

Support for innovative in-district and charter schools is growing in Boston. On May 4th, business and civic leaders gathered for "Boston Schools Racing to the Top," a forum sponsored by Boston Leaders in Education and 23 other organizations including the Research Bureau, that showcased eight BPS schools and six charter schools. The BPS schools included traditional (3), Pilot (3) and Horace Mann (2) schools.