

September 2010

A New Beginning at 12 BPS Turnaround Schools

New authority and \$22.5 million applied to transform underperforming schools

The start of this school year in Boston marks one of the first efforts in the state to transform underperforming schools under the education reform law approved in January ([Ch. 12 of the Acts of 2010](#)). Boston Public Schools (BPS) administrators completed turnaround plans for 11 underperforming schools this summer and received \$22.5 million in federal School Implementation Grants (SIG) for 10 schools. The BPS is embarking on a three-year effort to improve student achievement and to avoid state takeover using SIG funds and greater administrative and personnel flexibility.

Turnaround schools will utilize SIG funds to lengthen the school day, hire instructional leaders, and provide customized academic and social and emotional support services. Plans for the Agassiz Elementary were completed in the summer, but not for Burke High. The two schools will seek second round SIG funds in December. The two schools will utilize Title 1 ARRA and state bridge funding for expanded time this year.

Chapter 12 grants the Superintendent authority to implement these reforms subject to union appeal and an expedited conciliation process if necessary. In June, a three member Joint Resolution Committee (JRC) decided on several BTU appeals. As a result, teachers will provide an additional 90 hours of instructional time. Also, teachers will participate in an additional 100 hours of professional development and receive a BPS stipend of \$4,103. Other pay incentives are available for teachers in turnaround schools as well.

The BPS based the redesign plans on federal turnaround and transformation models. For both intervention models, the Superintendent had to reassign principals serving more than two years. At turnaround schools, teachers had to reapply for their positions, and no more than 50% of a school's staff could be reassigned. Ultimately, 125 teachers either left their schools voluntarily or were reassigned, and 5 new principals were installed.

SIG Funds for Boston Schools

FY11-FY13

School	Amount (in millions)
Orchard Gardens Elementary ¹	\$3.7
John P. Holland Elementary ²	\$2.9
English High ²	\$2.8
Blackstone Elementary ¹	\$2.4
Paul A. Dever Elementary ¹	\$2.3
William Monroe Trotter Elementary ¹	\$1.6
Elihu Greenwood Elementary ²	\$1.4
Dearborn Elementary ²	\$1.3
Harbor Elementary ¹	\$1.2
John F. Kennedy Elementary ²	\$1.2
District-Level Activities	\$1.7
Total	\$22.5

¹Turnaround School, ²Transformation School

The bulk of BPS's turnaround schools are located in a geographic area labeled the Circle of Promise. Students in this area will also receive wraparound city services to address their non-academic needs.