

March 18, 2020

Via Email

Shawn A. Williams, Esq.
Director of Public Records
Records Access Officer
City of Boston
1 City Hall Plaza, Room 615
Boston, MA 02201
publicrecords@boston.gov

RE: Public Records Request Regarding Boston Public Schools' (BPS) Exam School Admissions

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter constitutes a request under the Public Records Law, G.L. c. 66, § 10, for public records in the custody of the Boston Public Schools (BPS). As used in this request, “record” and “records” are defined as in the Public Records Law; “Exam school(s)” refers to Boston Latin School (BLS), Boston Latin Academy (BLA), and the John D. O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science (JDO); and the “Exam School Initiative” refers to the program administered by BPS to assist students in preparing for the Independent School Entrance Exam (ISEE) and hosted at BLS.

Unless otherwise stated, the time period for which records are requested is January 1, 2019 to the present.

I hereby request copies of the following documents:

1. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting the number, percentage, and demographics, including race, zip code, gender, and school of attendance upon application, of all students who applied to any of the three exam schools for admission in 2020.
2. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting the number, percentage, and demographics, including race, zip code, gender, and school of attendance upon application, of all students invited to enroll at BLA in 2020.
3. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting the number, percentage, and demographics, including race, zip code, gender, and school of attendance upon application, of all students invited to enroll at BLS in 2020.

4. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting the number, percentage, and demographics, including race, zip code, gender, and school of attendance upon application, of all students invited to enroll at JDO in 2020.
5. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting the number and demographics, including race, zip code, gender, and school of attendance upon application, of students who participated in the Exam School Initiative in 2019.
6. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting the number, percentage, and demographics, including race, zip code, gender, and school of attendance upon application, of participants in the Exam School Initiative who were invited to enroll at BLA, BLS, and/or JDO in 2020.
7. All records referring to, indicating or reflecting changes to the exam school admission policy considered, proposed, or reviewed by BPS.
8. All records referring to, indicating, or reflecting the Request for Proposal (RFP) published by Boston Public Schools for a new examination for exam school admissions and any responses received to the RFP, including any requirement that a new examination be subject to a validity study or be tailored to the Boston Public Schools curriculum.

As this request involves a matter of public concern, we ask that all fees associated with this request be waived pursuant to 950 C.M.R. § 32.06(5). The purpose of this request is to gain information about the exam school admissions process and the success of BPS' efforts to increase racial and economic diversity in exam school applicants and enrollees. The information will not be used for any commercial purpose. If the waiver is denied and you expect the fee to exceed \$10.00, please provide a detailed fee estimate.

The Public Records Law requires that you comply with this request within 10 days following receipt. If your response to any portion of the request is that any record or portion of it is not public, please set forth in writing the specific reasons for such denial, including which specific exemption you believe applies.

To the extent that you have provided us with responsive records in connection with our prior public record requests, those records need not be produced again. I can be reached at lsampson@lawyersforcivilrights.org or 617-988-0609 with any questions or concerns regarding this request.

Thank you for your time and prompt attention to this request.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Sampson".

Lauren Sampson
Staff Attorney
Lawyers for Civil Rights

cc: Cathy Lizotte, Legal Advisor to Boston Public Schools