



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

June 22, 2010

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I retransmit herewith an appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools for Fiscal Year 2011, in the amount of \$821.4 million, submitted pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991.

In this difficult economic time, I remain firm in my commitment to the City's children. This budget represents a general fund increase of \$3.5 million from the FY2010 appropriation. However, we are expecting a \$2.5 million reduction from what we had assumed in April for general fund Chapter 70 education aid from the Commonwealth. It is anticipated that the School Department will receive approximately \$2.5 million in additional state grant resources for FY11 supported by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Despite the reduction in general fund state aid, I will maintain the School Department's general fund appropriation of \$821.4 million as submitted to you in April, which, when combined with state funding results in a \$6 million increase over FY10.

We know that the custodial force in our schools is vital not only during school hours but also is a key component of many of our afterschool and Saturday programs. The increase in school funding will be used to restore forty-two of the custodial positions eliminated in the budget submitted to you in April.

While this budget incorporates many difficult decisions, it also includes key investments to accelerate the academic achievement of all our children. It builds on reforms that have increased the graduation rate, reduced the drop out rate to its lowest point in two decades and increased achievement scores.

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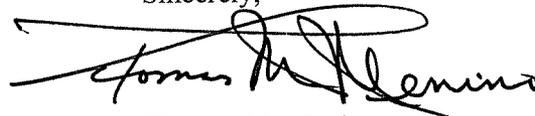
The FY11 Boston Public Schools budget supports early childhood education for three-, four-, and five-year-olds to stop achievement gaps before they start. It includes an additional \$11.7 million in funds to support programs and services for over 24,000 children for whom English is not their first language. This budget also provides extra support for students with disabilities, including funding to adopt a state-of-the-art information management system and an electronic Individual Education Plan system.

In FY11, the Boston Public Schools will leverage available funds from state, federal and private sources to turn around our struggling schools, expand programs that matter most to our parents and children and invest in our future. The Boston Public Schools plans to use available Massachusetts School Improvement funds to spur dramatic improvements in twelve state-designated Turnaround Schools. With support from EdVestors, the Boston Public Schools is targeting \$700,000 to expand arts and music programming that families value highly.

Further, the Boston Public Schools will also use the final year of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to advance important work such as monitoring student progress, improving literacy instruction, increasing access to rigorous math and science coursework, expanding safety nets for students at risk of dropping out, and increasing learning time. ARRA funds will also be used to support critical classroom positions that would otherwise not have funding, and to mitigate reductions to the "circuit breaker" funding that the Commonwealth provides to offset extraordinary costs of special education students.

I respectfully request your support of the FY11 appropriation for the Boston Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Menino". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

ORDERED: That pursuant to Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936, as amended by Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982, and as further amended by Chapter 701 of the Acts of 1986, Chapter 613 of the Acts of 1987, and Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, to meet the current operating expenses of the School Department in the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2011, the sum of EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FOUR DOLLARS (\$821,382,404) be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, said sum to be raised by taxation pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws:

Boston School Department \$821,382,404

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**



WILLIAM F. BINNOTT *SN*
CORPORATION COUNSEL