

Survey on Views of the Boston Public Schools
 Topline Results

Field dates	Interview Count
July 15 – August 2, 2021	837
November 9 – 21, 2021	843
March 22 – April 12, 2022	856
July 21 - August 4, 2022	845

Which of the following best describes the school where your child(ren) will attend this coming school year?
[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY]

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
A district public school in Boston	86%	81%	85%	82%
A charter school	20%	22%	18%	21%
A public school outside Boston	2%	1%	3%	2%
A private school	3%	4%	4%	4%
Home school	<1%	1%	1%	1%
Don't know / Refused	0%	0%	0%	0%

Thinking specifically of your children who are enrolled in Boston Public Schools, either district or charter schools. What grade(s) is/are your child(ren) entering this fall? **[ALLOW MULTIPLE RESPONSES, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. PROBE IF NEEDED: and your other children?**

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Kindergarten	17%	17%	19%	14%
First	14%	12%	12%	15%
Second	14%	13%	10%	11%
Third	15%	13%	15%	9%
Fourth	15%	12%	12%	13%
Fifth	13%	12%	9%	13%
Sixth	13%	12%	12%	12%
Seventh	13%	11%	9%	11%
Eighth	10%	11%	10%	11%
Ninth / Freshman	11%	10%	13%	11%
Tenth / Sophomore	7%	12%	10%	12%
Eleventh / Junior	9%	10%	12%	12%
Twelfth / Senior	7%	9%	8%	12%
Don't know / Refused	<1%	1%	1%	1%

(Does your child / Do any of your children) attend one of the city’s exam schools, which includes Boston Latin School, Boston Latin Academy, or the John D O’Bryant School of Mathematics and Science?

Yes	24%
No	75%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

How closely do you follow news about the public schools in your area?

Very closely	51%
Somewhat closely	34%
Not too closely	11%
Not at all	4%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%

In the following sections, we're going to ask you two different questions for every subject. The first question will ask about your personal opinion on a topic. The second question will ask what you think *most* parents of students in the Boston Public Schools system would say on that same topic. As a reminder, the Boston Public Schools system – also referred to as ‘the BPS system’ -- is the district administrator overseeing a system of 125 schools serving the city of Boston.

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you personally with the Boston Public Schools system?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very satisfied	41%	37%	37%	29%
Somewhat satisfied	44%	39%	41%	43%
Somewhat dissatisfied	8%	12%	13%	15%
Very dissatisfied	5%	10%	7%	11%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	2%	1%	1%

And overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied do you think most parents in the Boston Public Schools community are with the Boston Public Schools system?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very satisfied	25%	19%	23%	19%
Somewhat satisfied	43%	39%	45%	39%
Somewhat dissatisfied	19%	23%	19%	23%
Very dissatisfied	5%	11%	7%	14%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	8%	6%	5%

As you may know, the Boston Public Schools system says it is “*committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools.*” In your view, how well is the Boston Public Schools system living up to this commitment?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very well	35%	30%	27%	25%
Somewhat well	48%	39%	42%	42%
Not too well	12%	18%	20%	22%
Not at all	4%	9%	7%	9%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	4%	3%	2%

Again, the Boston Public Schools system says it is “*committed to transforming the lives of all children through exemplary teaching in a world-class system of innovative, welcoming schools.*” How well do you think most parents in the BPS community would say the Boston Public Schools system is living up to this commitment?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very well	28%	24%	24%	21%
Somewhat well	45%	39%	43%	41%
Not too well	16%	20%	22%	23%
Not at all	4%	9%	6%	11%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	7%	5%	4%

As you may know, the Boston Public Schools system says that they “partner with the community, families, and students.” In your view, how well would say the Boston Public Schools system is partnering with you?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very well	43%	38%	33%	31%
Somewhat well	36%	34%	39%	39%
Not too well	14%	17%	16%	18%
Not at all	6%	10%	9%	10%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	2%	3%	2%

Again, as you may know, the Boston Public Schools system says that they “partner with the community, families, and students.” How well do you think most parents in the BPS community would say Boston Public Schools is partnering with them?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very well	31%	27%	27%	25%
Somewhat well	44%	37%	41%	43%
Not too well	15%	21%	21%	22%
Not at all	3%	7%	5%	6%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	7%	6%	4%

If you had to say, whose interests do you think the Boston Public Schools system is most focused on serving? Pick up to your top two.

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Parents	23%	23%	24%	23%
Teachers	34%	36%	35%	33%
Students	54%	44%	44%	43%
The Superintendent / BPS system leaders	23%	26%	29%	31%
Politicians	20%	22%	23%	24%
The local community	17%	10%	13%	15%
Some other group	1%	3%	2%	4%
Don't know / Refused	4%	7%	6%	4%

And whose interests do you think most parents in the BPS community would say the Boston Public Schools system is most focused on serving? Pick up to your top two.

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Parents	18%	17%	21%	21%
Teachers	32%	36%	35%	34%
Students	52%	41%	41%	39%
The Superintendent / BPS system leaders	20%	26%	30%	33%
Politicians	19%	22%	20%	23%
The local community	17%	11%	13%	15%
Some other group	1%	1%	2%	2%
Don't know / Refused	10%	11%	8%	7%

How engaged do you want to be with your **GRADE LEVEL** child's education?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very engaged	74%	78%	79%	83%
Somewhat engaged	20%	19%	18%	15%
Not too engaged	4%	2%	2%	2%
Not at all engaged	2%	<1%	1%	0%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%	<1%	<1%	<1%

And how engaged do you think most parents in the BPS community want to be with their children's education?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very engaged	45%	49%	54%	52%
Somewhat engaged	39%	37%	35%	35%
Not too engaged	7%	6%	6%	8%
Not at all engaged	1%	1%	2%	1%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	7%	3%	4%

Next, how engaged do you feel the Boston Public Schools system enables you to be with your **GRADE LEVEL** child's education?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very engaged	54%	45%	46%	45%
Somewhat engaged	34%	36%	40%	37%
Not too engaged	7%	12%	9%	12%
Not at all engaged	3%	5%	3%	5%
Don't Know / Refused	2%	2%	1%	2%

And how engaged do you think most parents in the BPS community feel the Boston Public Schools systems enables them to be with their children's education?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Very engaged	36%	32%	37%	37%
Somewhat engaged	45%	44%	39%	38%
Not too engaged	11%	12%	14%	15%
Not at all engaged	3%	5%	4%	5%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	8%	6%	4%

Well done. For the remainder of our survey, we will just be asking one question per topic -- about your child and about your personal opinion.

As a parent of a student in the Boston Public Schools system, to what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following? And would you say you strongly or somewhat (agree/disagree)?

ROTATE ORDER	Dates	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't Know / Refused
The Boston Public Schools system makes me feel welcome	Aug 21	55%	31%	7%	6%	2%
	Nov 21	46%	35%	10%	8%	1%
	Apr 22	43%	40%	10%	6%	1%
	Aug 22	43%	36%	12%	8%	1%
The communications I receive from the Boston Public Schools system are easy to understand	Aug 21	56%	30%	7%	5%	2%
	Nov 21	49%	37%	8%	4%	1%
	Apr 22	53%	35%	7%	4%	1%
	Aug 22	49%	33%	11%	6%	1%
The Boston Public Schools system makes it easy for me to share my concerns	Aug 21	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
	Nov 21	42%	31%	12%	13%	2%
	Apr 22	38%	37%	14%	8%	2%
	Aug 22	37%	36%	12%	13%	2%
My feedback is valued by leaders of the Boston Public Schools system	Aug 21	39%	36%	13%	9%	3%
	Nov 21	34%	33%	16%	14%	3%
	Apr 22	34%	36%	15%	11%	5%
	Aug 22	30%	37%	17%	13%	3%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child have an Individualized Education Plan, sometimes called an IEP?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Yes	37%	39%	33%	31%
No	56%	52%	59%	62%
Don't Know / Refused	7%	9%	7%	7%

Does your **GRADE LEVEL** child receive services for English Language Learners, sometimes called ELL?

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Yes	39%	32%	26%	29%
No	57%	61%	70%	68%
Don't Know / Refused	3%	7%	4%	3%

If you had the option of sending your **GRADE LEVEL** child to any school in the area, what kind of school would you be most likely to choose? **READ AND ROTATE.**

One of the district public schools in Boston	40%
A charter school in Boston	25%
A public school, but outside Boston	7%
A private school	23%
Home school	2%
Don't Know / Refused	2%

How likely do you think it is that your **GRADE LEVEL** child will attend a college after graduation from high school?

Certainly will	56%
Probably will	34%
Might or might not	6%
Probably will not	2%
Definitely will not	1%
Don't Know / Refused	1%

To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of students in the BPS system graduate at or above grade level? **PROBE IF NECESSARY:** Just your best rough guess is fine. **ENTER PERCENT:** _____.

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
0 - 25 %	12%	13%	9%	12%
26 - 50%	23%	24%	24%	25%
51 - 75%	35%	38%	38%	38%
76 - 100%	30%	25%	29%	26%

What percentage of students who graduate from BPS high schools go on to college? **PROBE IF NECESSARY:** Just your best rough guess is fine. **ENTER PERCENT:** _____.

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
0 - 25 %	10%	15%	12%	12%
26 - 50%	32%	31%	36%	38%
51 - 75%	37%	31%	31%	33%
76 - 100%	20%	23%	22%	18%

As you may know, **READ FIRST**. Would you say you are **READ SCALE** with how BPS is doing in this area?

	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Don't know / Refused
ROTATE ORDER Fewer than 50% of students in all grade levels are proficient in math and English	19%	31%	23%	24%	3%
Nearly a quarter of students do not graduate high school in four years	12%	28%	27%	29%	4%

You said you (IF 1-4 READ: are READ SLEV RESPONSE with, IF 99 READ didn't know whether you are satisfied with) proficiency levels and (IF 1-4 READ: are READ SGRA RESPONSE with, IF 99 READ didn't know whether you are satisfied with) graduation rates in BPS. Why did you give these answers?

College and other post-graduate experiences	6%
Standards, support, and involvement	11%
Dependent on circumstances and students needs/behavior	11%
Satisfied	7%
Unsatisfied	9%
Resources	4%
Issues unrelated to BPS	5%
Teachers, administration, and curriculum	11%
Student proficiency testing (math and English)	15%
Graduation rates	22%
Other	14%
Don't Know / Refused	8%

Boston Public Schools recently received an extra \$430 million from the federal government for pandemic recovery. That's approximately \$10,000 per student. Which of the following should BPS prioritize as ways to spend these funds? **READ AND ROTATE EACH ITEM.**

	Yes	No	Don't Know / Refused
Invest in better transportation	74%	21%	5%
Tutoring for all students outside of school hours	78%	14%	8%
Lower class size for two years	65%	26%	9%
Invest in support systems for student mental health	89%	8%	4%
Hire additional staff in schools, such as nurses or counselors, for two years	80%	14%	6%
Improve school buildings	84%	11%	5%
Invest in better food	77%	17%	6%
Buy new instructional materials and technology for schools	87%	9%	4%
Give \$10,000 per student directly to each family	45%	46%	9%

If Boston Public Schools were to give \$10,000 in cash per student directly to every family, how would you spend that money? **OPEN END, RECORD VERBATIM.**

College Fund	29%
Tutoring/Extra Academics/Education	13%
Extracurricular Activities	5%
They shouldn't do that / refuse the money / spend it within the system	4%
Save / invest	9%
Transportation	1%
Donate the money	3%
General "for education"	9%
On the kids	6%
Clothes	8%
Food / necessities	6%
Pay bills	3%
Housing (home improvement, repair, new home; pay rent or mortgage)	4%
Vacation / travel	1%
Books / educational materials	14%
Computer / tech	5%
Other	4%
Don't Know / Refused	5%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Age

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
18 to 34 years old	23%	22%	23%	22%
35 to 39 years old	23%	23%	22%	23%
40 to 44 years old	20%	21%	20%	20%
45 to 49 years old	17%	19%	18%	18%
50+	16%	16%	17%	16%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	<1%	<1%

Gender

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
Men	36%	37%	36%	37%
Women	64%	61%	63%	61%
All other	1%	2%	<1%	<1%
Don't Know / Refused	<1%	<1%	0%	1%

Race

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
White	23%	23%	23%	22%
Black / African-American	32%	32%	33%	33%
Hispanic / Latino	30%	30%	30%	30%
Asian	9%	9%	9%	9%
All Other	4%	5%	5%	5%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	1%	<1%	1%

Education

	Aug 21	Nov 21	Apr 22	Aug 22
High school or less	37%	38%	38%	38%
Some college, no degree	27%	24%	26%	24%
College degree	18%	18%	17%	18%
Advanced degree	16%	19%	17%	19%
Don't Know / Refused	1%	2%	1%	1%

About the Poll

These results are based on 4 waves of a survey of public school parents in Boston. Live telephone and online interviewing were conducted in English and Spanish for Wave 1 July 15 – August 2, Wave 2 November 9 – November 21, 2021, Wave 3 March 22 – April 12, 2022, and Wave 4 July 21 - August 4, 2022. Telephone respondents were reached by both landline and cell phone. Oversamples of Black, Latino, and Asian American respondents were obtained to bring the total interview count up to at least 200 for Black and Latino parents, and at least 100 AAPI parents. Results within race and ethnicity were weighted to age, gender, and education level for each group. Groups were then combined and weighted to the population parameters by race for the city as a whole. The first two waves were sponsored by Populace, and subsequent waves by The Shah Foundation.