

Improving School Quality

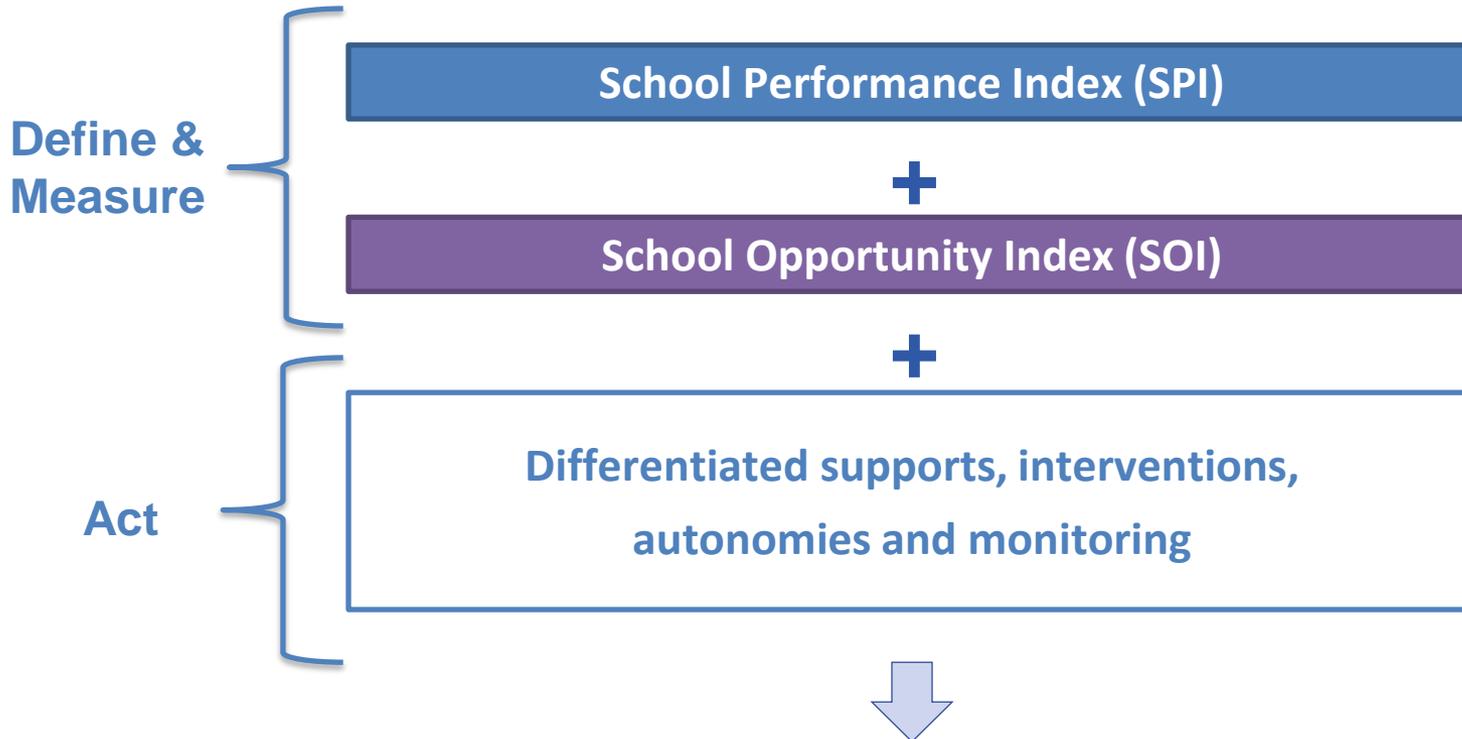
Working with you to make every Boston Public School a great choice

Measuring School Quality

Overview of the District's efforts to measure and report on school quality 2009-2013



Our District Approach



An accountability system that holds schools responsible for their performance; and holds schools and central office mutually accountable for providing the necessary opportunities to learn



Starting in 2009, Boston Public Schools began a discussion with the community about measuring school quality. This process led to the creation of the School Performance Index. This accountability report is aligned to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's "Progress and Performance Index", but also includes information about the school environment and family engagement. These additional measures reflect the values and priorities of the community.

The school's students grow academically*

The school's students achieve MCAS proficiency and graduate prepared for college and career success*

The school closes achievement gaps*

The school environment is safe and conducive to learning

The school is family-friendly and welcoming

Stakeholder Engagement: School Performance Index

2010-2011

With parents and students:

- Held **parent meetings** with over **70 BPS parents**
- Engaged with **63 high school and middle school students** in **3 focus groups**

With community through online platform (Community PlanIt):

- Engaged over **400 users** in **3 languages**
- Received **written feedback** from **104 students, 64 parents, 19 teachers, 26 administrators, 4 alumni, and 44 general community members**

With Principals & Headmasters:

- Engaged **all levels** at level meetings

With other key stakeholders:

- Held meetings with BPS staff, department heads, academic & operational leaders
- Held meetings with strategic Turnaround partners and external organizations GBIO and the Boston Foundation



Key Findings from Stakeholder Engagements

2011

Big themes/conclusions across groups:

1. Concerned about too much MCAS emphasis and want other measures, more grades and subjects
2. Care a lot about how the district intends to use the ratings
3. Like the “priorities” framework, but language and definitions need to be clearer and easier to understand
4. Like the SPI – but want to provide other context and consider other factors related to school “quality” not just “performance”
5. Like focus and transparency – but want mutual accountability between schools and central office



Throughout the community discussion about the School Performance Index, parents often raised the issue of equitable access to educational resources. In response to that feedback, the Office of Data and Accountability began drafting the School Opportunity Index. This is intended to be an inventory of “opportunities to learn” at every school in Boston. Unlike the SPI, the priorities listed below have not yet been subject to extensive public review and discussion.

The school is staffed by highly-qualified and effective teachers and school leaders

The school offers a multitude of learning opportunities

The school provides students with necessary supports

The school provides essential learning tools, facilities, and services

The school is equitably funded

External Efforts to Measure School Quality

Massachusetts “Progress and Performance Index”

- 4 Year measure of academic performance on MCAS
- Uses both MCAS Performance (CPI) and Growth (SGP)
- Focuses on “Performance Gaps” not achievement gaps
- Schools receive a score from 0 – 100
 - 75 indicates “on target”
- Provides additional scores for racial subgroups, English language learners, special education, and low-income students.

External Efforts to Measure School Quality

EAC Definition of Quality – identifying school “Tiers”

- The BPS’ MCAS Snapshot captures two years’ worth of MCAS data for both English Language Arts and Math, showing both student performance (66% of the score) and student growth or academic gains (33% of the score).
- This weighted ranking groups schools into four “Tiers”:
 1. Tier 1 schools are in the top 25th percentile of BPS schools
 2. Tier 2 schools are in the 26th to 50th percentile,
 3. Tier 3 schools are in the 51st to 75th percentile, and
 4. Tier 4 school are in the bottom 24th percentile.
- Tier 1 and Tier 2 schools are defined as higher-performing “quality” schools



Overview of School Quality Efforts

	State PPI	Acceleration Agenda	SPI & SOI	MCAS Tiers
Performance	✓	✓	✓	✓
Growth	✓	✓	✓	✓
Achievement Gaps	✓	✓	✓	
Environment & Safety			✓	
Family & Student Engagement			✓	
Opportunity Gaps			✓	

Finding a Common Vision for Improving School Quality

Today

