

	Superintendent's Circular	NUMBER: AMT-05 Version 01
---	--------------------------------------	--

REVISED MAXIMUM AGE ASSIGNMENT AND ENROLLMENT POLICY

*This circular will remain in effect unless rescinded or superseded
by a subsequent version.*

In July 1999, the Boston School Committee adopted a new policy of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) covering the maximum age for school attendance. In 2019, the School Committee updated the **maximum age assignment and enrollment policy** to include the current options available within the network of BPS alternative education schools and new opportunities for students to continue their education in the district. The revision to the original maximum assignment policy clarifies the process and streamlines the enrollment and placement of overage students, minimizes the risk of students transitioning to adult school programming in the middle of a semester when they turn 22 years old, and expands the range of program options in Boston Central Adult High School (BCAHS) to meet the needs of overage students in an adult education setting.

ENROLLMENT OF OVERAGE STUDENTS (19 YEARS OLD OR OLDER)

- Requires the Re-Engagement Center to assess needs and make recommendations for the school/program assignments of students new to BPS who are age 19 or older.
- For students 19 years old or older who are more than a year from graduation (based on the Re-Engagement Center

transcript review), enrollment options will be presented for BPS alternative education programs designed to support overage, under-credited students.

- For students 19 years old or older who are less than a year from graduation (based on the Re-Engagement Center transcript review), enrollment options will be presented for traditional high school programs and/or BPS alternative education programs designed to support overage students, based on availability and student needs.

EXISTING OVERAGE BPS STUDENTS (19 YEARS OLD OR OLDER)

- Establishes a systematic proactive review process through the Re-Engagement Center whereby the district will monitor the progress and counsel currently enrolled overage students on an annual basis.
- Establishes that if a student without special needs (without an Individualized Education Plan) will turn 21 years old on or before August 31st they will be ineligible for enrollment in a BPS traditional or alternative education school for the upcoming school year, and will be referred to BCAHS (day program, evening program, or a satellite adult education program authorized by BCAHS) or an external adult education program by the Re-Engagement Center.
- Establishes that students turning 21 years of age on or after September 1st are eligible for enrollment for that school year.
- Clarifies that services for eligible students with disabilities will continue to be governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Massachusetts General Law c. 71B up to and through that student's 22nd birthday,

when deemed appropriate by an IEP team.

- Provides guidelines for how the district will support students who turn 21 years old on September 1st or later through the Re-Engagement Center as they transition into programs including: BCAHS (day program, evening program, or a satellite adult education program authorized by BCAHS) if space is available, or an external adult education program.

THE MAXIMUM AGE ASSIGNMENT POLICY

All students who are seeking a BPS school assignment, including new students, re-enrolling students, and students already enrolled in the BPS will be provided enrollment options that will best meet their needs in providing a path forward to meeting the requirements of a BPS high school diploma. The revised maximum age assignment and enrollment policy acknowledges that some students may benefit from the alternative education setting to ensure they can earn the credits required for graduation prior to the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years old. Students transitioning to alternative education schools and programs designed to serve the overage population will retain any and all rights and privileges accrued change “accrued” to “afforded to students...” to students admitted to or enrolled in traditional day school programs as required by Massachusetts law.

New BPS students and re-enrolling students who are age 19 and older will be directly referred to the Re-Engagement Center by registration specialists at the Welcome Center to determine the most appropriate placement. As with all enrollment applications, if applicable, the Office of Special Education will review each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and any reports

presented by the student and/or family to determine how to move forward with options for the student.

Once referred to the Re-Engagement Center, specialists will review each overage student's transcript, enrollment history, state assessment results, and Early Warning Indicators to determine the most appropriate placement for the student to attain a high school diploma prior to turning 21 years old. Enrollment options at traditional high school programs and/or alternative education programs will be presented based on availability and student need. BPS Welcome Services will manage the technical aspects of the enrollment and assignment process after the Re-Engagement Center assesses student needs and makes recommendations for placement. Current alternative schools and programs for SY23 that meet the criteria to serve overage students include Boston Adult Technical Academy (BATA), Accelerated Diploma Program (ADP), LogOn Academy at Boston Collaborative High School, and ABCD's University High School. This list of options for overage students will be updated annually as needed.

Currently enrolled BPS students who will reach the age of 19 before September 1st of the following school year will be provided an option to enroll at an alternative education school or program designed for overage and/or under-credited students. In the revised policy, the responsibility of these recommendations will be designated to Re-Engagement Center specialists. The Re-Engagement Center will notify headmasters of students who are eligible for a transfer based on age during the spring semester. Re-Engagement Center specialists will recommend the most appropriate placement in an alternative education setting or continued enrollment at their current school after a review of each overage student's transcript, state assessment results,

enrollment history, and assessment of Early Warning Indicators. Additionally, if determined that a transfer is in the student's best interest, the Re-Engagement Center will meet with students and their parents, provide multiple alternative education options that are appropriate for overage students, and work with students and parents through the process of the transfer to the alternative education program selected prior to the start of the school year. BPS Welcome Services will continue to manage the technical aspects of enrollment and assignment process based on these recommendations.

The revised maximum age assignment and enrollment policy clarifies that if a student will turn 21 years old on or before August 31st, the school based-administration team will meet with the student, and the student will be required to transition to a program designed for adults (e.g. Boston Central Adult High School, Department of Developmental Services, or other adult school program). Students who will turn 21 years old during the school year will be allowed to remain enrolled through the end of the school year in June and, if necessary, through the end of summer session in August. Once referred to the adult school program, the process of this transition will be managed by the Re-Engagement Center.

Students who are unable to earn a high school diploma by the end of the school year in which they turn 21 years old will be referred to BCAHS (day program, evening program, or a satellite adult education program authorized by BCAHS) or an external adult education program by Re-Engagement Center specialists and the headmaster. The referral will be made prior to the start of the final spring semester in which a student is 21 years old to support an appropriately timed transition. Prior to the student exiting their school and transitioning to an adult school option,

the headmaster and/or academic counselor will provide an exit survey and counseling opportunity to share potential placement in the Boston area. Upon exiting a BPS traditional or alternative high school, the student will be presented with options to continue their education toward a high school diploma or HiSET certificate (graduation equivalent) through the exit survey and meeting offered by the headmaster and/or academic counselor.

Services for eligible students with disabilities will continue to be governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Massachusetts General Law c. 71B up to and through their 22nd birthday, when deemed appropriate by an IEP team.

For more information about this circular, contact:

Owner:	Director of the Re-Engagement Center
Department:	Office of Secondary Schools, Re-Engagement Center
Mailing Address:	2300 Washington Street, 4th Floor, Roxbury MA 02119
Phone:	617-635-2273
Email:	ofca-staff@bostonpublicschools.org

Mary Skipper, Superintendent