

# ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY INDEX

\*All text taken directly from BPS Fact Sheet titled "FAQ: Opportunity Index." Find this at [bostonpublicschools.org/Page/6745](http://bostonpublicschools.org/Page/6745)

## What is the Opportunity Index?

The Boston Public Schools (BPS) Opportunity Index is a composite index that incorporates a range of data representing factors that are outside of the schools' control, yet are predictive of students' academic outcomes. By rolling multiple measures into a single, more accessible metric, BPS is better equipped to direct resources and supports to the schools and students who need them most.

## Why did BPS develop the Opportunity Index?

Closing opportunity and achievement gaps is the Boston Public Schools' driving priority... Every student, in every classroom, in every school of the BPS system should have the same unconstrained opportunity to achieve the greatness within him or her. We know that students come to school with differing experiences, opportunities, and needs, but as a district, we historically have lacked a nuanced way to account for these differences and mitigate inequities that are out of schools' immediate control. The Opportunity Index is an innovative tool created to help quantify these differences so we can make decisions and allocate resources more equitably, helping to close gaps in opportunity.

## Who designed the Opportunity Index?

To develop the Index, BPS partnered with researchers from Northeastern University and Harvard University through the Boston Area Research Initiative (BARI). This work was mostly done during summer and fall 2017 in preparation for the FY19 budget cycle.



# What factors are included in the opportunity index?

<b>Neighborhood</b>	Academic Attainment	<b>Individual</b>	Economic Disadvantage
	Neighborhood Safety		Residential Mobility
	Median Household Income		Public Housing
	Physical Disorder	<b>Past Performance</b>	Recent Immigrant
	Foreign Born Residents		Attendance Rate
		Course Failures	
		MCAS Failures	
		Number of Suspensions	



## How is Boston Partners closing the Opportunity gap?

**94%** of Accelerate teachers reported the program was “excellent” or “good” at improving students’ academic performance.

 On average, Aim High students improved by more than one full letter grade in the subject in which they were mentored.

**94%** of students in one-on-one or small group matches reported that their mentor made them feel like they could succeed in school.

The number of our volunteers mentoring in schools in our target neighborhoods—Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan—increased by **98%** in the last three years.