



Dear Chairman Groover and Members of the School Committee,

We write to you on behalf of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council, urging your intervention to restore the budget of The Curley K-8 School in Jamaica Plain. The budget cuts proposed for next year are dramatic and will be felt by every student at the Curley—a school whose student body continues to grow but will face significant budget cuts due to the new weighted student funding formula.

While JPNC members appreciate the difficult decisions that the Committee must make, the Curley School appears to be inequitably carrying the burden of budgetary constraints. Of the four K-8 schools with the largest student bodies in the BPS system (Ohrenberger, Murphy, Edison, and Curley), only the Curley and Edison Schools are projecting an increase in enrollment in FY2013. Of those two, the Curley School is expected to see its student rolls grow by 2.36%, notably higher than the modest 0.12% growth expected at the Edison School. Given that these schools are of comparable size and enjoy similar economies of scale, one would expect similar budget projections for FY2013. This, however, is not the case. While the Edison School will receive a budget increase of \$279,144, the Curley School will see a reduction in funding by \$183,750.

Furthermore, the Curley School educates some of the most vulnerable young people in our city: 73 percent of Curley School students live below the federal poverty line, and 46 percent are English Language Learners. Of the four schools mentioned above, only the Edison School has a higher concentration of students below the poverty line. None of these four schools has a higher concentration of English Language Learners.

We're incredibly proud of the steps that the Curley and our other schools have taken to improve the quality of education in Jamaica Plain, but a school that cannot afford the appropriate staff and programs to support the growing enrollment and the diverse needs of its student body cannot possibly function properly. Thus, we ask for the sake of our community to restore the Curley School's funding, and give its dedicated staff, parents, and students a chance to succeed at meeting the high standards we all hold them to. Please help this community by voting 'no' on next year's budget.

Thank you for your consideration,

Benjamin Day
Chair
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