

Frequently Asked Questions

Does the program need to operate at a school site to be eligible for this Invitation to Apply?

The program does not need to currently operate in a BPS school in order to be eligible. However, if selected into the Opportunity Portfolio, the program must operate within a BPS school building and/or in partnership with at least one BPS school to be eligible.

What is the best way to pick our category of service if we think we fit into more than one?

If your program falls under more than one service category, you must apply under only one. Please choose the category that is the primary service category of your program.

How do I update my PartnerBPS profile?

There is a step-by-step user guide book for PartnerBPS found at: <https://partnerbps.org/help-school-community-partners/>.

You can also email PartnerBPS@bostonpublicschools.org if you need technical assistance with registration.

How will I know if my PartnerBPS profile is complete in order to be eligible for Step 2 of the application process?

After June 15th, BPS will begin reviewing PartnerBPS Profiles for organizations that completed an Intent to Apply. BPS will notify each applicant about the status of their PartnerBPS Profile. BPS will provide direct technical assistance to organizations that completed the Intent to Apply, but have yet to complete their PartnerBPS registration. BPS will notify each applicant upon completion of their Step 1 application.

If our organization does not apply this cycle, does that mean we will not have another chance to enter into the Opportunity Portfolio?

If your organization does not apply for this Invitation to Apply, you will not be able to enter into the Opportunity Portfolio for these service categories. However, you may apply to future invitations to join the Opportunity Portfolio.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

How many future invitations to apply will the District release and is there a calendar for these releases?

BPS will release additional Invitations to Apply on a rolling basis. However, it is unknown when the next Invitation to Apply will be released, how often they will be released and what the service categories will be.

How many years will a program be in the Opportunity Portfolio?

Portfolio Partners will be reviewed annually or as needed in order to remain in the Portfolio. However, current Portfolio Partners will not need to reapply to remain in the Portfolio.

Does becoming a Portfolio Partner come with funding?

Portfolio Partners will be eligible for BPS funding, but being a Portfolio Partner does not guarantee any funding.

Can BPS schools only work with partners that are in the Opportunity Portfolio?

No. Schools may still partner with organizations that have not been identified as Portfolio Partners by the District.

On the PartnerBPS site, programs are registered and divided by elementary, middle, high school; if our program spans two or more of those grade spans, do we have to select just one?

Currently on PartnerBPS all programs can only select one grade span, but we are working on allowing programs to select multiple options if you work across grade spans.

If an organization is applying to this Invitation to Apply for more than one program, do we have to fill out multiple intents to apply?

Yes, you must submit an Intent to Apply for each unique program for which you are applying. However, you only need to update the PartnerBPS organization information once.

Will school leadership be part of the vetting and assessment in Phase 2 of the application process?

Schools that programs have current and past partnerships with may be contacted to provide information about their partnership with that program as part of the vetting and assessment process. In addition, we hope to have school leaders serve on the review committees.

Will there be a set number of Portfolio Partners selected in each category and total?

No, the district aims to include every program that meets or exceed quality standards through the vetting and assessment process as Portfolio Partners; there is no maximum number.

Will currently funded partners not be eligible for funding any longer through this system? If funding is provided to partners, will that process change?

Intention is to promote those programs to schools to fund, and to intentionally craft RFPs based on what school leaders are asking for once partners are identified.

Please submit any additional questions via email to Jonathan Sproul at
jsproul@bostonpublicschools.org