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# The Golden Opportunity Summit

Exploring Equity-Minded Approaches  
to Student Assignment and School Reform

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## The Structure of Metro Boston Schools is Fragmented

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- Metro Boston is one of the most fragmented in the U.S. in terms of school districts
- With 162 separate school districts, Metro Boston has about 1 district for every 3,500 students
- In contrast, the similarly-sized Seattle metro has about 1 district for every 10,000 students
- On average, in the 25 largest metros, there is about 1 district for every 7,200 students



## Metro Boston Schools are Racially and Ethnically Segregated

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Among the 100 largest metros, Metro Boston is the:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> most segregated for Latino primary school students
- 10<sup>th</sup> most segregated for Asian primary school students
- 23<sup>rd</sup> most segregated for black primary school students
  - although segregation levels for black students are higher than for other groups



## Metro Boston Schools Disproportionately Expose Minority Children to High Poverty Schools

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- On average, Hispanic students attend primary schools with poverty rates of 64%—3.9 times that of white students—the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest disparity among large metros.
- Black students attend primary schools with poverty rates of 60%—3.7 times that of white students—the 4<sup>th</sup> highest disparity among large metros.
- Asian students attend primary schools with poverty rates of 34%—2.1 times that of white students—the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest disparity among large metros.



Research has shown that segregated, concentrated-poverty schools tend to have:

- Rapid turnover of teachers and students
- Lower involvement by parents
- Less experienced teachers
- Lower per student expenditures
- Higher dropout rates
- Lower test scores

Students attending these schools tend to have higher levels of untreated health problems, weaker networks to college and jobs than students in desegregated settings.



## 27% of Metro Boston School Students are Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch, But . . .

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Certain students attend what some have termed “private” public schools, those schools in which less than 5% of primary school students and 3% of middle/high school students are eligible for free/reduced lunch.

20% of white and 16% of Asian students attend such schools, but only:

- 3% of black students and
- 2% of Hispanic students . . .

. . . attend these “private” public schools.

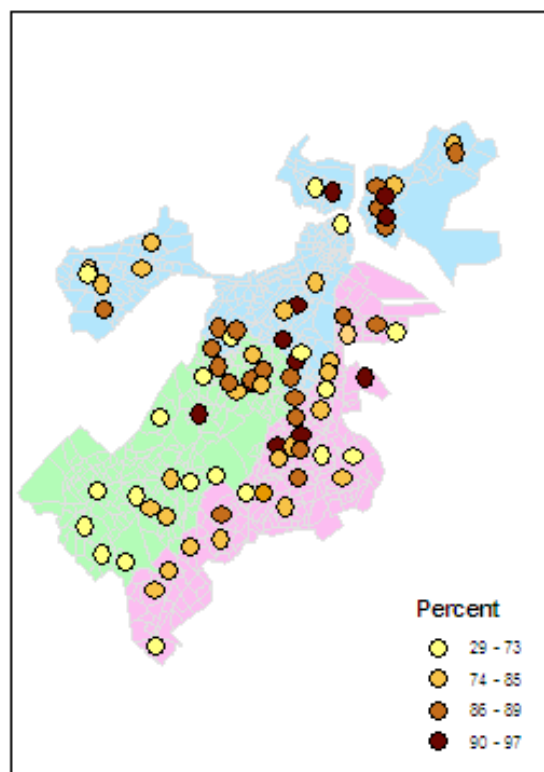


# Within the Boston Public School District, Characteristics of Schools Reflect a Distinct Geographic Pattern

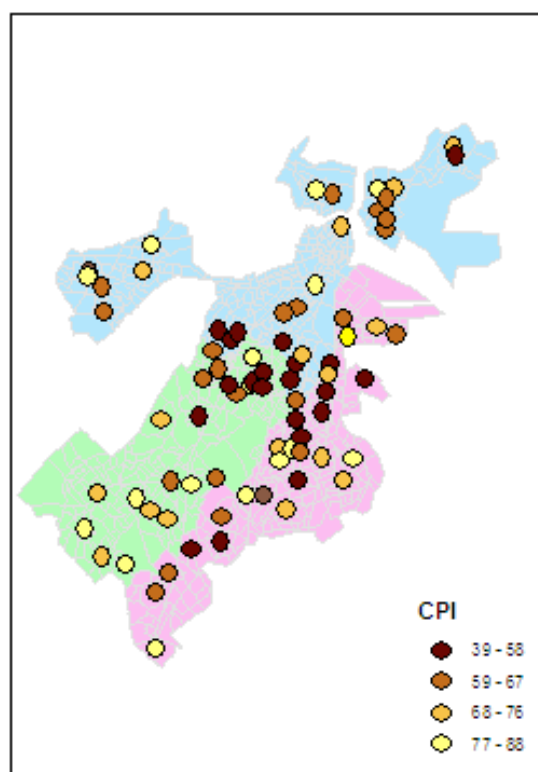


## Characteristics of BPS Schools with 4th Grades Overlaid on Assignment Zones: 2008-09

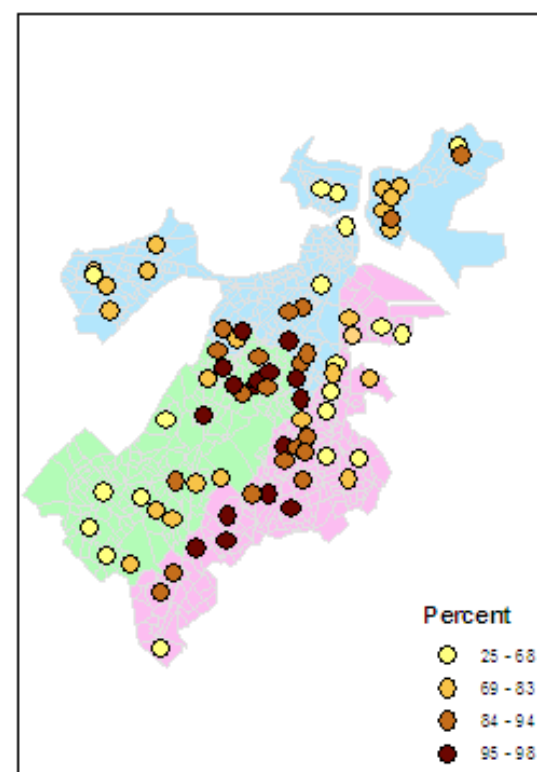
Percent Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch



Math 4th Grade MCAS CPI



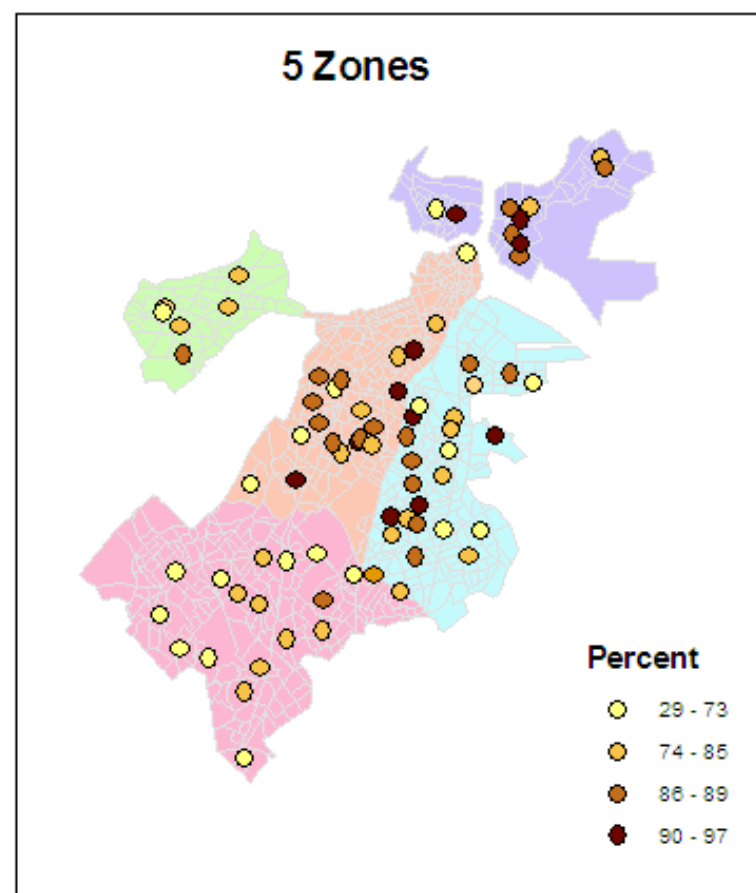
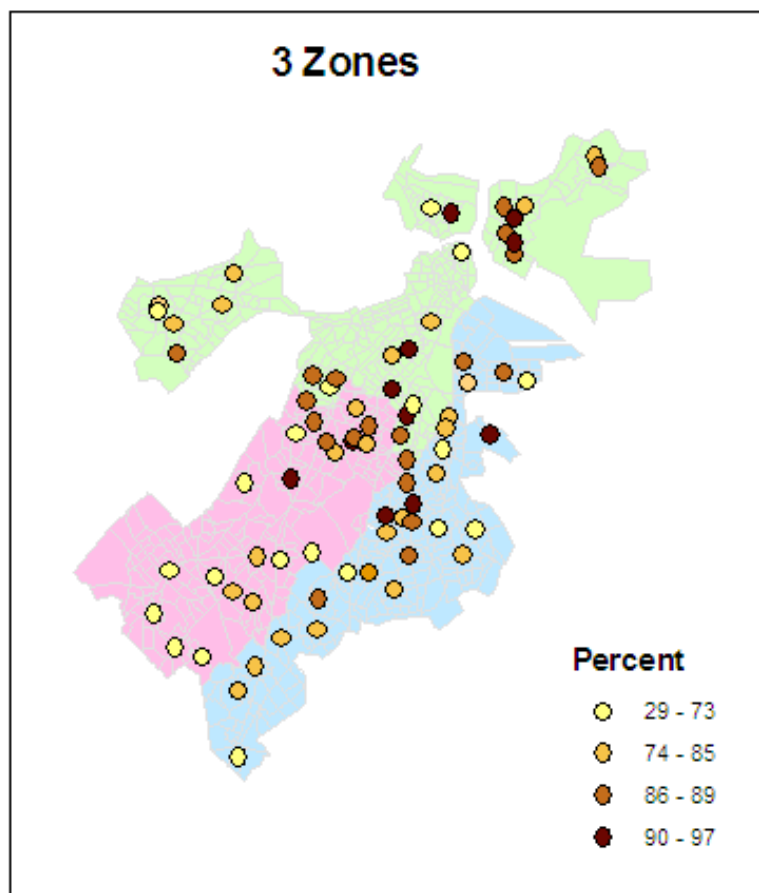
Percent Black or Latino



Note: Excludes Horace Mann School for the Deaf, McKinley School, and charter schools.  
Source: MA Department of Education and BPS



## Percent of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch BPS Schools with 4th Grades Overlaid on 3 and 5 Zone Plans: 2008-09



Note: Excludes Horace Mann School for the Deaf, McKinley School, and charter schools.  
Source: MA Department of Education and BPS



## In General, Schools Outside BPS But Within 5 Miles Exhibit Much Lower Levels of Concentrated Poverty

(Percent of Students Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch in Public Schools with 4<sup>th</sup> Grades: 2008-09)

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<u>School</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>School %</u>	<u>5 Zone Median %</u>	<u>3 Zone Median %</u>	<u>Outside BPS Within 5 Miles Median %</u>
Kilmer	W. Roxbury	29.0	72.5	75.8	8.1
Conley	Roslindale	74.1	72.5	75.8	8.5
Winship	Brighton	80.4	81.2	85.6	22.0
Mather	Dorchester	85.1	84.9	82.7	22.1
Mendell	Roxbury	87.1	85.9	75.8	30.8
Eliot	Central (N. End)	58.0	85.9	85.6	59.9
Otis	East Boston	92.9	87.4	85.6	61.9