

Policy Proposal for School Transfers during COVID-19 at Boston Public Schools

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The transfer window for students, for the 2019-2020 school year was November 27, 2019. For students in Grades K0-K2 transfer applications were accepted until January 31st, 2020.

Current policy allows for a student to transfer to another school beyond the regular school transfer dates if there is a safety issue for the student.

During COVID-19 this policy could be expanded to add a few changes

1. Currently students who move to another building for safety reasons would lose their current school placement. An exception for this policy could be in place during COVID-19, so that if a student transfers to another building for safety reasons, they would maintain their school seat. When the health crisis ends the student's placement could revert to a classroom in their original school building.
2. Currently if a student transfers to another school, the student's funding (student weighted funding) follows the student from their original school to their new school. In the case of a student going to another building, during COVID-19, the funding could still follow the student.
3. Transfers ideally would also include staff and classrooms following students too. During this time teachers would either teach remotely or in person but not both. Teachers who prefer remote teaching could help staff this model.
4. When possible a whole classroom could move to another building. One suggestion would be to use the Bolling Building for students and teaching staff. (Current Bolling staff could largely work remote or at another location). City buildings with good ventilation including some libraries could be used for students with high needs as well as providing services in medical facilities and in family's homes.
5. Any school buildings that are not safe buildings during COVID-19 would have their buildings renovated quickly if possible. If this was not possible the school could be shut down and then renovated to have adequate ventilation and heating and cooling systems moving forward.