

BOSTON PARENTS CALL ON MAYOR WALSH TO ABANDON “UNIFIED ENROLLMENT” PLAN FOR CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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The BPS parent group, Quality Education for Every Student (QUEST) released a report yesterday criticizing the “Enroll Boston” plan advanced by Mayor Walsh and the Boston Compact. The group called on the Mayor to publicly commit to halt exploration of this plan to bring Boston-based Commonwealth Charter Schools into the BPS assignment system.

The QUEST report, entitled [“Enroll Boston: a Dangerous Plan for Boston’s Students and Schools”](#) reveals that Enroll Boston is not a homegrown plan, but, instead is part of a national effort by foundations and school reformers to promote market-based school choice models in urban school districts. As such, the plan is very much in line with the national agenda championed by Education Secretary, Betsy DeVos. Efforts to implement such schemes have received lots of money, but have little to show in terms of school improvement. Educators and public education advocates across the country have opposed such plans.

According to QUEST’s Megan Wolf, “the challenge for Boston and other cities is to improve public schools. Enroll Boston will do nothing to achieve that, but will further weaken the public school system and lead to school closings, just as similar schemes have done in Denver, Newark and Indianapolis.”

“I think that the Mayor senses that the current Home-Based Assignment Plan is worsening inequities in the BPS,” says parent Kevin Murray, “so he’s desperate to change the conversation. Enroll Boston will be one way to do that.”

For parent activist, Mary Battenfeld, “They have to do the planning for Enroll Boston in secret because they know parents and students don’t want it. We may not know what the Boston Compact is doing behind closed doors, but we know what these plans have done in other cities, and we don’t intend to be quiet about it.”

QUEST has delivered a copy of [“Enroll Boston: a Dangerous Plan for Boston’s Students and Schools”](#) to Mayor Walsh, with a formal request that he state publicly that Enroll Boston is no longer under consideration in Boston.