



Offered by City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY REQUIRING ALL
BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HAVE A FULL-TIME
MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT
SPECIALISTS**

WHEREAS: The Boston Public School district has 125 schools with approximately 56,000 students enrolled; and

WHEREAS: Boston Public Schools FY19 budget invested \$2.3 million so that there are now over 150 nurses throughout BPS, ensuring that every school has at least one full time nurse; and

WHEREAS: During the FY20 budget process, funding was secured to hire an additional 23 mental health providers/social emotional support specialists, but the hiring process was substantially delayed; and

WHEREAS: As of September 2019, BPS employed 75 school psychologists and 59 social workers and/or clinical coordinators; and

WHEREAS: It is our obligation to support the social, emotional, behavioral, mental, and physical well-being of all of our students by providing resources and support to address issues and concerns such as, but not limited to, depression, trauma, anxiety, and bullying; and

WHEREAS: Every school should have a full-time nurse and full-time mental health specialists;
THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the progress Boston Public Schools has made to ensure every school has a full-time nurse as well as the implementation needs and challenges to guarantee that every school also has full-time social emotional support specialists, including full-time psychologists and full-time social workers.

Filed On: January 14, 2020