

# Beyond Possible Program Eligibility Policy SY26-27

## ABOUT BEYOND POSSIBLE

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Beyond Possible is a 2-year dual enrollment program with Boston Public Schools, Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT) and The Possible Zone (TPZ) that provides students with the opportunity to take sequenced college classes from WIT in the areas of Technology and Data Analytics during their junior and senior years.

In the program, students receive stipends, academic support, and engage in hands-on experiential STEAM learning at TPZ. Successful completion of this program leads to 15 college credits and conditional acceptances to Wentworth Institute of Technology, Framingham State University and Bunker Hill Community College, helping set students on a path toward in-demand jobs and economic mobility.

For SY26-27, Beyond Possible high school partners include:

- English High School
- Fenway High School
- Madison Park Vocational Technical High School
- O'Bryant School of Math & Science

Only students from these partner schools are currently eligible to participate in Beyond Possible.

## BEYOND POSSIBLE COURSE SEQUENCE

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Beyond Possible students complete four college courses and three TPZ courses in their junior and senior years of high school. College courses are typically held from 3:00 - 5:00pm twice per week, with required tutoring once a week for one hour. All courses occur after school hours and students receive a stipend for their participation.

WIT COLLEGE COURSE SEQUENCE		
Course #1	WIT Fundamentals of IT	In-person, cohorted at TPZ
Course #2	WIT Introduction to Applied AI	In-person, cohorted at TPZ
Course #3	WIT Introduction to Networks	In-person, cohorted <b>at WIT</b>
Course #4	WIT Data Analytics <b>or</b> WIT Computer Science I	In-person, un-cohorted <b>at WIT</b>

\*Cohorted courses mean students take classes only with their Beyond Possible high school peers.

\*Un-cohorted courses mix high school students with traditional college students, allowing students to transition from a high-support environment to the experience of a typical college classroom.

### TPZ Course Options

Students are expected to complete at least 3 afterschool LaunchLabs at TPZ starting as early as sophomore year. Classes are typically held from 4-6:30 pm and run two days per week- either Mon/Wed or Tues/Thurs. Eligible classes include all LaunchLabs that meet twice per week and summer programs which run for 2 weeks. TPZ classes are hands-on, STEAM-focused and include topics such as designing escape rooms, building furry robots, creating and racing miniature cars, and cooking healthy foods. TPZ offers 10-week terms every Fall, Winter, Spring and 2-week condensed classes every summer.

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## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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Beyond Possible is designed to be as inclusive as possible, while maintaining important eligibility criteria to support success in the college classes provided by Wentworth Institute of Technology. Eligible students must be:

- Rising 11th graders
- From a participating partner high school
- Earned a C or higher in Algebra or Integrated Math I
- 2.0 GPA minimum
- Strong attendance
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher/ staff/ mentor

## PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

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Each partner high school has a Beyond Possible Liaison who leads recruitment and retention efforts by building awareness and supporting students in the program. In partnership with TPZ, the liaison hosts information sessions in February and March. The liaison ensures all eligible students are aware of the opportunity, and actively identifies and encourages interested students to apply. Strategies include but are not limited to teacher nominations, advisory announcements, and parent/ teacher conferences.

### The application process includes:

- Completing an interest form
- Completing the TPZ enrollment form
- Attending the Beyond Possible April Deep Dive (Strongly encouraged)
- Submitting an application with a completed letter of recommendation

### The acceptance process includes:

- The Possible Zone extend official offers throughout May
- Students must accept or decline their seat by May 31

### The onboarding process includes:

- Attend orientation at TPZ in June
- Complete WIT Application
- Student and parent/ guardian contract
- Technology rental agreement
- Complete summer bootcamp at TPZ before taking first college course

## BEYOND POSSIBLE SEATS

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The Beyond Possible Program enrolls one cohort per cycle, with a maximum of 22 total seats per cohort. The program currently partners with four BPS high schools: English High School, Fenway High School, Madison Park Vocational Technical High School, and O'Bryant School of Math & Science.

- Each cohort includes up to 22 students
- Each partner high school is guaranteed a minimum of 5 seats per cohort
- If a school does not meet its 5-seat allocation by the priority application deadline, the unfilled seats may be released to other high schools with higher demand
- Students submit completed applications and seats are offered on a rolling basis in May in the order applications are received. A completed application includes the following: TPZ enrollment form, Personal Statement, and Letter of Recommendation.

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- Once a school's allocated seats are filled, additional applications are placed on the program's waitlist in order of submission.
- Waitlisted students are offered seats as they become available.
- Mirroring TPZ policy, if a student does not attend the first day of class, they will be dropped and a student from the waitlist will be invited to participate. Students coming off the waitlist will have a 1:1 onboarding session and begin within a few days.
- Enrollment is complete when students accept their seat and complete all required TPZ & WIT forms.


### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

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- A liaison at each school will be the primary contact to answer parent/guardian questions throughout the process.
- All eligible students will be invited to an information session at their high school about Beyond Possible in February or March.
- Slide decks and program fliers will be made available in multiple languages.
- A video overview will be provided for students who cannot attend the session and for families with questions.
- A virtual information session for families will be held in May.
- Families are invited to the program orientation in June.
- A newsletter will be shared each semester to highlight program updates and successes with families and partner schools.

### STUDENT COMMITMENT

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- Students are expected to adhere to the BPS and WIT codes of conduct, as well as all TPZ program policies.
- Students are expected to attend every college class, mandatory tutoring, and TPZ programming. If a student needs to miss a class for a valid reason, they must communicate with their professor.
- Students are expected to check in regularly with their school liaison and TPZ support staff. Students should regularly check their college email and learning management system, Brightspace, for assignments and grades.
- Students should ask for help when they need it. We are here to listen to you, to support you, and to make sure you have what you need to succeed in Beyond Possible!
- Students are responsible for maintaining any computer equipment rented by TPZ and to follow the BPS and College's Acceptable Use Policy.
- Students may request accommodations from [Student Accessibility Services at WIT](#). Students should work with their school liaison to set up an appointment and get any questions answered. High schools and colleges have different systems for addressing learning needs. Learn more here:  I'm+Going+to+College+Guide+for+SWD+in+EC+-+FINAL.pdf

### PROGRAM PERSISTENCE

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Students in Beyond Possible are expected to stay engaged and remain in good academic standing. Each student will meet with their school liaison at least twice per semester, with additional meetings scheduled if a report is triggered due to failing grades or three or more absences. Students will be informed of the college's drop and withdrawal deadlines. A drop (within the first week of class) does not appear on the high school or college transcript. A withdrawal does appear on both the high school transcript and college transcript, but does not impact GPA.

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## **Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance is essential for success in college courses. Due to the rigor and fast pace of college classes, missing a few classes directly impacts learning, progress, and grades. Any absence should be communicated with the WIT professor and TPZ support staff. If a student misses 3 or more classes (including tutoring), the student will be required to meet 1:1 with their school liaison and create a success plan. If a student misses 5 or more classes, their school liaison may request a parent meeting and they may be advised to withdraw from the course and/or program.

## **Negative Course Performance**

If a student receives two unsatisfactory WIT grades in a row (F and/or W), they will be advised to drop the program to protect their academic record and prevent potential challenges for college applications. Students can remain in TPZ programming, but will be ineligible to enroll in a third college course if they received two unsatisfactory grades in a row.

## **Gap Semester**

A student may request a gap semester during their time in Beyond Possible. The student must speak with their liaison about why a gap semester is needed and review expectations for returning to the program. A gap semester may be requested for reasons including but not limited to emergency, medical, academic, or personal reasons. There will be very limited opportunities to make up WIT college courses, so taking a gap semester will result in earning fewer college credits.

## **Late Onramp**

Students are accepted into Beyond Possible as 10th graders each May, which is when the new cohort for the upcoming year is formed. If seats become available due to drops from the programs, additional students may be added in the winter of their junior year. Students will not be admitted in their senior year, as they would miss critical onboarding, prerequisite courses, and foundational experiences essential for success in the program.

## **COMPLETING BEYOND POSSIBLE**

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To successfully complete Beyond Possible, students are expected to take four WIT college courses, three TPZ courses, and actively participate in additional college and career trips, activities and advising. These experiences are designed to provide students with both academic rigor and real-world industry exposure, helping them build the skills, knowledge, and credit momentum needed for postsecondary success. Successful completion of this program leads to 15 college credits and conditional acceptances to Wentworth Institute of Technology, Framingham State University and Bunker Hill Community College, resulting in a career path that will lead to in-demand jobs and economic mobility.

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT BEYOND POSSIBLE?**

Beyond Possible is a close collaboration between Boston Public Schools, Wentworth Institute of Technology and The Possible Zone. Each student and their families has a Beyond Possible liaison at their high school, who serves as the primary point of contact for questions and support. For additional assistance, students, families and staff may reach out to program contacts at BPS and WIT.

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BEYOND POSSIBLE LIAISONS BY HIGH SCHOOL		
The English High School	Kiki Taboh	<a href="mailto:ktaboh@bostonpublicschools.org">ktaboh@bostonpublicschools.org</a>
Fenway High School	Raven Richelieu	<a href="mailto:rrielieu@bostonpublicschools.org">rrielieu@bostonpublicschools.org</a>
Madison Park Vocational Technical High School	Hipolito Fontes	<a href="mailto:hfontes@bostonpublicschools.org">hfontes@bostonpublicschools.org</a>
O'Bryant School of Math & Science	Val Goncalves	<a href="mailto:vgoncalves3@bostonpublicschools.org">vgoncalves3@bostonpublicschools.org</a>

BEYOND POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL PROGRAM CONTACTS		
BPS Office of College, Career and Life Readiness	Gretta Schaaf Nelson	<a href="mailto:gschaaf@bostonpublicschools.org">gschaaf@bostonpublicschools.org</a>
The Possible Zone	Joanna Sanborn	<a href="mailto:joanna@possiblezone.org">joanna@possiblezone.org</a>
Wentworth Institute of Technology	Kate Stutz	<a href="mailto:stutzk@wit.edu">stutzk@wit.edu</a>