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SECTION J STUDENTS

1. Admissions

a. School Admissions (Voted 6/19/78, #78-309, 10, 11; 6/4/79, #79-191; 10/6/81, #81-462; 6/21/83, #83-260; 6/6/85 #85-226; 4/27/89, #89-197; 6/16/05, #05-81; 6/6/13, #13-46, 1/30/14, #14-8; 6/5/14, #14-46; 12/3/15, #15-81)

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 76, sec. 5, the School Committee recognizes the right of all otherwise eligible persons actually residing in the Town of Brookline to be able to attend the Public Schools of Brookline (“PSB”), subject to the following policy and any relevant federal, state or local laws.

I. Residency

In order to attend the PSB, a student must actually reside in the Town of Brookline, unless one of the exceptions (set forth in Part V, below) applies.

“Residence” is the primary place where a person dwells permanently, not temporarily, and with the intent to remain, and is the place that is the center of his or her domestic, social, and civic life. Minors are generally presumed to reside with their parents or guardians. Temporary residence in the Town of Brookline, solely for the purpose of attending the PSB, shall not be considered residency. Unless as otherwise stated in Section V, below, a student shall not be allowed to attend the PSB unless the student is actually residing in the Town of Brookline. It is presumed that if a student is residing here for three months or less, the student does not meet resident eligibility requirements.

In determining and reconfirming residency, the PSB reserves its right to request a variety of documentation and to investigate where a student or applicant for enrollment actually resides on an ongoing basis. Also, the PSB may act upon anonymous tips it receives to conduct a residency verification investigation.

Unless one or more of the exceptions set forth in Section V applies, a determination that a student does not actually reside in the Town of Brookline renders the student ineligible to enroll in the Public Schools of Brookline or, if the student is already enrolled in the Public Schools of Brookline, shall result in the immediate termination of such enrollment. A parent, legal guardian, or student who has reached the age of majority (18), who is aggrieved by an adverse determination of residency has the right to an appeal hearing with the Superintendent of Schools or designee, whose decision shall be final.

II. Verification of Residency

a. Initial Enrollment. Upon initial enrollment in the PSB, the enrolling student’s parent or legal guardian must provide the district with a signed Affidavit of Residency, along with satisfactory proof of residency in the Town of Brookline. Upon initial enrollment, proof of residency shall include one or more records from each of the categories of records listed below.

b. Subsequent Enrollment (annual renewal). No later than the first day of school of each school year following initial enrollment, a student's parent or legal guardian must provide a signed Affidavit of Residency along with proof of residency in the Town of Brookline. For subsequent enrollment, proof of residency shall include one or more records from Columns A and B. A parent, guardian, or eligible student who is unable to produce the required records should contact the Office of Student Affairs, who may permit other records to be submitted as satisfactory proof of residency.

Category A

- Deed and/or record of mortgage payment made within the past 45 days; *or*
- Copy of current lease and record of rental payment made within the past 45 days; *or*
- Notarized PSB Landlord Affidavit and proof of rental payment made within past 45 days.

Category B

- Utility bill dated within the past 45 days, such as oil, gas, electric, cable bill, renter's insurance bill, car insurance bill, *or* home telephone bill.

Category C

- Valid Massachusetts Driver's License
- Current Motor Vehicle Registration
- Valid government-issued photo identification
- IRS Form W-2
- Excise Tax Bill
- Property Tax Bill
- Payroll Stub
- Voter Registration

The Headmaster and Principals, or their designees, shall verify the home address and home telephone number of each student at least once during each school year. Any irregularities shall be reported promptly to the Office of Student Affairs. Parents are required to notify the school of any changes to their residential address or the address of the student within five calendar days of the change.

III. Enforcement

Should a question arise concerning any student's residency in the Town of Brookline while attending the PSB, the student's residency will be subject to further inquiry and/or investigation. Such questions concerning residency may arise on the basis of incomplete, suspicious, or contradictory proofs of address, anonymous tips, correspondence that is returned to the Public Schools of Brookline because of an invalid or unknown address, or other grounds.

The Office of Student Affairs may request additional documentation, may use the assistance of the Public Schools of Brookline Attendance Officer, and/or may obtain the services of police or investigative agency personnel to assist with or conduct investigations into student residency. The Attendance Officer and/or residency investigator(s) will report his or her findings to the Office of Student Affairs, who shall make an initial determination of residency.

Upon an initial determination by the Office of Student Affairs that a student is not actually residing in the Town of Brookline, the student's enrollment in the Public Schools of Brookline shall be terminated. The student's parent or legal guardian may appeal the determination as outlined in Section I, above. If the student has reached the age of majority (18) he or she may appeal the decision. The student may remain in school pending such appeal.

IV. Penalties

In addition to termination of enrollment and the imposition of other penalties permitted by law, the Public Schools of Brookline reserves the right to recover restitution based upon the costs of educational services provided during the period of non-residency.

V. Exceptions

1. The Residency Requirements Shall Not Apply to the Following:

- a. Students enrolled in the Brookline METCO Program;
- b. Students enrolled in the High School under special programs approved by the School Committee, such as educational exchange programs;
- c. Tuition paying students, as permitted by law, unless tuition is waived under Section V(2) below;
- d. Children of non-resident employees of the Town of Brookline, who meet the conditions established from time to time by the School Committee in the policy pertaining to such students;
- e. Students who are entitled to attend the Public Schools of Brookline under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- f. Students already enrolled in the Public Schools of Brookline who move out on or after April 1st of a given school year, or in the case of 8th graders and Brookline High School seniors who move out on or after Oct 1st of a given school year, may complete that year on a tuition basis, unless tuition is waived.

2. Extraordinary Circumstances: Residency Requirement Waivers and Tuition Waivers

At the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee, residency requirements and/or tuition may be waived as follows:

- a. Students in their senior class at Brookline High School who move from Brookline on or after October 1 of their senior year, and who resided in Brookline during the entire previous school year.
- b. Students who move to or from Brookline temporarily because of the severe or chronic illness of the student or immediate family member; the death of an immediate family

member; disaster to the residence; or other circumstances having a significant impact upon the student.

3. Dwelling Units that are Intersected by the Town Line: (Voted 1/30/14, #14-8)

For the purposes of determining eligibility to attend the Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) on the basis of residency, a PSB-eligible residence shall be any dwelling unit, as distinguished from a plot of land or a multi-unit building, on which a minimum of 25% of the dwelling unit is assessed by the Town of Brookline, based on gross building area provided that some/any portion of that 25% is finished living area, as defined by the Brookline Town Assessor.

If a dwelling unit is intersected to whatever degree by the Town Boundary line and assessed on less than 25% of the dwelling unit, based on gross building area and finished living area as described above, that dwelling does not constitute a residence in the PSB district, and students who reside in that dwelling unit shall not be eligible for enrollment in the Public Schools of Brookline.

Determination of gross building area and finished living area shall be that provided by the Brookline Town Assessor. In the case of properties under construction and/or not yet assessed, the PSB Administration may rely on estimates from other relevant Town departments.

a. Exceptions. Students and/or dwelling units shall be grandfathered as PSB-eligible if eligible under either of the following exceptions.

i. Dwelling Units in Intersected Multi-family Buildings Prior to the Adoption of this Policy:

In the case of an occupied dwelling unit located in a multi-family building intersected by the Town Boundary Line and previously allowed under this policy to be PSB-eligible, children of families residing in that dwelling unit as of the date of adoption of this policy may enroll and/or remain in the PSB until such time as they no longer reside in that dwelling unit.

ii. Intersected Single Family Dwelling Units Purchased as PSB-eligible Prior to the Adoption of this Policy

In the case of single family dwelling units intersected to whatever degree by the Town Boundary Line and purchased as PSB-eligible prior to the adoption of this policy, any children of families who reside now or in the future in those dwelling units will be eligible for the Public Schools of Brookline on the basis of residency, with the following caveat.

Should a dwelling unit that would otherwise be exempt under this Section (a) (ii) be altered to increase the number of dwelling units contained in or attached to the physical space containing a dwelling unit (such as through the conversion of a single family dwelling into an attached two-family, or into multiple condominium dwelling units), the exemption under this section shall no longer apply to the dwelling unit.

In addition, any additional dwelling unit(s) added onto an exempt dwelling unit or added onto the property at the same address (for example, such as through the addition of town houses onto a single family home, or the conversion of a carriage house into a

dwelling unit) shall not be exempt under this Section(a)(ii).

b. Proof of Residency for Intersected Multi-Family Dwellings

Parents/guardians residing in a multi-family building intersected to whatever degree by the Town line and seeking to enroll a child in the Public Schools of Brookline shall be required to provide proof of residency, in accordance with Section J1a.II above, that identifies the particular dwelling unit in which they reside.

c. Right of Appeal

If a determination of PSB eligibility under this policy is contested, appeal for review may be made to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, whose decision regarding enrollment of the student(s) in question shall be final. Enrollment of an individual student under this appeal provision shall be specific to the student and shall not be construed as establishing PSB residency eligibility for the dwelling in question.

d. Notice of Policy Concerning Intersected Properties

The PSB shall maintain and make publicly available a current list of intersected properties that are considered eligible for PSB enrollment.

VI. Notification

The PSB's residency requirements, verification procedures, and consequences of falsifying or misrepresenting residency will be published in the Brookline School Committee Policy Manual, posted on the Public Schools of Brookline website, and published in each school handbook.

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
AFFIDAVIT OF RESIDENCY UPON ENROLLMENT**

I/we, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of _____, hereby certify as follows:

(Print Student's Full Name)

1. I/we wish to enroll the above named student in the Public Schools of Brookline. I/we understand that pursuant to Massachusetts' law and the Brookline School Committee policy, only students who actually reside in the Town of Brookline may attend the Public Schools of Brookline, unless a policy exception applies. I/we hereby acknowledge that no such policy exception applies to the above student.

2. I/we hereby certify that effective _____, 20____, the above student is/will be residing with me/us at the following address in Brookline, Massachusetts:

No. Street Apt. No. Brookline, MA Zip Code Telephone

3. I/we further acknowledge that I/we are required to notify the Principal/Headmaster of the above student's school in writing of any change in said student's address within five (5) calendar days of such change of address.

4. I/we understand that this affidavit will be relied upon by the Public Schools of Brookline for the purpose of determining the above student's eligibility to attend the Public Schools of Brookline on the basis of residency. If said student is enrolled in the Public Schools of Brookline based upon the information contained in this affidavit and it is subsequently determined that the student does not actually reside in Brookline, I/we understand that the student's enrollment in the Public Schools of Brookline will be promptly terminated and I/we will be jointly and severally liable to the Public Schools of Brookline for the student's tuition for the full academic year.

5. I/we further certify that I am/we are the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the above student.

Signed under the pain and penalties of perjury on this _____ day of _____, 20____:

Student's Father

Student's Mother

Student's Legal Guardian

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

County, ss

Date

Then personally appeared the above named
and acknowledged the foregoing statements made by him/her to be true,

Before me,

Notary Public Signature

(Printed/Typed Name)

My Commission Expires:

b. Admission of METCO Students

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to admit new students from the METCO (Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity) program from Pre-K through Grade 4, subject to the School Committee's guidelines for class size and subject to the availability of funds for the METCO program from the Massachusetts Department of Education. Students who have participated in the METCO program in Grades Pre-K-Grade 4 in other METCO communities may be admitted to the Brookline program, subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Schools. The guideline for Brookline's total METCO enrollment shall be 300; however, this ceiling shall be kept flexible.

**(Revised from Admissions Policy, Section J, voted 6/19/78, #78-309, 10, 11, and amended 6/4/79, #79-191; 10/6/81, #81-462; 6/21/83, #83-260; 6/6/85 #85-226; and 4/27/89, # 89-197)
Adopted by the Brookline School Committee: 6/2/05, #05-75**

c. Admission of Children of Non-Resident Employees of the Town of Brookline

All new non-resident students will be admitted, with the permission of the Superintendent of Schools, on a space available basis and will be charged full tuition as has been established by the School Committee, except under the following circumstances when part or all of the tuition may be waived:

- a. Students enrolled in the METCO program.
- b. Children of employees of the Town of Brookline who live in the Boston part of Larz Anderson.
- c. Students enrolled in the High School under special programs approved by the School Committee.
- d. Students for whom other communities pay their tuition.
- e. Foreign students enrolled in School Committee approved programs such as the American Field Service exchange student program.
- f. Children of non-resident employees (including teachers) of the Town, with the following conditions and qualifications
 - 1.) Payment of \$300 processing fee.
 - 2.) First priority to tuition paying students in instances of limited space.
 - 3.) Second priority shall be given to non-resident teachers in cases of limited space.
 - 4.) All staffing shall be done on the basis of tuition paying or resident students.
 - 5.) At Brookline High School, the decision as to whether space is available or not is at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools, rather than on a class-by-class basis.
 - 6.) The cost of special education services connected to Chapter 766 and any other Massachusetts or federal statute will have to be borne by the employee's town or city of residence, or by the individual.
 - 7.) Children will be allowed to attend those schools where space is available. However, the Superintendent of Schools reserves the right to make the necessary changes in any school or individual grade.

(From Admissions Policy, Section J, voted 6/19/78, #78-309, 10, 11, and amended 6/4/79, #79-191; 10/6/81, #81-462; 6/21/83, #83-260; 6/6/85 #85-226; and 4/27/89, # 89-197)

**Admissions Guidelines
for Non-Resident Students (including METCO)**

(Voted 6/4/73, #73-176; 9/8/75, #75-331; 6/20/77, #77-336; 2/24/87, #87-75)

I. Non-Resident, Full-Tuition Paying Students

- a. Students are admitted to the Public Schools of Brookline on a space available basis, in accordance with state law.
- b. An initial letter will be sent in response to all inquiries regarding the non-resident, tuition payment program. The letter will be accompanied by an Application Packet.
- c. Completed applications must be returned no later than April 1st and accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 application fee.
- d. Applicants will be notified of their admission status no later than May 15. Those accepted will receive an Admissions Contract.
- e. To reserve a seat for the following school year, the applicant must return the Admissions Contract no later than May 31, with a \$500 deposit. This deposit will be applied toward the second tuition payment due in January. The deposit is forfeited in the event that the student fails to enroll.

II. Non-Resident Teacher's Children

- a. Students are admitted on a space available basis after full tuition-paying students have been admitted.
- b. An initial letter will be sent to teachers who have made inquiries regarding the non-resident, reduced-tuition program. This letter, modified regarding dates, fees, and deposit, will be accompanied by an Application Packet, modified to omit the \$50 fee.
- c. Completed application forms must be returned no later than April 1.
- d. Applicants will be notified of their admission status no later than June 1. Those accepted will receive an Admissions Contract.
- e. To reserve a seat for the following year, the applicant must return the Admissions Contract no later than June 15, with a \$50 deposit. This deposit will be applied toward the second tuition payment due in January. The deposit is forfeited in the event that the student fails to enroll.

III. Non-Resident School and Town Employee's Children

- a. Students are admitted on a space available basis after applicants in Categories 1 and 2 above have been processed.

- b. An initial letter will be sent to all employees who have made inquiries regarding the reduced-tuition program. This letter will be accompanied by an Application Packet, modified to omit reference to the \$40 fee.
- c. Completed applications must be received no later than April 1st.
- d. Applicants will be notified of their admission status no later than June 20. Acceptance letters will be accompanied by an Admissions Contract.
- e. The Contract must be returned no later than June 30th accompanied by a \$50 deposit. This deposit will be applied toward the second tuition payment due in January. The deposit is forfeited in the event that the student fails to enroll in September.

TUITION RATES FOR NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

YEAR	Non-Resident Students	Non-Resident Town and School Employee Children (Materials Fee)
1987-88	\$4500	\$300
1988-89	\$4800	\$300
1989-90	\$5100	\$400
1990-91	\$5500	\$600
1991-92	\$5900	\$600
1992-93	\$6200	\$600
1993-94	\$6350	\$625
1994-95	\$6550	\$725
1995-96	\$6650	\$725
1996-97	\$6750	\$725 (4/11/96; #96-34)
1997-98	\$6850	\$725 (4/3/97; #97-26)
1998-99	\$7000	\$750 (4/2/98; #98-31)
1999-00	\$7100	\$775 (4/8/99; #99-22)
2000-01	\$7400	\$800 (4/6/00; #00-25)
2001-02	\$7600	\$825 (4/12/01; #01-29)
2002-03	\$7800	\$850 (4/11/02; #02-43)
2003-04	\$9500	\$1000 (4/10/03; #03-24)
2004-05	\$10,000	\$1,000 (4/15/04; # 04-34)
2005-06	\$11,000	\$1,200 (4/7/05; #05-45)
2006-07	\$12,000	\$2,000 (4/6/06; #06-31)
2007-08	\$12,000	\$2,000
2008-09	\$12,000	\$2,000
2009-10	\$12,000	\$2,000
2010-11	\$14,000	\$2,000 (4/8/10; #10-23)
2011-12	\$14,000	\$2,347 (4/7/11; #11-25)
2012-13	\$14,000	\$2,417 (4/12/12; #12-27)
2013-14	\$14,000	See Chart (4/11/13; #13-27)

Fiscal Year	Materials Fee	% Discount Per Additional Child	\$ Discount Per Additional Child	Materials Fee Per Additional Child
FY12	\$2,347	0.00%	\$0	\$2,347
FY13	\$2,417	2.50%	\$60	\$2,357
FY14	\$2,490	5.00%	\$125	\$2,366
FY15	\$2,565	7.50%	\$192	\$2,373
FY16	\$2,642	10.00%	\$264	\$2,378
FY17	\$2,721	10.00%	\$272	\$2,449

RATES/FEEES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International Student Processing Fee: (Voted 6/5/90, #90-197; 6/16/92, 92-234) \$300, plus non-resident tuition. A \$500 deposit, to be credited to the tuition total, will also be required. Grandfathering will not be allowed. The following conditions also apply:

1. Students will be admitted annually on a space available basis.
2. The School Department reserves the right to deny or terminate any contract if the needs of the student exceed those typically experienced by Brookline students.
3. The student must be under 18 years of age.
4. An adult resident of Brookline with whom the student is to reside must publicly agree to accept responsibility for the supervision of the students.
5. The School Department reserves the right to terminate the contract at any time the terms are not met. Such terms should include the availability of appropriate adult supervision, meeting financial obligations in a timely manner, the absence of engagement in illegal activities, or not making adequate academic progress in the Brookline Schools.
6. Procedurally, when a request for an I-20 is received, basic information about the potential student should be solicited from the applicant. A tentative determination of available space should be made. If space appears to be available, a contract stating the initial cost of school attendance will be prepared. The contract should include information regarding its length and the terms under which it will stay in force. It should also include information about the adult responsible for providing supervision in Brookline. The I-20 should not be completed until the signed contract has been returned. Student registration forms should be modified to request information regarding the country of citizenship of each student to be registered in a Brookline school. If the student is not a citizen of the U.S. , the nature of the visa under which the student was admitted should be solicited. This information should be collected to ensure that students who have entered the country on I-20's approved by other school systems do not seek admission in Brookline on a tuition free basis.

J 1 d. Assignment of Students to Schools:

Voted 10/6/81, #81-461; 5/7/84, #84-171; 5/11/93, #93-148; 6/7/01, #01-65, #01-66, #01-67; 6/14/01, #01-77; 2/7/02, #02-14; 3/25/04, #04-23 and #04-25; 3/15/12, #12-18; 2/14/13, #13-13; 3/12/15, #15-16)

1. Open Enrollment

Open enrollment is defined as a condition whereby a resident of the Town whose child does not reside in a specific elementary school district, may request admission to a school in that district.

While students have a right to attend the elementary school in the school district where they reside, the Brookline School Committee endorses a policy of open enrollment, subject to certain provisions set forth below which are designed to support the class size policies of the Public Schools of Brookline, to ensure even utilization of individual building resources and staff throughout the system, and to protect the educational well-being of the students. If a transfer is approved to one child in a family, there can be no guarantee that a sibling will be granted similar approval. Children of a resident who moves from one school district to another within the Town may be granted permission to remain in the former school district upon request to the Superintendent of Schools or his designee. The transportation of students to out-of-district schools shall be the responsibility of the student's family.

2. Out of District Transfer Requests

With respect to out-of-district transfer requests, the following will be considered:

1. The class size in the school district of the applicant, and that in the school being requested;
2. The overall crowding conditions and staff/pupil loads in the school district of the applicant and that in the school being requested;
3. The parents' reason for the request;
4. The educational well-being of the student, including the opinions of the Principals of both schools and other staff members.

The Superintendent of Schools, based on a recommendation from the Office of Student Affairs, shall have the sole responsibility of deciding out-of-district transfer requests and the assignment of new families residing in buffer zones (*see below*), in accordance with School Committee policy.

3. Buffer Zones

a. Establishment of Buffer Zones

In order to help mitigate overcrowding in a grade or school and/or help maintain balanced class sizes across our elementary schools, the School Committee may establish school attendance "buffer zones," i.e. addresses or groups of addresses on or near elementary school district boundaries from which new students may be assigned by the Superintendent or his/her designee to any of the immediate school districts.

While committed to neighborhood elementary schools, the School Committee believes buffer zones are a necessary component of any strategy to manage the impacts of

enrollment growth because they provide the Superintendent greater flexibility to assign students to schools where space and resources afford the best possible education for those students.

b. Family Preference & Sibling Assignment

With respect to the assignment of new families residing in buffer zones:

1. The preference of the family will be considered in making the initial assignment.
2. Unless the family requests a different assignment, which will be considered according to the policy on out-of-district transfers, subsequent assignments of siblings in a given family will be made to the same school.

c. Periodic Review, Modification, Expansion, or Reassessment of Buffer Zone Need

In order to underscore the School Committee's objective of maintaining strong neighborhood schools and reducing the uncertainty felt by some families who move into buffer zones, the School Committee shall periodically review the PSB's need for buffer zones based on enrollments as well as the experience of the community with the buffer zones. Based on any such review, the School Committee may modify or expand buffer zones to include additional schools for potential student assignment provided, however, that such review does not guarantee repeal of any given buffer zone.

d. Public Access to Buffer Zone Information

A current map and full list and description of school attendance districts and buffer zones shall be available from the Town's GIS Department online through the Town's website, or in print form upon request.

4. Temporary Relocation of Students and/or Classrooms: (Voted 2/14/13, #13-13)

In response to extraordinary circumstances, including, but not limited to, space constraints from high enrollment or capital renovation/construction, the Superintendent of Schools may, at his or her discretion, in consultation with the School Committee, and in accordance with the goals outlined in the School Committee's policy J 1 e. Assignment of Students to Schools/Buffer Zones, temporarily relocate a classroom or classrooms of students in grades K-12 to spaces outside of the school to which they are assigned. Such temporary relocation may be sited in rental space or other buildings within the PSB or Town, including other elementary schools. Any such relocation shall be temporary, shall terminate when the need for such relocation ends, and shall not exceed 2 years without a vote of the School Committee on or before March 15th of the second year of implementation. Students relocated under this provision shall retain their original school assignment status for all other purposes including, but not limited to, matriculation and calculations of school enrollment.

SECTION J STUDENTS

2. Placement

a. Kindergarten Entrance Age:

(Voted 5/11/93, #93-150; 5/18/93, #93-154; 3/1/94, #94-14; 3/14/96, #96-24; 2/7/02, #02-18; 3/21/02, #02-32; 4/25/02, #02-45; 11/15/10, #10-86)

In order for a child to be eligible to enter kindergarten, he/she must have reached the age of five (5) years on or before August 31 of the year in which he/she enters kindergarten. No exceptions shall be made.

J 2 b. Assignment of Students to Classes: (Voted 11/24/87, #87-576)

The grade level or class placement of students shall be determined by school department staff in accordance with the following guidelines established by the staff and approved by the School Committee:

J 2 b. 1. Class Placement/Grade Level: Transferees: (Voted 11/24/87, #87-576)

1. Decisions regarding the placement of students transferring into the Public Schools of Brookline from other systems shall be made by the Principal in the Elementary Schools after consultation with appropriate specialists and by the Housemasters after consultation with the Guidance Counselors and Department Coordinators at the High School.
2. The following factors shall be considered:
 - a. The child's age, ability, achievement, social development, and previous grade.
 - b. Scores and evaluations on such tests as are utilized by the Public Schools of Brookline.
 - c. Parental input.
 - d. Input from the child's previous teacher, where possible.
3. Appeals
 - a. Elementary school parents may appeal the decision of the Principal to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction and to the Superintendent of Schools. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.
 - b. High School parents may appeal the decision of the Housemaster to the Headmaster to the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and to the Superintendent. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.
4. The Brookline Public Schools will not engage in or pay for additional testing or other diagnostic procedures as part of the placement process.

J 2 b. 2. Promotion and Retention of Students

(Voted 11/24/87, #87-576; 2/12/09, #09-13)

1. Regular promotions of all pupils who have attained a satisfactory proficiency shall be made at the close of the school year with the approval of the elementary school Principal and the Headmaster at the High School.
2. Student grade retention shall be determined as appropriate by the elementary school Principal or the High School Headmaster.
 - a. Factors to be considered in these actions shall include:
 1. The child's age, social development and previous grade and achievement levels.
 2. Scores and evaluations on such tests as are utilized by the Brookline Public Schools.
 3. The recommendations of the relevant Dean (BHS), the teacher(s), guidance counselor and social worker, as appropriate.
 4. Parental input.
 - b. Pupils who for two consecutive years have been in the same class and who have been constant in attendance, who produce a certificate from their teacher that they have worked faithfully during that time may be promoted if deemed appropriate by the Superintendent of Schools.
3. Appeal of a decision of the elementary school Principal or High School Headmaster may be made to the Deputy Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and to the Superintendent of Schools. The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

J 2 b. 3. Grade Acceleration

(Voted 2/12/09, #09-13)

1. The Public Schools of Brookline recognizes that children develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, and physically at different rates. While the vast majority of children are well served by progressing through the preK-8 elementary system, there may be a few exceptional children who have mastered concepts and skills far beyond their grade level peers, have exhausted all available resources, and are in need of a different academic experience. In these situations, careful consideration must be taken to determine the best course of action for meeting the needs of these children.

Grade Acceleration, defined as students being placed in a grade ahead of their usual placement by age, may be one viable alternative. It should, however, be viewed as an exception in educational protocol, requiring careful consideration and support.

Grade Acceleration decisions will be based on a comprehensive evaluation of the child, using multiple measures including, but not limited to: ability tests, aptitude tests, achievement tests, measures of developmental areas and social skills, and samples of student work. In addition, students being considered for Grade Acceleration must demonstrate proficiency, or demonstrate the ability to become proficient independently, of the Brookline Learning Expectations within the four core subjects of the grade(s) being skipped. Based on these outcomes and in collaboration with the parents and the school personnel involved (principal, classroom teacher, ECS resource teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, ECS program coordinator), the School Department will determine the best grade placement for the student.

J 2 b. 4. Student Grouping, Inclusion and Placement Practices: Originally approved: 1/9/97; 1/23/97, #97-4; Revised Policy Adopted by School Committee 3/11/10, #10-19.

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) is committed to identifying and eliminating barriers to educational achievement and to providing educational opportunities that ensure every student meets our standards for achievement and is challenged in meaningful ways. To this end, we consciously and explicitly hold all students to high expectations and engage in grouping, inclusion and placement practices that create the necessary classroom conditions for all students to achieve at high levels.

Consistent with Massachusetts General Laws and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) with respect to student grouping, inclusion and placement practices, it is the policy of the Brookline School Committee that:

- All students are expected to meet high learning standards as defined by High School Course Syllabi and Expectations and pK-8 Learning Expectations in all grades, courses and levels. With thorough knowledge of their students' strengths and needs, and with resources and support available to them, classroom teachers will have primary responsibility for identifying, coordinating, and providing learning opportunities that promote high achievement for all their students.
- All classes and sections are open to all students, including elementary school enrichment programs, high school courses and, in the case of students with disabilities, general education classrooms. Parents, school personnel and students (where appropriate) shall collaborate in the decision-making process to determine the placement that is in the best interest of the student consistent with state and federal law. The goal is for the student to be in the most challenging and least restrictive class/section available.
- Elementary classroom teachers will use a variety of grouping strategies to challenge and engage students in meaningful ways. Groups created in an elementary classroom or grade shall be flexible and dynamic so that the composition of these groups can change over the course of a year.

- When determining class placement of students at any grade level in elementary school and in the creation of middle school class lists, consideration shall be given to various student learning needs. In order to create effective learning environments and maintain valued diversity within each classroom, efforts will be made to place students with some peers who share similar profiles so that teachers can more effectively address the strengths and needs of all students.

Furthermore, the Superintendent is charged with developing and implementing the following programs and procedures:

- The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop guidelines outlining the classroom practices and school procedures aligned with this policy.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee, in collaboration with school principals, will create and implement programs and practices to support and develop teachers' understanding of content, instruction and classroom conditions that meet the needs of diverse learners consistent with M.G.L. c. 71, s. 38Q and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 71, s. 38Q½.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee will provide additional or alternative opportunities for students who demonstrate mastery of the learning expectations in a particular subject area. Mastery will be determined by various and multiple PSB assessments and by school personnel. These opportunities are intended to provide students with curricular challenge in a setting appropriate to the student's social and emotional development, and will include the possibility of elementary student enrollment in BHS courses, as well as high school student participation at local colleges or universities.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop programs and processes that enable all high school students who wish to progress into a higher level class to attend courses, including, but not limited to, summer school classes that may be necessary for such progression.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop programs and practices that encourage and enable teachers to provide instructional differentiation at all academic levels (including, but not limited to, enrichment and challenge support) so that all students are appropriately challenged academically and experiencing progress at the elementary level.
- The Superintendent or his/her designee will develop practices, aligned with the IDEA and M.G.L. c. 71B, s. 3, to ensure that students are educated in a general education setting (with appropriate support) to the maximum extent possible. Determination of educational setting will be made through the special education team process, informed by a child study team at each building.

SECTION J STUDENTS

3. Attendance (Voted 11/6/78, #78-447; 4/27/89, #89-196; 1/5/12, #12-2; 6/16/15, #15-41)

Regular and consistent school attendance directly contributes to student success. The purpose of this policy is to provide minimum standards for student attendance in the Public Schools of Brookline, and to provide guidance to the elementary schools and the high school for the development of attendance related rules that are consistent with the requirements of G.L. c. 76, s. 1 and this Policy.

I. ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

The School Committee is charged with enforcing school attendance. Under Massachusetts' law, regular attendance at school is required for all persons between the ages of 6 and 16, and parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children's attendance at school. G.L. c. 76, s. 1, 2.

All students enrolled in the PSB are required to attend school, including all scheduled classes, on each school day, and to arrive on time to school and to all scheduled classes. Students will be excused from attending school or class or from arriving late to school or class on a particular day only if one or more of the attendance exceptions set forth in Part III of this Policy applies. In all other cases, students who are absent from school or from class or who are consistently late to school or to class may be subject to disciplinary action, as may be provided in their school handbook, or as otherwise determined by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

II. ATTENDANCE RULES AND PROCEDURES

All schools shall develop and maintain uniform school attendance rules and procedures that are consistent with this Policy. Such attendance rules and procedures shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. A process for providing notice to students and their parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year of: (a) the PSB attendance requirements; (b) the range of consequences for a student's failure to attend or arrive on time to school or to scheduled classes at school; (c) the procedure parents/guardians shall use to report student absences or late arrivals to school or to scheduled classes at school; and (d) the requirement that parents/guardians provide updated contact information so that they may be reached during the school day;
2. A process for monitoring student attendance at school that is consistent with applicable law and the collective bargaining agreement between the School Committee and Brookline Educators' Union;
3. In the event that a student is absent from school and the parent/guardian has not informed the school of the absence, a process for notifying the student's parent/guardian as soon as reasonably possible but within no more than 3 days of the student's absence;

4. A process for notifying the parent/guardian of a student who has at least 5 days in which the student has missed 2 or more periods unexcused in a school year or who has missed 5 or more school days unexcused in a school year. The Principal, or the Principal's designee, shall make a reasonable effort to meet with the parent/guardian of a student who has 5 or more unexcused absences to develop action steps for student attendance. These action steps shall be developed jointly and agreed upon by the Principal, or Principal's designee, the student, and the student's parent/guardian and with input from other relevant school personnel and officials from relevant public safety, health and human service, housing, and non-profit agencies;
5. A process for responding promptly to an individual student's failure to arrive on time to school or to scheduled classes at school, which process shall include notification to the student's parent/guardian;
6. A process for reporting an individual student's pattern of tardiness or absences to the student's parent/guardian and to the school Principal or Headmaster or their designees and implementing remedial or disciplinary action, as appropriate; and
7. A process for establishing the scope of a student's responsibility for making up missed work or scheduled tests.

III. EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

A. Excused Absences: A student shall be deemed to have an excused absence from school or from class only under the following circumstances:

1. The student is experiencing personal illness;
2. The student has suffered personal trauma, such as the death of a family member;
3. The student is observing a religious holiday;
4. The student must attend a medical appointment that cannot be made outside of school hours. The student must provide proper documentation for such appointment. The School Committee discourages the making of appointments during the school day;
5. The student must participate in a legal proceeding requiring his/her personal appearance;
6. The student has been suspended from school;
7. The student is attending an approved school related trip, assembly, or meeting;
8. The student is attending a scheduled interview for formal opportunities outside of school which may include, but not be limited to employment, postsecondary education opportunity, or internship. The student must provide proper documentation for such interview;
9. Other, as deemed appropriate by the Principal or Headmaster or their designees.

All such absences must be confirmed by an eligible parent/guardian.

B. Unexcused Absences: An unexcused absence is not covered by Section IIIA above. Examples of an unexcused absence may include, but may not be limited to:

1. Repetitive or chronic absence or tardiness due to illness or injury not documented by a doctor or other medical professional;
2. Non-emergency family situations; and
3. Family Vacations.

Refs: G.L. c. 76, s. 1 and 2; 603 CMR 27.00

3 a. Student Demonstrations and Strikes: (Voted 3/8/71, #71-99)

Note this section was moved from Section J7 (Student Discipline) per vote on 3/12/15.

Walkouts and demonstrations are **not** considered as planned absences and will be handled in conformity with normal policies for unauthorized classroom absence. Students must assume the responsibility for make-up work for all absences and the teachers are responsible for providing help for all excused absences. Parents and students should be aware that any absences affect academic standing.

The use of school facilities should not interfere with the normal school program. Meeting rooms may be made available to students and student-connected groups through normal procedures.

Staff Responsibility:

In the event of a walkout the staff has primary responsibility to cover students in class. A teacher wishing to accompany students out of the building in order to oversee their safety should ensure, with the approval of the department chairman or director, a supervised on-going classroom experience for those students wishing to remain in class. The chairman or director should notify the Headmaster.

SECTION J STUDENTS

4. Records, Rights & Responsibilities, and Involvement

a. Student Records: (Voted 3/19/91, #91-83)

I. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the Brookline School Committee ("Brookline") has used the following definitions of terms:

Student - any person who attends or has attended a school in the Public Schools of Brookline.

Eligible Student - a student or former student who has reached age 14 or entered the ninth grade, or is attending post-secondary classes.

Parent - either natural parent of a student, a guardian, or an individual acting as a parent or guardian in the absence of the student's parent or guardian.

Education records - any record (in handwriting, print, tapes, film, or other medium) maintained by Brookline or its agent which is directly related to a student, except:

1. a personal record kept by a school staff member if it is kept in the personal possession of the individual who made the record, and information contained in the record has never been revealed or made available to any other person except the maker's temporary substitute.
2. an employment record which is used only in relation to a student's employment by Brookline.
3. alumni records which contain information about a student after he or she is no longer in attendance, and the records do not relate to the person as a student.

II. Annual Notification

State and federal laws require that parents receive annual notification of their rights under student records acts (a copy of which shall be sent to Bureau of Student, Adult & Community Services).

Parents will be notified of their rights annually by publication in their child's student handbook; or

Parents will be notified of their rights annually by letter; or

Parents will be notified of their rights annually by publication in their child's school PTO Newsletter.

III. Procedure to Inspect Education Records

Parents of students or eligible students may inspect and review the student's education records upon request.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the student's school principal a written request which identifies the record or records he or she wishes to inspect.

The principal (or other appropriate school official) will make the needed arrangements for access which shall be no later than two consecutive weekdays after the request is made and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

When a record contains information about students other than a parent's child or the eligible student, the parent or eligible student may not inspect and review the portion of the record which pertains to other students.

IV. Fees For Copies Of Records

While Brookline may not charge for search and retrieval of the records, it may charge a reasonable fee for copying not to exceed the cost of reproduction, and postage if any.

V. Custodians Of Education Records

The school principal/headmaster or his or her designee shall be responsible for the privacy and security of all student records maintained in the school. The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall bear the same responsibility for those student records that are not under the supervision of a school principal or headmaster.

VI. Disclosure Of Education Records

Brookline will disclose information from a student's education records only with the written consent of the parent or eligible student, except:

1. to school officials or authorized school personnel, defined as:
 - persons employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, counselor, service provider, teacher or support staff member.
 - persons employed by or under contract to Brookline to perform a special task, such as an attorney, auditor, consultant, clerical staff or therapist, and includes attorneys from Town Counsel's office.
- School officials or authorized school personnel have a legitimate educational interest if the official is:

- * performing a task that is specified in his or her position description or by a contract agreement.
- * performing a task related to a student's education.
- * performing a task related to the discipline of a student.
- * providing a service or benefit relating to the student or student's family, such as health care, counseling, or job placement.

2. to officials of another school or district in which a student seeks to or intends to enroll. Brookline will make a reasonable attempt to notify the parent of the disclosure.

3. to certain officials of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General, and state and local educational authorities, in connection with certain state or federally supported education programs.

4. in connection with a student's request for or receipt of financial aid, as necessary to determine the eligibility, amount or conditions of the financial aid, or to enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.

5. if required by a state law requiring disclosure that was adopted before November 19, 1974.

6. to organizations or persons conducting certain educational studies or evaluations for or on behalf of Brookline.

7. to accrediting organizations to carry out their functions.

8. to parents of an eligible student who claim the student as a dependent for income tax purposes.

9. to comply with a judicial order, Bureau of Special Education Appeals order or a lawfully issued subpoena.

10. to appropriate parties as determined by the Superintendent of Schools or School Committee in a health or safety emergency.

VII. Record Of Requests For Disclosure (Log of Access)

Brookline will maintain a log of all requests for and/or disclosure of information from a student's education records, excluding requests by school officials and authorized school personnel. The log will indicate the name of the party making the request, any additional parties to whom it may be disclosed, and the legitimate interest the party had in requesting or obtaining the information. The log may be reviewed by the parents or eligible student.

VIII. Correction of Education Records

Parents or eligible students have the right to ask that records be added, deleted, corrected or amended that they believe are inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy rights, except information that is part of the development of a currently proposed and not rejected IEP. Following are the procedures for the correction of records:

1. Parents or the eligible student must ask Brookline to amend the record in writing. In so doing, they should identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why they believe it is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of the student's privacy or other rights.
2. Brookline may comply with the request or it may decide not to comply. If it decides not to comply, it will notify in writing the parents or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a conference with the principal or designee in order to challenge the information believed to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's rights. Such conference will be scheduled within 10 school days of Brookline's receipt of appeal. The principal's decision shall be rendered in writing within one week of the conference.
3. If the parent or eligible student is not satisfied with the principal's decision, a written appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools who shall, within two weeks of receipt of such appeal, render a written decision to the student or parent with reasons therefore. If the parent or eligible student is not satisfied, the appellant has the right to appeal, in writing, to the Chairperson of the School Committee. The School Committee will inform the Bureau of Student, Community and Adult Services of such appeal.
4. Within four weeks of receipt of such appeal, a hearing will be conducted by the School Committee. The parents or eligible student will be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in the original request to amend the students education records. The parents or student may be assisted by one or more individuals, including an attorney.
5. Within two weeks of such hearing, the School Committee will prepare a written decision based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The decision will include a summary of the evidence presented and the reason for the decision.

6. If the School Committee decides that the challenged information is not inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right of privacy, it will notify the parents or eligible student that they have a right to place in the record a statement commenting on the challenged information and/or a statement setting forth reasons for disagreeing with the decision.

7. The statement will be maintained as part of the student's education records as long as the contested portion is maintained. If Brookline discloses the contested portion of the record, it will also disclose the statement.

8. If the School Committee decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right of privacy, it will direct the appropriate administrator to amend the record and notify the parents or eligible student in writing, that the record has been amended.

9. The School Committee shall notify the Bureau of Student, Community and Adult Services of its decision.

J 4 b. Confidentiality of Records: (Manual of Administration, 1966)

It is the policy of the Brookline School Committee to regard as confidential all information regarding a child or his parents as a result of the child's being enrolled in the Public Schools of Brookline. Similarly held in confidence is any information concerning teachers or other employees.

It is the policy also to discuss freely and fully any information concerning a pupil with his parents at their request or when there is a need on the part of the school to do so. Such information is usually, and almost always, discussed in interpretative terms and generalizations in order that misunderstandings may not arise due to the technical composition of much of the matter. Exact quotation of test scores and comparisons should be made very seldom to prevent quotation and reaction from others who may wish also to obtain statistics which are not thoroughly understood.

It is important that there be a common understanding and well-established policy regarding the dissemination of information about the children. Cooperation is extended, of course, in the exchange of information with accredited child guidance agencies. Confidential information may also be furnished to private medical and guidance practitioners who are referred to the schools.

Appropriate information may be furnished directly to the two classes of agencies mentioned in the preceding two paragraphs provided a record is kept of what information is given, and provided a memorandum is sent to the Department of Pupil Support Services indicating the same.

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In all instances, extreme care must be taken in giving information of record over the telephone, since the identity of the one inquiring cannot always be assured.

All requests for data concerning a pupil of his parents made by any probation officer, lawyer, or court attaché should be referred to the Department of Pupil Support Services. If the information desired is subpoenaed by the Court, the Supervisor of Attendance is delegated to appear in Court with the requested records. The Court may also subpoena the principal for purposes of direct testimony.

Since the Supervisor of Attendance is ordinarily the schools representative in Court, court attaches should not be permitted to bypass him. The probation officer and others should not have direct access to school records without legal process or at least without some screening.

J 4. c. Policy Pertaining to the Disclosure of Disciplinary and Criminal Record Information to Post-Secondary Schools and Institutions

The Common Application for Undergraduate College Admission Secondary School Report contains the following questions pertaining to student disciplinary and criminal record information:

Question One:

Has the applicant ever been found responsible for a disciplinary violation at your school from 9th grade (or the international equivalent) forward, whether related to academic misconduct or behavioral misconduct, that resulted in the applicant's probation, suspension, removal, dismissal, or expulsion from your institution?

It is the mission of the Public Schools of Brookline to educate students. A primary goal in pursuit of this mission is to teach students responsibility, good citizenship, and respect for others. It is recognized that during the learning process, students may occasionally exercise judgment or make mistakes that they later regret. It is also recognized that post-secondary schools and institutions need to take steps to ensure that students entering their institutions do not pose risks to themselves or members of the community. In view of this, it is the policy of the Public Schools of Brookline to respond to Question One as follows:

It is the policy of the Public Schools of Brookline to answer "no" to this question, unless: (1) the applicant has been found responsible for a disciplinary violation arising out of conduct that occurred either at school or outside of school and involved the threat of harm or actual harm to another; and (2) such conduct caused the Headmaster (or his/her designee, if applicable) to determine, at the time disciplinary action was taken, that the applicant's presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school; and (3) after notice and the opportunity for a hearing, the Headmaster has determined that the applicant should not be exonerated for such conduct for the purposes of this policy, in which case the answer to this question shall be "yes."

Question Two

To your knowledge, has the applicant ever been convicted of a misdemeanor, felony, or other crime?

Massachusetts General Law prohibits the dissemination of criminal offender record information. Consequently, effective the date of passage, May 22, 2008, it is the policy of the Public Schools of Brookline to leave the answer to this question blank. This response should not be construed as suggesting that the applicant has, or has not, ever been convicted of a crime in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. See G.L. c. 6, s. 178

Students should be aware that this policy does not absolve them of their obligation to complete their application truthfully and that failure to do so may, if discovered, result in an admission decision being revoked.

Students who must answer a question similar to question one and/or question two in the affirmative may request in writing that the guidance counselor's report address the incident or incidents.

New Policy Adopted by Brookline School Committee: 5/22/08; # 08-52

J 4 d. Cumulative Records: (Manual of Administration, 1966)

The thirteen-year cumulative pupil record consists of a nine-year elementary school record card and a four-year high school record envelope, into which the elementary school record is to be inserted when the pupil enters high-school.

The permanent record cards of elementary school pupils who enter Brookline High School should be sent to the High School by October 1 each year. The cards of pupils who do not enter Brookline High School, as well as the cards of those who withdraw previously, should be retained in the elementary school of last attendance.

When a pupil whose record shows that he at one time attended the Brookline elementary schools enters Brookline High School from other than a Brookline eighth grade, the High School should request the cumulative record from the Brookline School last attended.

J 4. e. *Non-Custodial Parents Rights Policy (New Policy)*

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 34H provides that a non-custodial parent may have access to his or her child's student record in accordance with the law and regulations promulgated by the Department of Education. The school district will follow the law and the regulations developed by the Massachusetts Department of Education to standardize the process by which public schools provide student records to parents who do not have physical custody of their children ("non-custodial parents").

As required by M.G.L. c.71, § 34H, a non-custodial parent may have access to the student record in accordance with the following provisions:

- A. A non-custodial parent is eligible to obtain access to the student record unless:
- (1) the parent's access to the child is currently prohibited by a temporary or permanent protective order, except where the protective order, or any subsequent order which modifies the protective order, specifically allows access to the child's student record; or
 - (2) the parent is denied visitation, or, based on a threat to the safety of the child, is currently denied legal custody of the child or is currently ordered to supervised visitation, and the threat is specifically noted in the order pertaining to custody or supervised visitation.
- B. Pursuant to 603 CMR 23.07 (5)(a), the school shall place in the student's record any documents indicating that a non-custodial parent's access to the student's record or information is limited or restricted.
- C. In order to obtain access, the non-custodial parent must submit a written request for the student record to the school principal.
- D. Upon receipt of the request, the receiving school shall review the student record for any documents limiting or restricting parental access to the student's records or information and shall immediately notify the custodial parent by certified and first class mail, in English and the primary language of the custodial parent, that it will provide the non-custodial parent with access after 21 days, unless the custodial parent provides the principal with documentation that the non-custodial parent is not eligible to obtain access as set forth in 603 CMR 23.07 (5)(a).
- E. The school shall delete all electronic, postal address and telephone number information relating to either work or home locations of the custodial parent from student records provided to non-custodial parents. In addition, such records must be marked to indicate that they shall not be used to support admission of the student to another school.

- F. Upon receipt of a court order which prohibits the distribution of information pursuant to G.L. c. 71, §34H, the school shall notify the non-custodial parent that it shall cease to provide access to the student record to the non-custodial parent.

The principals of each elementary school and the Headmaster of the High School shall designate a staff member whose duties shall include the proper implementation of this policy.

SOURCE: MASC, Revised: May 8, 2006

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. c. 71, s. .34H

603 CMR 23.07 (5) Access Procedures for Non-Custodial Parents

New Policy Adopted by Brookline School Committee: 9/28/06; # 06-87

J 4 f. Student Rights & Responsibilities: (Voted 12/6/71, #71-510)

The purpose of student involvement in the process of education are:

- a. To find a common ground on which students and faculty can stand together and pursue the basic goals of the schools;
 - b. To create an atmosphere conducive to effective teaching and learning and;
 - c. To ensure an exchange of ideas and viewpoints between faculty and students.
1. Particular attention should be given to the establishment of a process for students to initiate and create change. This process should be stated and defined clearly and should become a part of the learning experience. This process should include students with both academic and vocational goals.
 2. A standing Faculty/Student Committee should be appointed annually to review rules and procedures of Brookline High School regarding AWOLS, pupil transfers, and the like.
 3. All Departments are encouraged to involve students in the development and evaluation of curriculum. This involves student participation in curriculum workshops.
 4. Course descriptions should be reviewed and refined to reflect accurately the process as well as the content of each course.
 5. The students in each classroom should be encouraged to assume some responsibility for shaping individual classroom procedures and evaluating instructional materials.
 6. A specific channel or process should be devised which will permit students to initiate or introduce new courses to the school.
 7. The student newspaper, the yearbook, the literary magazine, and other school publications are to be managed by the students; they are to bear the responsibility for the content and quality.

An advisor, mutually acceptable to the publication staff and the school administration, is to be appointed each year. Among other functions, the advisor should serve as intermediary between the publication staff and the administration.

In any dispute involving content, the final judge shall be the publication staff. The staff is expected to maintain high standards of quality and accuracy; but no advisor, faculty member, administrator, or other members of the administration of the Brookline Public Schools shall have the power to overrule the staff on any matter of content. The primary responsibility of these publications is to the students.

8. Students should aid the Superintendent of Schools in recommending a candidate for the position of Headmaster and Dean when a vacancy occurs.

Any student who feels that a teacher, administrator, or other employee of the school system has deprived him of any of the above rights, or who otherwise feels that he has been unfairly treated in matters of substance, shall have direct recourse to the Superintendent of Schools and the Brookline School Committee.

J 4 g. Student Involvement in Decision-Making/Initiation of Courses or Clubs:
 (Voted 9/22/81, #81-431; 2/5/73, #73-42,43)

The School Committee abides by the relevant Massachusetts General Laws regarding student participation in the decision-making process. To this end, the Committee encourages the formation of a Student Advisory Committee and its participation in decision-making, the establishment of procedures whereby students may initiate a course, club or organization within the fiscal limits of the budget, and the adoption from time to time, as appropriate, of such other measures which promote active student participation in the decision-making process.

Students may initiate a course in the following manner:

1. Determine, jointly with the appropriate Department Chairman, the general ideas and units to be included in the proposed course.
2. Obtain a COURSE PETITION FORM from the Headmaster's Office.
3. Complete the COURSE PETITION FORM, including the required twenty (20) signatures of parents-or guardians.
4. Return the completed COURSE PETITION FORM to the Headmaster's Office by the specified date.
5. Within three months of the submission of the completed form to the Headmaster's Office, the School Committee will consider the proposal at an open meeting, at which the students will have an-opportunity to present their proposal.
6. If the School Committee approves the course, it would be offered during the following school year, subject to: the availability of a teacher; the availability of finances; and the existing guidelines for class size.

Students may initiate a club or organization in the following manner:

1. A student, or a group of students, may outline the purpose, membership, and activities of the proposed club, which outline shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Student/Faculty Assembly. Notice regarding the date of the Student/Faculty Assembly, shall be given to the school community, and copies of the proposal shall be available for examination by the School Committee.

2. Within one month of the date of the submission of the outline, an open meeting of the Student/Faculty Assembly shall be held, at which there shall be a discussion of the proposal.
3. Within a limited time, the Student/Faculty Assembly shall publish its recommendations regarding the proposal.
4. If the Student/Faculty Assembly approves the proposal, the Youth Advisory Council shall submit the proposal to the School Committee, which will determine final acceptance or rejection of the proposed club or organization.
5. If the Student/Faculty Assembly disapproves the proposal, the students may submit their proposal to the Student/Faculty Assembly at a future date.

**SECTION J
STUDENTS**

5. Searches and Seizures:

(Voted 6/11/85, #85-250; 2/28/89, #89-91)

Note this section was moved from Section J7 (Student Discipline) per vote on 3/12/15.

Any searches and seizures will be conducted solely for the safety and well-being of students and adults in the Brookline Public Schools.

a. U.S. Supreme Court Standard For All Searches:

In order for a Headmaster, Housemaster, Principal, Vice Principal or Assistant Principal to conduct a search of a students person, - or her locker, or possessions:

(1) there must be reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student has violated the law or rules of the school concerning contraband or stolen property; and

(2) the search must be conducted in a manner reasonably related to its objectives and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and of the nature of the infraction and always in the presence of another school administrator.

b. Locker Searches:

(1) mass searches of lockers are prohibited unless the Headmaster or Principal or his or her designee deems that a threat to the safety of the school exists;

(2) with a valid search warrant, the police may search any locker at any time.

c. Elementary School Searches:

(1) No elementary school student may be searched without first attempting to notify the parent at his or her emergency telephone number. If the parent cannot be reached, and if there are reasonable grounds for the search as defined above, such search will be conducted taking into consideration the best interests of the child.

(2) In the event that a second administrator is not available, the Principal or his or her designee may conduct an otherwise valid search in the presence of another staff member.

SECTION J STUDENTS

6. *Policy Against Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Retaliation*

(Voted 3/16/17, #17-28)

(Replaced *Safe Schools Policy* (10/26/06, #06-98; Revised 5/5/11, #11-41)

General Statement of Policy

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) is dedicated to creating and maintaining an educational and work environment that values the diverse backgrounds of all people.

This Policy applies to all sites and activities the PSB supervises, controls or where it has jurisdiction under the law, and to conduct involving school community members outside of school but arising from or connected to a school-related activity.

I. Prohibited Discrimination

Consistent with applicable law,¹ the PSB prohibits all forms of discrimination in all of its programs, activities and services based on a person's protected class under the law:

<p>Discrimination or discriminatory harassment or bullying, in other words, harassment or bullying on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● race ● ethnicity ● color ● religion ● national origin ● sex/gender ● sexual orientation ● gender identity or expression ● disability or perceived disability ● age ● genetic information ● marital/parental status ● military/veteran status 	<p>Any form of the following additional prohibited conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● sexual violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ rape ○ sexual assault ○ sexual exploitation ○ statutory rape ○ aiding the commission of sexual violence ● sexual harassment ● dating violence ● stalking
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Prohibited discrimination under this Policy includes discriminatory harassment or bullying.² Prohibited discriminatory harassment and bullying is motivated by or expresses a negative attitude toward a person's membership in a protected class or protected characteristic and creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. It may include, but is not limited to, written, verbal or electronic express or a physical act or gesture such as:

¹ See Legal References at the end of this Policy.

² Bullying of students that is not discriminatory or retaliatory under this Policy is addressed by the PSB's Bullying Prevention Policy, Section J(5), PSB Policy Manual.

- use of epithets, slurs or nicknames that refer to a person's protected characteristic such as, but not limited to, race or sexual orientation,
- jokes that have the purpose or effect of demeaning or making fun of a person based on a protected characteristic,
- graffiti or other visual messages or displays that degrade a person based on a protected characteristic, and
- any other verbal or non-verbal conduct that has the purpose or effect creating a hostile work environment based on a person's protected characteristic.

The PSB also prohibits harassment or bullying of school community members or other harmful conduct for reasons that may be unrelated to protected class.

II. Prohibited Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when any one of the three following criteria is met:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of participation in the PSB's educational, employment, or other programs, services or activities;
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment, educational or programmatic decisions affecting such individual; **OR**
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational environment or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment with regard to the PSB's employment or employment, educational or other programs, activities or services.

Sexual harassment may include conduct by one individual toward another irrespective of the sex or gender identity of either. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:

- sexual advances or propositions or requests for sexual favors;
- preferential treatment or promises of preferential treatment for submitting to sexual conduct, or less favorable treatment or threats of less favorable treatment for not submitting to sexual conduct;
- unwelcome touching of a personal nature, ranging from hugging, kissing, pinching, patting, grabbing, brushing against, and poking to sexual assault/rape;
- sexual or obscene gestures, noises, whistling, remarks, suggestions, innuendo or jokes;

- comments or questions enquiring about a person's body or sexual abilities, deficiencies or experience;
- staring or leering;
- displaying (including, but not limited to, on walls, lockers, and computer screens), or by the reading or viewing, of sexually-suggestive or pornographic objects, pictures or other graphic or written material;
- disseminating sexually-suggestive or pornographic graphic or written material by voice mail, email, text, or websites; and
- any other verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of subjecting a person to an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment.

III. Prohibited Retaliation

The PSB prohibits punitive action of any kind against a person for engaging in protected conduct such as complaining of, reporting, or opposing acts of discrimination, sexual harassment and/or retaliation, or for participating in an investigation into or proceeding relating to alleged discrimination, sexual harassment and/or retaliation. Prohibited retaliation may include, but is not limited to:

- disciplining a person, or taking any other adverse action against a person based on a person's protected conduct,
- discriminating against a person in the PSB services, programs and activities because of a person's protected conduct, and
- subjecting a person to harassment, bullying, shunning, hazing, or name-calling, or any other hostile verbal or non-verbal conduct on the basis of a person's protected conduct.

IV. Reasonable Accommodation

The PSB will reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities and with religious observance or practice requirements. A reasonable accommodation is one that would not pose an undue financial or administrative burden on the PSB by being unduly costly, extensive, substantial or disruptive, or by fundamentally altering the nature or operation of the PSB's programs, services or activities. Depending on the facts, examples of reasonable accommodations may include, but are not limited to, a modified work or break schedule, altering how or when job duties are performed, reasonable modifications to policies and procedures, supplying an auxiliary aid or service to permit effective communication, and providing assistive technology or removal of an architectural barrier.

Persons seeking reasonable accommodations should direct their request to the applicable Coordinator designated in Section VII below.

Students seeking a Section 504 accommodation or special education services in order to access the PSB's educational programs should contact the Office of the Deputy Superintendent for Student Services for more information about any special procedures

(including complaint procedures) applicable to Section 504 accommodations and special education services.

V. Other Prohibited Actions

Also prohibited by this Policy is knowingly making a false accusation of discrimination, sexual harassment or retaliation, or interfering with the investigation into such conduct by, for example, pressuring, goading, or encouraging false denials or covering up such conduct.

VI. Duties/Responsibilities

- a. In each school, the Principal is responsible for receiving complaints/reports of violations of this Policy at the school level. The Superintendent is responsible for receiving complaints/reports of violations by a Principal or a Deputy Superintendent. The Chair of the School Committee is responsible for receiving complaints/reports of violations by the Superintendent. Any other person designated by the Principal, Superintendent, or School Committee Chair to receive complaints/reports shall forward them to the person responsible for receiving them under this paragraph. A Coordinator identified in Section VII below will be consulted regarding next steps consistent with this Policy and applicable law.
- b. PSB staff, independent contractors and school volunteers who witness or become aware of discrimination, sexual harassment and/or retaliation shall immediately report such conduct to the Principal/Superintendent/School Committee.
- c. Each member of the school community is responsible for cooperating with the PSB's investigation of reports or complaints of violations of this Policy and with the PSB's efforts to prevent, respond effectively to, and eliminate any such conduct.
- d. The Superintendent is responsible for:
 - developing procedures to implement this Policy, which shall be consistent with legal requirements and PSB Policy and procedures, including, but not limited to, the Bullying Prevention Policy and procedures, the Student Discipline Policy, and applicable collective bargaining agreements.
 - Otherwise developing guidelines to effectively implement this Policy and comply with applicable law, which may include guidelines regarding:
 - i. publication of this Policy and Notices of Rights to the entire school community in an age appropriate manner and in the languages most prevalent within the school community, including in School Handbooks, and
 - ii. in-service training; and
 - iii. student training.

VII. Policy Coordinators/Notice of Rights

Inquiries about this Policy or applicable law (including Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act) may be directed to the PSB's Coordinators, who are the following:

- **Regarding complaints of violations of a student's rights:** Deputy Superintendent of Student Services.
- **Regarding complaints of violations of an adult's rights (staff, visitors, contractors, etc.):** PSB's Director of Human Resources.

The Coordinators and their contact information (telephone number, office address, email address) shall be made identified in a Notice of Rights for each school and a separate one for the District that shall be posted, as applicable, on the school and district website, in each school building and within public areas of PSB administrative facilities.

Coordinators are responsible for consulting regarding the handling of complaints for consistency with this Policy and applicable procedures and legal requirements, and for identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems that arise during the review of such complaints.

Inquiries about prohibited discrimination, sexual harassment retaliation may also be directed to: the United States Department of Education for Civil Rights, 5 Post Office Square, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02109 (617) 289-0111.

VIII. Investigations/Corrective Action/Reporting

The PSB shall take prompt and effective steps reasonably calculated to end any discrimination, sexual harassment or retaliation and prevent any such conduct from recurring. The decision to discipline, the nature of any disciplinary action, and the disciplinary procedures followed shall comply with the PSB's disciplinary policies (including, but not limited to, Section J(8), PSB Policy Manual), applicable collective bargaining agreements, and federal and Massachusetts state law (including, but not limited to, M.G.L. c. 71, §§ 37H, 37H ½, and 37H ¾, and in the case of students with disabilities, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

The Coordinators will each prepare an annual report to the Superintendent (without identifying information) regarding the number and resolution of any complaints or reports of violations of this Policy, and noting any measures taken in the prior year and anticipated for the coming year to systemically address and prevent violations of this Policy. The Superintendent will annually submit to the School Committee a report containing this information.

LEGAL REFERENCES

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 100; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 106; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 28 CFR Parts 104 and 300; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Acts (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12131 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. Part 35; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, 29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 29 C.F.R. 1625 and 1626 *et seq.*; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. § 6101 *et seq.* and its implementing regulations, 34 C.F.R. Part 110; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. 2000ff *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations, 29 C.F.R. Part 1635 *et seq.*; the Uniformed Services and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.*, and 20 C.F.R. Part 1002; Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 76, § 5; M.G.L. c. 151B; and M.G.L. Chapter 151C.

SECTION J STUDENTS

7. *Bullying Prevention Policy* (Voted 1/20/11, #11-6; 11/14/13, #13-86; 3/16/17, #17-27)

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB), in partnership with parents, guardians, and the community, and in keeping with the PSB core value of respect for human differences, believes that a positive, safe, and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve. Bullying disrupts a student's ability to learn by preventing that student's full engagement with his or her education. Moreover, bullying compromises a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment. The Brookline School Committee, therefore, prohibits bullying throughout the Public Schools of Brookline.

The purpose of this policy is to stop bullying and to provide guidance to the school community for a comprehensive and caring response to all those affected by bullying. This Policy operates in tandem with the PSB's Bullying Prevention Plan (Plan). All PSB community members are required to comply with the requirements of both this Policy and the Plan.

Bullying and retaliation, as defined herein, are prohibited:

- On school grounds and property immediately adjacent to school grounds; at a school- sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop, on a school bus or vehicle owned, leased, or used by the PSB; or through the use of technology or an electronic device owned, leased, or used by the PSB; and
- At a location, activity, function, or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the PSB, if the bullying creates a hostile environment at school for the target, infringes on the target's rights at school, or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying is also prohibited.

Bullying that is based on a student's protected class (race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability) is also addressed in the PSB's Policies Against Discrimination, Sexual Harassment and Retaliation (Sections G(6) [Personnel] and J(6) [Students], PSB Policy Manual.

I. Definitions

- a. **"Aggressor"** means a student or a member of school staff who engages in bullying or retaliation as defined herein. School staff includes, but is not limited to, educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to an extracurricular activity and paraprofessionals.

- b. **“Target”** means a student against whom bullying or retaliation has been perpetrated.
- c. **“Bullying”** means the repeated use by one or more students or staff of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:
- causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target’s property; and/or
 - places the target in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself, or of damage to his/her property; and/or
 - creates a hostile environment at school for the target; and/or
 - infringes on the rights of the target at school; and/or
 - materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.
- d. **“Retaliation”** means any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment directed against a person who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation about bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

For the purposes of this policy, bullying and retaliation include cyber-bullying as defined herein.

- e. **“Cyber-bullying”** means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.

Cyber-bullying also includes the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or knowingly impersonates another person as author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Cyber-bullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in the definition of bullying.

- f. **“Hostile environment”** means a situation in which bullying causes the school environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the student’s education. The conduct of the aggressor sufficiently interferes with or limits a student’s

ability to participate in or benefit from school-sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs.

- g. **“Home Base”** is a location in the school selected by school administration and staff where a student go when not feeling safe. This location should be a place where students can be supervised and monitored by school staff and where they are able to request support (examples, principal/headmaster’s office, vice-principal/assistant headmaster’s office, dean’s office, school counselor’s office, the main office, etc.)
- h. **“Safe Person”** is a designated person in the school who the student can talk to and process social situations that are troubling, confusing, or agitating including bullying, that may not be readily understood by the student. This person should be familiar to the student and have a trusting relationship already established. This person should be a person chosen by or acceptable to the student and family.
- i. **“Safety Plan”** is an immediate action plan identifying the target student’s primary and secondary safe person they can go to if they feel unsafe at any time after the initial report of bullying. In addition, the safety plan lists the behavioral expectations moving forward for all students involved including the aggressor. It lists school team actions intended to provide support to students in resolving the bullying conflict, which may include, but not be limited to, additional supervision during recess, lunch, and transition time, scheduling changes, scheduled check in’s with involved students, etc. This plan should be agreed upon by students, parents/families and school administration, submitted to Deputy Superintendent of Student Services for review, and filed with completed bullying investigation documents.

II. Prohibitions

Bullying and retaliation can occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, and/or at home and in locations outside of the home. When bullying or retaliation is alleged, the full cooperation of students, parents/guardians, and families is expected.

Bullying and retaliation are also prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not school-related, or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by the PSB, if the bullying or retaliation creates a hostile environment at school for the target, infringes on the rights of the target at school, and/or materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

III. District Prevention and Intervention Plan

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall oversee the development and updating of a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan (the “Plan”), in consultation with all district stakeholders, including parents/guardians, teachers, school staff, professional

support personnel, school volunteers, administrators, community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, and/or students, consistent with the requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws.

The Plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

The Principal/Headmaster is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Plan within his/her school. When a reported bullying incident involves the principal or assistant principal as the alleged aggressor or where there are familial concerns regarding the integrity of the investigation by virtue of the Principal/Headmaster's responsibility, the Principal/Headmaster should delegate to the Superintendent or designee responsibility for investigating the report and for other steps necessary to implement the Plan, including addressing the safety of the alleged victim(s). If the Superintendent is the alleged aggressor, the School Committee or its designee shall be responsible for investigating the report and other steps necessary to implement the Plan, including addressing the safety of the alleged victim(s).

IV. Reporting (Oral or Written) Incidents of Bullying or Retaliation

Students who believe that they are a target of bullying or retaliation, who observe bullying or retaliation, or who have reasonable grounds to believe that bullying or retaliation is taking place, are obligated to report such bullying or retaliation to a member of the school staff, and may be subject to discipline for failing to report bullying or retaliation. However, the target shall not be subject to discipline for failing to report bullying or retaliation.

School staff who witness or become aware of bullying or retaliation shall immediately report in writing such bullying or retaliation to the Principal/Headmaster/Superintendent/School Committee, or his/her designee within one school day of witnessing or receiving a complaint of bullying of a student.

Parents/guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report bullying or retaliation to the Principal/Headmaster as soon as possible.

Each school shall have a means for anyone to anonymously report bullying or retaliation. No formal disciplinary action shall be taken against a student or staff member solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

Any student who knowingly makes a false accusation/report of bullying or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action equivalent to that for bullying or retaliation.

V. District Compliance with Massachusetts Chapter 86, Section 4 of Bullying in Schools

The PSB shall annually report bullying incident data to DESE. The data shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of reported allegations of bullying and retaliation; (ii)

the number and nature of substantiated incidents of bullying or retaliation; (iii) the number of students disciplined for engaging in bullying or retaliation; and (iv) any other information required by the DESE.

VI. Investigation of Reports of Bullying or Retaliation

Upon receipt of a report of bullying or retaliation, the Principal/Headmaster/Superintendent/School Committee or his/her designee shall promptly (1) with the assistance of support staff, assess the alleged target's need for protection and create and implement a safety plan that shall restore both a sense of and actual safety for the target; (2) notify the safe person listed on the student's safety plan (*see* Sections I(h) and (c)); (3) notify the parents/guardians of the alleged target(s) and the alleged aggressor(s) within the confines of student confidentiality protections as outlined within DESE regulations and/or FERPA, and consistent with the requirements of the Plan; and (4) conduct and conclude an investigation within 10 school days that is consistent with the requirements of the Plan.

The details of the PSB's procedures pertaining to reports of bullying are set out in the PSB's Bullying Procedural and Prevention Plan. The below highlights key provisions of the Plan. The PSB requires full compliance with the Plan.

If a report of bullying or retaliation involves students from another PSB or non-PSB school, the Principal/Headmaster or his/her designee shall promptly notify the appropriate administrator of the other school so that both may take appropriate action.

At any point after receiving a report of bullying or retaliation, including after an investigation, the Headmaster/Principal//Superintendent//School Committee or designee shall immediately notify the local law enforcement agency if he/she has a reasonable basis to believe that criminal charges may be pursued against the aggressor(s). Such notification will be made after consultation with the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Headmaster/Principal/Superintendent/School Committee or designee shall document the reasons for his/her decision to notify law enforcement if such notification is made.

If the Principal/Headmaster/Superintendent/School Committee or his/her designee determines that bullying or retaliation has occurred, the Principal/Headmaster/Superintendent//School Committee or his/her designee shall (1) notify the parents/guardians of the target(s) and aggressor(s) of the determination and of the procedures for responding to bullying or retaliation; (2) consistent with state and federal privacy laws and related regulations, notify the parents/guardians of the target(s) of the action taken to prevent further bullying or retaliation; and (3) take appropriate disciplinary action.

All disciplinary action for students and staff who are found to have committed bullying or retaliation shall be in accordance with the Plan and the PSB's disciplinary policies. Such disciplinary action may include loss of extracurricular privileges, suspension and/or

removal from school in the case of students; and administrative leave and termination in the case of staff.

If the Principal/Headmaster/Superintendent/School Committee or his/her designee determines that bullying or retaliation has not occurred, he/she shall notify the parents/guardians of the alleged target(s) and aggressor(s) of the determination and shall verify that they have received notice of the student-related sections of the Plan.

If provided for by the Discipline Policy of the Public Schools of Brookline, a parent/guardian can appeal the results of a bullying investigation determination pursuant to the procedures set forth in that Policy.

Confidentiality shall be used to the greatest extent permitted by law to protect a person who reports bullying or retaliation, who provides information during an investigation of bullying or retaliation, or who witnesses or has reliable information about bullying or retaliation.

The Principal/Headmaster shall document and maintain a file of all reports of bullying and retaliation. A quarterly report shall be provided to the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall inform the School Committee periodically of any trends or implications of these reports in order to give the School Committee the opportunity to review and amend this policy.

VII. Counseling Assistance

The PSB recognizes that students affected by bullying or retaliation can include aggressors, targets, and others less directly involved. The PSB shall therefore provide or refer students affected by bullying or retaliation to counseling, guidance and/or academic intervention, as appropriate.

VIII. Training and Instruction on Bullying Prevention

Annual training in preventing, identifying, responding to, and reporting bullying or retaliation shall be provided for all school employees.

Staff training for those responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Plan will include training to distinguish between acceptable managerial behaviors designed to correct misconduct, instill accountability in the school setting, and bullying behaviors.

Age-appropriate, evidence-based instruction on bullying prevention shall be incorporated into the curriculum for all pre-K to 12 students.

IX. Publication and Notice

Annual written notice of the relevant sections of the Plan shall be provided to students and their parents/guardians in age-appropriate terms and in the languages which are most prevalent among the students and parents/guardians.

Annual written notice of the Plan, including sections related to staff duties and bullying of students by school staff, shall be provided to all school staff, along with annual training on the applicability of the Plan to their school.

Relevant sections of the Plan relating to the duties of faculty and staff shall be included in any relevant employee manuals/materials pertaining to employee training and conduct.

The Plan shall be posted on the PSB website.

REFERENCES: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Model Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

LEGAL REFS.:

MGL 71:37O (been amended by Section 74 of Chapter 38).

MGL 265:43, 43A

MGL 268:13B

MGL 269:14A

603 CMR 26.00

603 CMR 49.00

SECTION J STUDENTS

7a. Prohibition of Hazing (Voted 12/1/16; #16-78)

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB), in partnership with parents, guardians, and the community, believe that a positive, safe, and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve. By compromising a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment, hazing disrupts a student's ability to learn and limits their opportunity to participate fully in the school community. The Brookline School Committee, therefore, prohibits hazing throughout the Public Schools of Brookline. The purpose of this policy is to prevent hazing, to stop it if and where it occurs, and to provide guidance to the school community for a comprehensive response to all those affected by hazing.

Definitions

Per M.G.L. c. 269. S. 17, hazing means any conduct or method of initiation into any school or student organization or formal or informal peer group, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental status, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Incidents of hazing are not bullying. Bullying incidents should be addressed using the PSB Bullying Prevention Policy Section J7. Hazing incidents that may have targeted a person because of the person's protected class (*e.g.*, race, sex, etc.) and/or protected conduct (*e.g.*, complaining about discrimination, etc.) should also be evaluated as possible violations of the PSB's anti-discrimination, Sections G6 and J6 of Policy Manual) and addressed accordingly.

Prohibition

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 269, §§ 17-19, and this policy, no student, employee or school organization under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing a student or other person while on or off school property, or at a school sponsored event, regardless of location. No organization that uses the facilities or grounds under the control of the School Committee shall engage in the activity of hazing any student or person while on school property.

Reporting of Hazing

Any student who observes what appears to them to be the activity of hazing another student or person should report such information to the Principal including the time, date, locations, names of identifiable participants and the types of behavior exhibited. Students and employees of the PSB are obligated by law to report incidents of hazing to the police department.

Any student who is present during a hazing incident has the obligation to report such an incident. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the school against that student and could involve suspension from school for up to three days.

Participation in Hazing

Any student who participates in the hazing of another student or other person may be suspended from school for up to ten (10) school days. If the conduct is sufficiently severe, such student may be suspended from school for up to ninety (90) days.

Any student determined by the Principal to be the organizer of the hazing activity may be suspended from school for up to ninety (90) days, but in any event will not receive a lesser disciplinary action than that given to a participant.

The PSB's Conduct and Discipline Policy, Section J(8) of the PSB Policy Manual, shall govern disciplinary processes and measures imposed for hazing.

Student Handbook

As with other policies associated with student conduct, this policy shall be included in all PSB Student Handbooks.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 269:17, 18, 19
603 CMR 33

SECTION J STUDENTS

8. Conduct and Discipline

(Voted 6/15/70, #70-309; 3/8/71, #71-99; 1/17/77, #77-25; 6/11/85, #85-250; 4/8/86, #86-141; 2/28/89, #89-91; 4/27/89, #89-195; 10/27/92, #92-444; 2/27/03, #03-12; 12/14/13, #13-12; 9/18/14, #14-62; 3/12/15, #15-15)

a. Principles of Conduct for Students and Teachers:

The Brookline School Committee (BSC) is committed to providing every student with a safe, secure learning environment in which s/he can thrive. Consistent with the PSB core values of High Achievement for All, Educational Equity, and Respect for Human Differences, this policy is designed to guide a general code of discipline and expected student behavior based upon respect for others, respect for self, and respect for property, and in which the consequences for misbehavior are clearly defined and appropriate to the offense.

While we believe that a school environment conducive to learning requires a structured response to incidents in which a student's behavior indicates the need for externally applied curbs, it is our intent with this policy on Student Discipline to ensure that the rights of all students are equally respected, especially the right to equitable treatment from teachers and staff.

We also recognize that as students grow and learn, sometimes their choices and behavior will fall short of our high expectations. When there is a breach of conduct, the BSC believes it paramount that the school disciplinary response emphasize learning more than punishment, and that it be conducted in a way that calls the student's attention to his or her responsibility for self-discipline and helps the student exercise sounder judgment in the future.

It is the Policy of the School Committee to abide by all laws applicable to student discipline, including, but not limited to, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Sections 37H, 37H ½, and 37H ¾, constitutional due process and other requirements of the federal and state constitutions, laws and regulations. School staff should consult the applicable statutes and the regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), 603 Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) 53, and/or Town Counsel's Office as appropriate for further guidance.

The School Committee's rules and regulations regarding public conduct on school property, which also apply to students and teachers, are found in Section K4 of this manual. Further, each Principal shall include a code of conduct in the student handbook or other publication and make it available to students and parents.

The Principal may, as a disciplinary measure, remove a student from privileges, such as extracurricular activities and attendance at school-sponsored events, based on his/her judgment of the student's misconduct. Such a removal is not subject to this policy.

Nothing in this policy is meant to challenge or change best practice by classroom teachers to manage behavior during a typical class period.

b. Student Discipline:

A. Definitions

1. Offenses

“**Section 37H offense**” means conduct in the nature of that addressed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H, namely, (1) possession of a dangerous weapon (including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife), (2) possession of a controlled substance as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94C (including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine, or heroin), and (3) assault on a Principal, teacher, teacher’s aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events (including athletic games). *See* Section C below for specific criteria and requirements applicable to this law.

“**Section 37H ½ offense**” means conduct in the nature of that addressed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, namely, conduct that is the subject of a felony charge or conviction or a felony delinquency charge or conviction if the Principal determines that the student’s continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school. *See* Section D below for specific criteria and requirements applicable to this law.

“**Section 37H ¾ offense**” means conduct other than that addressed by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Sections 37H and 37H ½. *See* Sections E (applicable to all suspensions EXCEPT in-school suspensions of 10 days or fewer) and F (applicable to in-school suspensions of 10 days or fewer) below for specific criteria and requirements applicable to this law.

2. Disciplinary Measures

“**Emergency removal**” means the temporary removal of a student from school when the student is charged with a disciplinary offense and the continued presence of the student poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and in the Principal’s judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption. *See* Section G below for specific criteria and procedures applicable to emergency removals. An emergency removal is not a suspension or expulsion under this Policy.

“**Expulsion**” means the removal of a student from the school premises, regular classroom activities, and school activities for more than ninety (90) school days, indefinitely, or permanently. Expulsion is permitted **only** for Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Sections 37H and Section 37H ½ offenses. *See* Sections C and D below for specific criteria and procedures applicable to expulsions under these laws.

“Suspension” means any of the following:

- **“In-school suspension”** means the removal of a student from regular classroom activities, but not from the school premises, for not less than half of the time that the school is in session that day, and no more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. If an in-school suspension exceeds this ten (10)-day limitation, it is deemed a long-term suspension under this Policy. Principals may use in-school suspension as an alternative to short-term suspension for disciplinary offenses.

For the procedures applicable to in-school suspensions for Section 37H offenses, *see* Section C.

For the procedures applicable to in-school suspensions for Section 37H $\frac{1}{2}$ offenses, *see* Section D.

For the procedures applicable to in-school suspensions of more than 10 days for Section 37H $\frac{3}{4}$ offenses, *see* Section E.

For the procedures applicable to in-school suspensions of 10 or fewer days for Section 37H $\frac{3}{4}$ offenses, *see* Section F.

- **“Long-term suspension”** means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for more than ten (10) consecutive school days, or for more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple disciplinary offenses in any school year, but for no more than ninety (90) school days in a year beginning with the first day that the student is removed from school and not extending beyond the end of the school year in which the long-term suspension is imposed. Principals may allow students to serve a long-term suspension in school (but this does not make it an in-school suspension under this Policy).
- **“Short-term suspension”** means the removal of a student from the school premises and regular classroom activities for ten (10) consecutive days or less, or no more than ten (10) school days cumulatively for multiple infractions during the school year. If a short-term suspension exceeds this ten (10) day limitation, it is deemed a long-term suspension under this Policy. Principals may allow students to serve a short-term suspension in school (but this does not make it an in-school suspension under this Policy).

See Sections C, D, E and F below for the specific criteria and procedures applicable to the various types of suspensions under Sections 37H, 37H $\frac{1}{2}$, and 37H $\frac{3}{4}$, respectively.

3. Other

“Parent” means a student’s legal guardian(s).

“Principal” means (1) the Headmaster of Brookline High School or his/her designee(s), and (2) any Principal or his/her designee(s).

“School-Wide Education Service Plan” means the document developed by a Principal, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 76, Section 21, which includes a list of education services available to students who are expelled or who are suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days.

“Superintendent” means the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee.

B. Use of Discretion, Re-Engagement in Learning, Alternatives to Suspension and Expulsion, and Removal from Privileges (All Offenses/Consequences)

In every case of student misconduct for which suspension or expulsion may be imposed, a Principal shall exercise discretion in deciding the consequence(s) for the offense while ensuring opportunities for the student to remain engaged in learning. Unless the Principal determines that failure to impose a long-term suspension or expulsion from school would have a substantial detriment on the general welfare of the school, long-term suspension and expulsion shall not be used as a consequence until alternatives have been tried. Alternatives to long-term suspension may include, but are not limited to, the use of evidence-based strategies and programs such as mediation, conflict resolution, restorative justice, and positive behavioral interventions and supports.

C. Section 37H Procedures (Expulsions and All Suspensions):

Except in cases of emergency removal (as provided in Section G of this policy), and in compliance with Section B above, the following procedures shall be used.

Students are entitled to constitutional due process and to the procedural protections set forth in Section 37H.

1. Definition: “Section 37H” means Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H, which concerns (1) possession of a dangerous weapon (including, but not limited to, a gun or a knife), (2) possession of a controlled substance as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 94C (including, but not limited to, marijuana, cocaine and heroin), and (3) assault on a Principal, teacher, teacher’s aide or other educational staff on school premises or at school-sponsored or school-related events (including athletic games).

2. Notice Procedures: Prior to suspending or expelling a student on the basis of a Section 37H offense, the student and parent must be notified orally and in writing of:

- the charge(s);
- the basis for the charge(s);
- the opportunity for a hearing before the Principal who will serve as an impartial hearing officer;
- the opportunity at the Principal’s hearing to receive an explanation of the evidence and an opportunity to explain the circumstances and/or dispute the charge(s);
- the right to counsel at his/her expense at the Principal’s hearing; and
- the right to present witnesses and evidence at the Principal’s hearing.

The Principal shall provide oral and written notice in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

3. Principal's Hearing Procedures: Disciplinary hearings regarding an alleged Section 37H offense shall be conducted in a manner that affords students all of the procedural protections outlined in Section 2 above ("Notice"). Students and parents have the right to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate.

In addition, with regard to contemplated long-term suspensions, students have the following additional rights:

- the right to review documents;
- the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against him/her; and
- the right to a recording of the hearing.

4. Consequences: After said hearing, the Principal may, in his/her discretion, decide to suspend or expel a student who has been determined to have committed a Section 37H offense, subject to Section B of this Policy. A student shall not be suspended or expelled except on the basis of substantial evidence.

5. Notification of Principal's Decision:

a. Determinations of Short-Term Suspension

- (1) The Principal shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal (*see* Section H below.) The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.

b. Determinations of Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

- (1) The Principal shall send a written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent. If the Principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:
 - (a) Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
 - (b) Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
 - (c) Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
 - (d) Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school (*see* Section H below). The notice shall include a list of the

specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information. The notice shall be made in both English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate

- (e) In the event the Principal has expelled a student, inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent. Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information stated in plain language:
 - a. the process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the Superintendent within ten days of the expulsion.

6. Appeal to Superintendent (Expulsions Only): Any student who has been expelled from the PSB pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent, however, any expulsion shall remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal:

- a. The expelled student shall have ten (10) days from the date of expulsion in which to notify the Superintendent of his/her appeal.
- b. The procedures applicable to Principal's hearings for contemplated expulsions and long-term suspensions are applicable to the Superintendent's appeal hearing.
- c. The subject matter of the appeal shall not be limited solely to a factual determination of whether the student has violated any provisions of Section 37H.
- d. The Superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing that is as described with respect to Principals' written determinations regarding long-term suspensions and expulsions above. If translation of the decision into the primary language spoken in the student's home is required, such translation shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but shall not be subject to the 5 calendar day deadline. The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district.

D. Section 37H ½ Procedures (Expulsions and All Suspensions):

Except in cases of emergency removal (as provided in Section G of this policy), and in compliance with Section B above, the following procedures shall be used.

Students are entitled to constitutional due process and to the procedural protections set forth in Section 37H ½.

1. Definition: "Section 37H ½" means Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 37H ½, which concerns conduct that is the subject of a felony charge or conviction or a felony delinquency charge or conviction if the Principal determines that the student's continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school.

2. Notice Procedures: Prior to suspending or expelling a student on the basis of a Section 37H ½ charge, the student must be notified orally and in writing of:

- the charge(s);
- the basis for the charge(s);
- the opportunity for a hearing before the Principal who will serve as an impartial hearing officer;
- the opportunity at the Principal’s hearing to receive an explanation of the evidence and an opportunity to explain the circumstances and/or dispute the charge(s);
- the right to counsel at his/her expense at the Principal’s hearing; and
- the right to appeal a suspension or expulsion decision to the Superintendent, if the student notifies the Superintendent in writing of his/her request for an appeal no later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension.

For contemplated expulsions and out-of-school suspensions: the Principal shall provide oral and written notice in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate.

3. Principal’s Hearing Procedures: Disciplinary hearings regarding alleged Section 37H ½ offenses shall be conducted in a manner that affords students all of the procedural protections outlined in Section 2 above (“Notice”). Students and parents have the right to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate.

In addition, with regard to contemplated suspensions of more than ten (10) days, students have the following additional rights:

- the right to review documents;
- the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against him/her; and
- the right to a recording of the hearing.

4. Consequences: After said hearing, the Principal may, in his/her discretion, decide to suspend (in the case of a felony charge or conviction, or a felony delinquency charge or conviction) or expel (only in the case of a felony conviction, or felony delinquency conviction) a student who has been determined to have committed a Section 37H ½ offense if the Principal determines that the student’s continued presence in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school, subject to Section B of this Policy. A student shall not be suspended or expelled except on the basis of substantial evidence.

5. Notification of Principal’s Decision:

a. Determinations of Short-Term Suspension

- (1) The Principal shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal (*see* Section H below.) The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.

b. Determinations of Long-Term Suspension or Expulsion

- (1) The Principal shall send a written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent. If the Principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:
- (a) Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
 - (b) Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
 - (c) Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
 - (d) Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school (*see* Section H below). The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information. The notice shall be made in both English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate
 - (e) Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent. Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information stated in plain language:
 - i. the process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the Superintendent within five calendar days of the effective date of suspension; and that
 - ii. the suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

6. Appeal to Superintendent: Any student who has been suspended or expelled from the PSB pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent, however, the student's suspension or expulsion shall remain in effect pending the appeal.

- a. The student must request an appeal in writing no later than 5 calendar days following the effective date of the suspension/expulsion.
- b. The Superintendent must hold a hearing with the student and parent within 3 calendar days of the student's request.
- c. The procedures applicable to Principal's hearings for contemplated expulsions or long-term suspensions are applicable to the Superintendent's appeal hearing.
- d. The student has the right to counsel at his/her own expense at the appeal hearing.
- e. The student has the right to present oral and written testimony at the appeal hearing.

- f. The Superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing that is as described with respect to Principals' written determinations regarding long-term suspensions and expulsions above. If translation of the decision into the primary language spoken in the student's home is required, such translation shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but shall not be subject to the 5 calendar day deadline. The Superintendent may overturn or alter the decision, including recommending an alternate education program. The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district.

E. Section 37H ¾ Procedures for All Suspensions EXCEPT In-School Suspensions of 10 Days or Fewer (see Section F):

Except in cases of emergency removal (as provided in Section G of this policy), and in compliance with Section B above, the following procedures shall be used. Students are entitled to constitutional due process and to the procedural protections set forth in Section 37H.

1. **Definition:** "Section 37H ¾" means any conduct other than that addressed by Sections 37H and 37H ½.
2. **Notice Procedures:** A Principal shall provide both oral and written notice to the student and the parent in English and in the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate. Written notice to the parent may be made by hand delivery, first-class mail, certified mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or any other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and parent. The notice shall set forth in plain language:
 - a. the disciplinary offense;
 - b. the basis for the charge;
 - c. the potential consequences, including the potential length of the student's suspension;
 - d. that a hearing will be held to afford the student the opportunity to dispute the charges and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, and that the parent/guardian may attend and participate in the hearing;
 - e. the date, time, and location of the hearing;
 - f. the right of the student and the student's parent to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate;
 - g. if the student may be placed on long-term suspension following the hearing with the Principal:
 - h. the rights set forth in 603 CMR 53.08 (3)(b); and
 - i. the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent.

The Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally of the opportunity to attend the hearing. To conduct a hearing without the parent present, the Principal must be able to document reasonable efforts to include the parent. The Principal is presumed to have made reasonable efforts if the Principal has sent written notice and has documented at least two attempts to contact the parent in the manner specified by the parent for emergency notification.

3. Principal's Hearing Procedures:

Students and parents have the right to interpreter services at the hearing if needed to participate. In addition, Principal's Hearings are subject to the following required procedures.

a. Contemplated Short-Term Suspensions

- (1) The Principal shall discuss the disciplinary offense, the basis for the charge, and any other pertinent information.
- (2) The student also shall have an opportunity to present information, including mitigating facts, that the Principal should consider in determining whether other remedies and consequences may be appropriate.
- (3) The Principal shall provide the parent, if present, an opportunity to discuss the student's conduct and offer information, including mitigating circumstances, that the Principal should consider in determining consequences for the student.

b. Contemplated Long-Term Suspensions

The student shall have all of the rights enumerated in Section a above ("Short-Term Suspensions"). In addition, the student shall be afforded the following protections:

- (4) In advance of the hearing, the opportunity to review the student's record and the documents upon which the Principal may rely in making a determination to suspend the student or not;
- (5) The right to be represented by counsel or a lay person of the student's choice, at the student's/parent's expense;
- (6) The right to produce witnesses on his or her behalf and to present the student's explanation of the alleged incident, but the student may not be compelled to do so;
- (7) The right to cross-examine witnesses presented by the school district;
- (8) The right to request that the hearing be recorded by the Principal, and to receive a copy of the audio recording which will be provided to the student or parent upon request. If the student or parent requests an audio recording, the Principal shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

4. Consequences: After said hearing, based on the available information (including mitigating circumstances), and subject to Section B above, the Principal may decide to suspend a student who has been determined to have committed a Section 37H $\frac{3}{4}$ offense. A student shall not be suspended except on the basis of substantial evidence.

5. Notification of Principal's Decision:

a. Determinations of Short-Term Suspension

- (1) The Principal shall notify the student and parent of the determination and the reasons for it, and, if the student is suspended, the type and duration of suspension and the opportunity to make up assignments and such other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of removal (*see* Section H below.) The determination shall be in writing and may be in the form of an update to the original written notice.
- (2) If the student is in a preschool program or in grades K through 3, the Principal shall, before the short-term suspension takes effect, send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension.

b. Determinations of Long-Term Suspension

- (1) The Principal shall send a written determination to the student and parent by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent. If the Principal decides to suspend the student, the written determination shall:
 - (a) Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
 - (b) Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the Principal;
 - (c) Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
 - (d) Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school in both English and in the primary language spoken in the student's home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate (*see* Section H below). The notice shall include a list of the specific education services that are available to the student and contact information for a school district staff member who can provide more detailed information.
 - (e) Inform the student of the right to appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent, but only if the Principal has imposed a long-term suspension. Notice of the right of appeal shall be in English and the primary language of the home if other than English, or other means of communication where appropriate, and shall include the following information stated in plain language:

- a. the process for appealing the decision, including that the student or parent must file a written notice of appeal with the Superintendent within five calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the Superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven additional calendar days; and that
- b. the long-term suspension will remain in effect unless and until the Superintendent decides to reverse the Principal's determination on appeal.

(2) If the student is in a public preschool program or in grades K through 3, the Principal shall, before the suspension takes effect, send a copy of the written determination to the Superintendent and explain the reasons for imposing an out-of-school suspension.

6. Appeal to Superintendent: Any student who has been placed on long-term suspension from the PSB pursuant to these provisions shall have the right to appeal to the Superintendent, however, the student's suspension or expulsion shall remain in effect pending the appeal. Appeals to the Superintendent are subject to the following procedures:

- a. *Time to File Appeal*. The student or parent shall file a notice of appeal with the Superintendent within five calendar days of the effective date of the long-term suspension; provided that within the five calendar days, the student or parent may request and receive from the Superintendent an extension of time for filing the written notice for up to seven additional calendar days. If the appeal is not timely filed, the Superintendent may deny the appeal, or may allow the appeal in his or her discretion, for good cause.
- b. *Time for Superintendent's Appeal Hearing*. The Superintendent shall hold the hearing within three school days of the student's request, unless the student or parent requests an extension of up to seven additional calendar days, in which case the Superintendent shall grant the extension.
- c. *Superintendent's Written Notice of Appeal Hearing and Good Faith Effort to Accommodate parent's Schedule*. The Superintendent shall make a good faith effort to include the parent in the hearing. The Superintendent shall be presumed to have made a good faith effort if he or she has made efforts to find a day and time for the hearing that would allow the parent and Superintendent to participate. The Superintendent shall send written notice to the parent of the date, time, and location of the hearing.
- d. *Appeal Hearing/Audio Recording*. The Superintendent shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the student committed the disciplinary offense of which the student is accused, and if so, what the consequence shall be. The Superintendent shall arrange for an audio recording of the hearing, a copy of

which shall be provided to the student or parent upon request. The Superintendent shall inform all participants before the hearing that an audio record will be made of the hearing and a copy will be provided to the student and parent upon request.

- e. *Student Rights.* The student shall have all the rights afforded the student at the Principal's hearing for long-term suspensions under Section E(3) above.
- f. *Written Decision.* The Superintendent shall issue a written decision within five (5) calendar days of the hearing. If translation of the decision into the primary language spoken in the student's home is required, such translation shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but shall not be subject to the 5 calendar day deadline. The written decision shall:
 - Identify the disciplinary offense, the date on which the hearing took place, and the participants at the hearing;
 - Set out the key facts and conclusions reached by the Superintendent;
 - Identify the length and effective date of the suspension, as well as a date of return to school;
 - Include notice of the student's opportunity to receive education services to make academic progress during the period of removal from school (*see* Section H below)
- g. *Consequences.* If the Superintendent determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Superintendent may impose the same or a lesser consequence than the Principal, but shall not impose a suspension greater than that imposed by the Principal's decision.
- h. *Finality.* The decision of the Superintendent shall be the final decision of the school district with regard to the suspension.

F. Section 37H ¾ Procedures for In-School Suspensions of Ten (10) or Fewer Days:

In compliance with Section B above, the following procedures are required with respect to in-school suspensions for Section 37H3/4 offenses of ten (10) or fewer days:

1. Notification of Student. The Principal shall inform the student of the disciplinary offense charged and the basis for the charge, and provide the student an opportunity to dispute the charges and explain the circumstances surrounding the alleged incident. If the Principal determines that the student committed the disciplinary offense, the Principal shall inform the student of the length of the student's in-school suspension, which shall not exceed ten days, cumulatively or consecutively, in a school year.
2. Oral Notification to Parent and Invitation to Meet. On the same day as the in-school suspension decision, the Principal shall make reasonable efforts to notify the parent orally as soon as possible of the disciplinary offense, the reasons for concluding that the student

committed the infraction, and the length of the in-school suspension. If appropriate and practicable, this notification also shall be translated into the primary language of the home. The Principal shall also invite the parent to a meeting to discuss the student's academic performance and behavior, strategies for student engagement, and possible responses to the behavior. Such meeting shall be scheduled on the day of the suspension if possible, and if not, as soon thereafter as possible. If the Principal is unable to reach the parent after making and documenting at least two attempts to do so, such attempts shall constitute reasonable efforts for purposes of orally informing the parent of the in-school suspension.

3. Written Notification. The Principal shall send written notice to the student and parent about the in-school suspension, including the reason and the length of the in-school suspension, and inviting the parent to a meeting with the Principal for the purpose set forth above, if such meeting has not already occurred. The Principal shall deliver such notice on the day of the suspension by hand-delivery, certified mail, first-class mail, email to an address provided by the parent for school communications, or other method of delivery agreed to by the Principal and the parent. If appropriate and practicable, this notification also shall be translated into the primary language of the home.

G. Emergency Removal (All Offenses)

A Principal may remove a student from school temporarily when a student is charged with a disciplinary offense and, in the Principal's judgment, the continued presence of the student in school would have a substantial detrimental effect on the general welfare of the school (in Section 37H and 37H ½ cases) or poses a danger to persons or property, or materially and substantially disrupts the order of the school, and, in the Principal's judgment, there is no alternative available to alleviate the danger or disruption (in 37H ¾ cases). The Principal may take this step only after adequate provisions have been made for the student's safety and transportation.

The Principal shall immediately notify the Superintendent in writing of the removal including a description of the danger or disruption presented by the student.

The temporary removal shall not exceed two (2) school days following the day of the emergency removal, during which time the Principal shall:

1. Make immediate and reasonable efforts to provide the oral notifications described above that are applicable to the type of offense at issue (37H, 37H ½, or 37H ¾) and the type of consequence contemplated (*i.e.*, in-school v. out-of-school suspension, short-term v. long term suspension).

2. Provide the written notifications described above that are applicable to the type of offense at issue (37H, 37H ½, or 37H ¾) and the type of consequence contemplated (*i.e.*, in-school v. out-of-school suspension, short-term v. long term suspension).

3. Hold a Principal's hearing that complies with the procedures described above that are applicable to the type of offense at issue (37H, 37H ½, or 37H ¾) and the type of consequence contemplated (*i.e.*, in-school v. out-of-school suspension, short-term v. long

term suspension). The Principal, student and parent may agree to an extension of time for the hearing. Subject to Section H of this Policy, a student may be kept out of school through the agreed-upon rescheduled hearing date.

The Principal shall render a decision orally on the same day as the hearing. No later than the following school day, the Principal shall render a written decision that complies with the requirements described above applicable to the type of offense at issue (37H, 37H ½, or 37H ¾) and the type of consequence contemplated (*i.e.*, in-school v. out-of-school suspension, short-term v. long term suspension). If translation of the decision into the primary language spoken in the student's home is required, such translation shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible, but shall not be subject to the applicable deadline for written decision.

H. Academic Progress

Any student who is suspended, expelled, or removed on an emergency basis shall have the opportunity to earn credits and make up assignments, tests, papers, and other school work as needed to make academic progress during the period of his or her removal from the classroom or school.

The Principal shall develop a school-wide education service plan describing the education services that the school district will make available to students who are expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days. The plan shall include the process for notifying such students and their parents of the services and arranging such services. Education services shall be based on, and be provided in a manner consistent with, the academic standards and curriculum frameworks established for all students under the law.

Any student who is expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days, whether in school or out of school, shall have an opportunity, through the school-wide education service plan, to receive education services and make academic progress toward meeting state and local requirements.

For each student expelled or suspended from school for more than ten (10) consecutive days, whether in-school or out-of-school, the school district shall document the student's enrollment in education services. For data reporting purposes, the school shall track and report attendance, academic progress, and such other data as directed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

c. Discipline of Special Needs Students

In addition to the provisions detailed in Section J7b (above), students with disabilities are afforded all the protections relating to discipline to which they are entitled under applicable law, including, but not limited to, Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1415(k), and IDEA's implementing regulations, 34 CFR 300.530-537, and the Massachusetts special education law, Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71B, and Chapter 71B's implementing regulations, 603 CMR 28.

d. Reporting and Review

In order to ensure equitable implementation of this policy, the Office of Student Services shall keep records of all disciplinary actions, including relevant demographic data on students and staff involved in any action reported under this policy. These data shall be regularly reviewed by the Superintendent or his/her designee to provide constructive feedback on the policy and PSB practice, and a summary shall be made available annually to the School Committee.

SECTION J STUDENTS

8c. Prohibition of the Use of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs by Students

(Voted 12/1/16, #16-76)

The School Committee prohibits the possession, use, consumption, purchase, selling or the giving away by students of alcohol; tobacco products, including vapor/E-cigarettes; drugs; steroids; or any controlled substance on school property or at any school function.

Additionally, any student who is under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages prior to, or during, attendance at or participation in a school-sponsored activity, will be barred from that activity and may be subject to disciplinary action.

This policy shall be posted on the district's website and notice shall be provided to all students and parents of this policy in accordance with state law. Additionally, the district shall file a copy of this policy with DESE in accordance with law in a manner requested by DESE.

Early Identification and Intervention

To prepare them to identify early warning signs of substance abuse faculty and staff will participate in professional development and training programs as deemed necessary by the superintendent or his designee and in compliance with state regulation.

Early warning symptoms of substance abuse may include; extreme emotional swings from anger to depressive episodes, sudden decline in attendance; lack of interest in once desired activities, refusal to comply with discipline, inattention and lethargic displays, weight fluctuation, changes in hygiene, uncommunicative when approached by support staff,

Counseling/Intervention Referral

When an employee identifies a student who may be abusing either drugs or alcohol, school administration in conjunction with the school counselor should meet with the student, parents/guardians of the student, and explore possible interventions which may include counseling or referral to agency to respond to student's needs. The school nurse should also be consulted/included when scheduling these conversations and dealing with substance use/abuse concerns.

School Re-Entry

When a student returns from treatment for substance abuse, follow up support is a critical phase of a student's recovery. A re-entry care plan should be devised by the appropriate school staff members in collaboration with family and student and the treatment facility/agency. The plan should include a review of a student's school program with parents, school counselor, and appropriate support staff members with follow up scheduled meetings.

Professional Development and Training of Staff

The School Committee acknowledges that even though a student may not possess or abuse substances at school or on school grounds, he or she may still be experiencing involvement with substance abuse which requires the assistance of school personnel. It is the goal of PSB that staff and faculty should be able to recognize symptoms in students which may serve as an early warning indicators of substance abuse by student that require immediate intervention.

Faculty and staff see students on a daily basis and often recognize changes in student performance, demeanor, and appearance that indicate a student may be at risk. The PSB will provide ongoing professional tiered training (beginning with the initial hiring onboarding), so that all staff know district policies, procedures and protocols for prevention, intervention, and follow-up in preventing and responding to substance use and abuse.

All faculty and staff will be provided with training on the early warning signs and behaviors that indicate a student may be experiencing substance use problems, and should be aware of building based referral systems and other protocols to follow.

SOURCE: MASC March 2016

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 71:1 ;71:96
M.G.L. 71:2A; 71:96; 272:40A

CROSS REFS: GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy
JICH, Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
IHAMB, Teaching about Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs
GBEC, Drug Free Workplace Policy

**SECTION J
STUDENTS****9. Special Services*****a. Eligibility of Non-Public Pupils for Special Services:***

(10/1/75, Dr. McKenzie Memo)

Non-public pupils who reside in Brookline are eligible for a variety of pupil services under Chapter 71B (Chapter 766), subject to the following conditions:

1. Services are available only to individual pupils, living with their parents in Brookline. (Services are not for non-public schools; rather they are for resident pupils only who apply for same.)
2. Various regulations of Chapter 766 cite eligible and approvable programs (called program prototypes) which are conditions of instruction and support services which shall be conducted by the public schools and within public schools.
3. Any such non-public pupil whose resident family requests an informal or formal evaluation (formal evaluation is called Core Evaluation) shall be provided such by the public schools, within its premises or on a neutral site, and not on the premises of a non-public school.
4. Diagnostic and evaluation services so granted will be comparable to those given all public pupils; being not greater nor lesser in kind or amount, for the appropriate condition. Such services shall be provided within the contractual schedules of the public school staff.
5. Any subsequent requests for special instruction or support services (special education, remediation, et al.) which require such a pupil to be within the public school for more than nominal services, shall warrant registration as a pupil in the public schools.
6. Any requested instructional and/or support service shall be offered at a public school location, and at times as arranged by the Coordinator of Pupil Personnel Services, or his designee, Nathaniel J. Resnick, Chairman of Special Education.
7. The Superintendent of Schools reserves the option of a review, and possible School Committee approval of any request for the aforementioned services, which are viewed as extraordinary, or possibly beyond the school's responsibility.

J 9 b. Special Education Mediation, Hearings, Litigations:

(Voted 6/18/79, #79-245; 10/11/83, #83-447)

It is the intention of the Brookline School Committee to carry out its Special Education Programs in conformance with Chapter 766 and P.L. 94-142, in order to provide services which meet the needs of individual students. In the event that an individual educational plan (IEP) is not acceptable to the parent, every attempt will be made by staff to reconcile the concerns of the parent and the best interests of the student with the resources of the Public Schools of Brookline.

In the event that mediation of the matter fails, the following steps will be followed with regard to informing the School Committee:

1. The School Committee, through its Assistant, shall be notified by the Assistant Superintendent for Integrated Student Services of any hearings on a Brookline Educational Plan under Chapter 766 (and P.L. 94-142) to be conducted before a hearing officer of the State Department of Education.
2. As soon as a decision resulting from a hearing is received, it shall be furnished to the School Committee by Town Counsel.
3. When a Brookline Educational Plan under Chapter 766 and P.L. 94 142 has been found inadequate by a hearing officer, and the Superintendent of Schools feels the appeal is in the best interest of the student and the Town of Brookline:
 - a. Town Counsel will notify the School Committee and obtain its approval in advance of the deadline for submission of the appeal; or
 - b. If time constraints make it impossible to obtain School Committee approval in advance, Town Counsel may file such an appeal to the courts, provided that Town Counsel will refer the matter as soon as possible and in such timely fashion that if not approved by the School Committee, the appeal can and will be withdrawn.
4. No litigation shall be commenced on behalf of the School Committee without prior discussion and authorization by the School Committee. If time constraints make it impossible to notify the School Committee in advance of a legal deadline, Town Counsel will refer the matter to the School Committee for approval as soon as possible and, if not approved by the School Committee, the litigation taken in the name of the School Committee will be terminated by Town Counsel.
5. Quarterly, Town Counsel shall forward to the School Committee a list of litigation in process for informational purposes.

J 9 c. In-School Observations of Special Education Programs by Parents/Guardians and their Designees (Voted 6/3/10, #10-51)

In accordance with Massachusetts special education law³, The Public Schools of Brookline permits parents/guardians and their designees (defined by law as parent designated independent evaluators and educational consultants) to conduct in-school observations of their child's current or proposed special education program.

When a parent/guardian or designee wishes to conduct such an observation, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The parent/guardian shall contact the Special Education office at the building level and indicate that an observation is requested. The parent/guardian will indicate the name of the person who will conduct the observation and the affiliation of that person to the child and/or parent/guardian.
2. If the request for the observation comes from someone other than the parent/guardian, the school district will need to confirm with the parent/guardian the identity of the observer and ensure that the parent/guardian consents to the observation. If the designee wishes to observe the student's records, the school district must obtain written consent from the parent/guardian before allowing the designee to access the student's record in accordance with the Massachusetts student record regulations.
3. Upon notification of the request for the observation, the school district will provide timely access to the student's current or proposed educational program. The school district will contact the parent/guardian and/or designee to schedule a mutually convenient time for the observation.
4. The school district will also discuss with the parent/guardian and/or designee in advance of the observation a reasonable time allotment for the observation. The observer will be permitted to observe both academic and non-academic activities if requested. Observation times will be determined on an individual basis depending on the circumstances of the particular student and/or program to be observed.
5. The Public Schools of Brookline is responsible to ensure the safety of its students at all times. If, in the opinion of the school district, the observation threatens to compromise the safety of the students in the observed program, the integrity of the program during the observation,

³ This policy is drafted in compliance with Chapter 363 of the Acts of 2008 which went into effect on January 8, 2009.

or if there is the threat of disclosure by the observer of confidential or personally identifiable information he or she may obtain while observing the program, the school district may impose reasonable limitations and restrictions on the observation. The school district will discuss these concerns with the observer prior to the observation, and the school district will make reasonable efforts to work with the observer around these issues to ensure a safe and productive observation. Any limitation and restrictions imposed pursuant to this paragraph will be done on a case by case basis.

6. The Public Schools of Brookline may exercise its discretion at any time to reschedule or terminate an observation in the event of a building emergency or a significant disruption that impacts the physical or emotional well-being of the students in the school or the program being observed.

SECTION J STUDENTS

10. (JQ) Student Fees, Fines, and Charges (Voted 7/11/16, #16-54)

Educational Equity is a core value of the PSB:

The Public Schools of Brookline are committed to identifying and eliminating barriers to educational achievement in our schools. To this end, we create policies and practices that are fair and just and provide educational opportunities to ensure that every student, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, disability, or economic status, meets our standards for achievement, participation, and growth.

In fulfillment of this value, this policy on student fees, fines, and charges commits the PSB to the following:

- Regardless of financial means, all PSB students shall have access to all educational books, materials, and other education-related opportunities;
- The PSB will engage in responsible financial management and practices to ensure the above can be made possible;
- The financial operations of the district will be transparent in order to ensure accountability to these commitments; and
- All students and families are treated with dignity in all discussion or disclosure of confidential information.

I. Establishing Fees

The School Committee reserves the right to establish fees for participation in certain activities and programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, community education, Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP), Summer School, and athletics.

Unless otherwise specified through School Committee action, each fee shall be established on a yearly basis for the next school year and communicated in a timely manner to students, parents, and/or guardians. Due dates and payment schedules for all fees will be established by the relevant program.

II. Collection of Fees, Fines, and Charges

A. Central Collection

This policy authorizes a centralized revenue collection and recording system for administration (charging and collecting) of Fees, Fines, and Charges. Such a system should provide efficiencies and transparency for parents and the community. Faculty and staff (e.g., departments, clubs, student organizations) shall use this system for administration of all fees, fines, and charges.

B. Non-Payment

For fee-based activities, the School Committee expects that all fees will be paid in advance of participation unless the payor has been qualified for financial assistance by the Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to the policy on financial assistance.

If payment of any fee, fine, or charge is not received and the payor has been noticed in writing of the amount(s) due, the Superintendent or his/her designee may take one or more of the following actions, unless or until prohibited by state law or regulation:

1. Prohibit participation of the student in the relevant program.
2. Prohibit participation of the student or other students in the student's household from participating in any future fee-based program until or unless outstanding balances are resolved.
3. Prohibit student participation in senior activities or graduation exercises.
4. Referral to small claims court.

Legal Reference:

M.G.L. Chapter 71: Section 47. Athletic programs; school organizations; student activity accounts

M.G.L. Chapter 44: Section 69. Municipal or district services, fees or charges; insufficient funds checks; penalty

M.G.L. Chapter 60: Section 57A. Payment by check not duly paid; penalty

M.G.L. Chapter 93: Section 40A. Dishonored checks; demand for payment

M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 49 Purchase of textbooks by pupils

SECTION J STUDENTS

11. (JQA) *Student Financial Assistance* (Voted 9/8/16, #16-59)

I. Establishment of Financial Assistance Program

This policy authorizes creation of a PSB financial assistance program to provide qualified families with assistance paying certain school-related fees and/or charges.

II. Program Goals and Scope

The Superintendent will provide a centralized financial assistance application process for families seeking relief from various school-related fees and/or charges. Eligibility will be renewed or updated through an annual application process.

Financial Assistance will be offered to meet any PSB student fees or charges, including those for Athletics, Instrumental Music, and other program and field trip fees. Other fees include but are not limited to curriculum-based field trip expenses, Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP), School Department Summer Programs, and other fees the school department may charge that are as a result of curriculum requirements.

The program goals are as follows:

1. Implement an objective financial assistance program and application process for all students and families;
2. Allow families a single point of contact and determination within the school district; and
3. Adhere to a standard of confidentiality throughout the district.

Submitted financial information shall follow USDA Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines and related state privacy laws in the collection, handling, and disseminating of information regarding the financial status of students.¹

Program Eligibility and Determination for Participation

1. Principals, Guidance/School Counselors, and all other employees are prohibited from making a determination of financial need outside of the Superintendent's established process.
2. Families in the United States on an active Visa are not eligible for financial assistance.²

¹ <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cn/EliMan.pdf>

² "The purpose of the form is to show that you have the financial means to live in the United States without needing welfare or financial benefits from the U.S. government. The law requires that the sponsor demonstrate that he or she is able to assist you financially. The sponsor must show that he or she has an annual income of not less than 125 percent of the federal poverty level. The federal poverty guidelines are

3. Eligibility shall only be determined by the Office of Administration and Finance.
4. The Homeless Liaison shall maintain a list and provide an update as necessary to the School Business Administrator of all students who have been determined to qualify for services under McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.³
5. The Public Schools of Brookline School Committee has made the following determination for income eligibility for financial assistance.⁴

Determination Status	Income Level over Poverty Guideline for Household Income	Households will pay
Approved for Free	<200%	\$0 program fee
McKinney-Vento Homeless Determination		\$0 program fee
Foster Care (individual only)		\$0 program fee
75% Reduction of Fee	201% - 300%	25% of the program fee
50% Reduction of Fee	301% - 350%	50% of the program fee

* % above HHS Poverty Guidelines

Exclusions

The Financial Assistance Program does NOT apply to optional activities, including but not limited to student travel programs and senior prom.

At the superintendent’s discretion this financial assistance program may be used to support qualified students in optional trips.

Optional activities that receive official sponsorship of the School Committee must comply with equitable access as determined by the School Committee for all students to participate.

set once a year, and can be found on Form I-864P, Poverty Guidelines.” <https://www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures/public-charge>

³ <http://doe.sd.gov/oess/documents/EligRight.pdf>

⁴ The Financial Assistance program shall use the US Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines and expand it by a multiplier to better match our community’s income level and assist families that are above the Free and Reduced Lunch Guidelines with school fees that are assessed for a variety of activities. <http://www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/income-eligibility-guidelines>