



The Public Schools of Brookline  
Town Hall  
333 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
617.730.2401

September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Every September we share important annual information with you and this year is no different. This back-to-school packet contains a lot of helpful information and we ask that you review, and where necessary complete, this information to help us best serve you and your student.

Our plan is to distribute this packet, in paper form, to all students who are in school. We will email this packet to all other families, including those with children in the Remote Learning Academy. We will have extra paper copies available in our school offices if you would like a printed packet now or need one when your child returns to his or her school building.

### **Health and Medical Card (lime green card)**

- When you receive a hard copy of this packet (when your child returns to school) there will be a lime green card attached – the Health and Medical Card.
- When you receive the Health and Medical Card, please review and update the information on it as necessary.
- **Send the completed card back to school with your child.** The card is kept with the school nurse for easy access to important information in the event of an on-site emergency.
- There is additional student health information in this packet from the Coordinator of School Health Services, including student health mandates, immunization requirements, face covering guidelines, and COVID-19 risk reduction strategies.

### **Financial Assistance Program**

- Attached you will find an application for the district's Financial Assistance Program. If you currently participate in the program your eligibility expired on 8/31/20. A new application must be filed each year.
- The Financial Assistance Program provides a centralized application process to provide families with financial assistance for certain school-related fees (during the school year), including athletics, instrumental music and other fees such as field trips.
- The Financial Assistance Program is separate from the Free and Reduced School Meal Program; each program requires a separate application.
- There is no deadline to submit an application – you may submit an application at any point during the year.
- If you would prefer to complete the application online, [click here](#).
- Additional information about the [Financial Assistance Program](#) (including translated versions of the application) is posted on our website (<https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/> under the Students and Families tab).

### **School Breakfast and Lunch Information**

- Enclosed you will find information about our food service program.
- A special waiver from the USDA means that breakfast and lunch are free – to all students – through December 31.
- We have also included information about Brookline Thrives, a program of the Brookline Food Pantry.
- Helpful information about our food service program is also posted on our website at: <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/foodservice>

## Residency Verification and Change of Address

### Change of Address

- If you recently moved, you must provide documentation of your new Brookline address. It is very important that your address is correct in our records so that important letters and notices reach you without delay.
- Please use this link to start the change of address process:  
<http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/changeofaddress>
- In addition to the online form, you must submit supporting documentation of your new address before your move is finalized in our records. Information about these documents can be found at this link: <http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/changeofaddress>

### Residency Verification

- To attend the Public Schools of Brookline (PSB), a student must reside in the Town of Brookline. A student's primary residence is the place where they dwell permanently, not temporarily, and is the place that is the center of their daily domestic, social, and civic life. The delivery of academic instruction, whether it is virtual, hybrid, remote, or in-person, does not alter the residency requirements to be eligible for PSB enrollment.
- Beginning later this month, all active families will be asked by the Office of Registration and Enrollment to complete an affidavit of residency. Each family should expect to receive a request to provide current proofs of residency and occupancy. Please submit these documents within two weeks of receiving our request. If a family is not residing primarily in Brookline on instructional days, the student will need to be withdrawn from PSB and enrolled in their new primary district of residence.

## Religious Holidays and Cultural Observances: Homework Policy

Enclosed you will find the annual letter outlining the homework policy around religious holidays and cultural observances.

### District Website:

Our website (<http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us>) is a great source of useful information to help you start the school year. You might especially find the [Reopening Hub](#) helpful as it contains lots of timely information.

Thank you for your attention to this important information. We wish you and your student the very best in the 2020-2021 school year!

*The Office of the Superintendent*

617.730.2401



Our colleagues with the Town of Brookline's Census Committee want to remind you that it's not too late to complete the 2020 US Census. If you haven't already completed it, please take a moment to do so for you and the members of your household. The data gathered from the federal census impacts fiscal and policy decisions at the federal and state level so it's important that everyone is counted. No citizenship documentation is required. If you lived in Brookline on 4/1/20, then you count! The information you provide is confidential. The process is quick and easy – but the **deadline to respond is September 30, 2020**. To complete the census visit <https://my2020census.gov/> or call 1-844-330-2020.



**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
School Health Services  
46 Tappan Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
617.713.5127

Tricia Laham, MEd, BSN, RN  
Coordinator of School  
Health Services

September 2020

Dear Families,

Welcome back to school! We hope that you and your family are healthy. We care deeply about our students, staff, and families, and we are committed to providing you with the tools and information to keep everyone safe at school. Our collective success is based on building a culture of personal responsibility, communication, and collaboration. Please read the following health updates carefully.

What follows is helpful information for the start of the school year. We have also created a [PowerPoint for Parents](#) and a [frequently asked questions sheet](#) which we hope you will find helpful.

### **Return to School Checklist**

All students returning to school must complete the following:

**Verify state-required immunizations are current and submit documentation to the school.**

Please note that the flu vaccine is now required for all students. Additionally, students entering grades 7 and 11 will need one dosage of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine for school entry.

According to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the school immunization requirements, including the requirement for the seasonal influenza vaccine, apply to all Massachusetts students enrolled in Preschool through Grade 12, regardless of whether the district is providing instruction in-person, or using a hybrid or remote learning model. Families have until **December 31, 2020, to receive the flu vaccine.** The Brookline Department of Public Health will be offering flu clinics this fall; [visit their website](#) for more information.

**Follow Massachusetts travel orders requiring quarantine upon return from most locations.**

Per the travel order issued by Governor Baker on August 1, all families traveling from most other states and internationally must self-quarantine for fourteen (14) days or produce a negative COVID-19 test result that has been administered up to 72-hours prior to your arrival in Massachusetts. [More information can be found here.](#)

**Provide an updated medication permission form signed by your child's health care provider to the school nurse if your child needs medication at school.**

Please note that due to COVID-19 protocols, nebulizer treatments will not be allowed at school. Providers may consider ordering a metered-dose inhaler with a spacer for school use instead.

Please call or email your school nurse to make an appointment to bring medication and forms to school.

**Alert your school nurse regarding any chronic or acute medical needs or changes in your child's health, i.e. food allergies, seasonal allergies, etc.** Please call or email your school nurse to make an in-person (outside) or virtual appointment to review medical information.

**Update your child's emergency contact card and establish a plan to pick up your child within 30 minutes if called by the school nurse.** You must have a verified phone number and email address in order to send your student to school.

**Complete a health attestation form for your student(s).** Staff and students will be required to complete a health assessment at home prior to coming to school each day. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms must stay home from school. Anyone who develops symptoms during the school day will be dismissed. We encourage you to develop routines to incorporate the daily health assessment into your family's schedule. Small steps to create a routine can make a big difference: keep your thermometer near your cereal cabinet or your coffee pot; set your cell phone timer to do the health assessment at breakfast; place a sign on your refrigerator or at the door exiting your house "Did I check my child's temperature today?" "Did I ask about Covid symptoms today?" The daily health assessment and keeping children home if they have symptoms of Covid-19 are integral parts to a successful school year.

### **Confidentiality**

School nurses will be working in conjunction with the Brookline Health Department staff to monitor potential and confirmed positive COVID-19 cases. A general notification will be shared with the building-based school community if there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19. No names or identifying information will be provided, per legal requirements. **Reports of COVID-19 symptoms should be reported directly to the school nurse.**

### **Recommended Supplies to Keep Your Family Healthy:**

- A working thermometer at home
- An adequate supply of face coverings for each school day so there is at least one to wear and a backup. If possible, please put your child's name on the masks
- A paper bag/container with your child's name on it in order to have a place to store the mask
- A refillable water bottle (water bottle filling stations will be available; water fountains will be closed)
- Hand sanitizer if you choose to send your child with a personal supply (not required)

### **Risk reduction strategies**

All staff and all students preK-12 are required to wear masks for in-person activities throughout the day except while eating, drinking, or during mask breaks. Exceptions will be made for students who cannot wear masks due to age, medical condition, disability impact, or other health and safety considerations. A letter from your child's health care provider is required to qualify for his exception. If possible, these students may wear other suitable face coverings. Each classroom will have a back-up supply of face coverings available as needed.

**Non-suitable masks:**

- Surgical masks or masks with respirators are not recommended (they should be reserved for medical professionals).
- Masks with valves are prohibited as they allow for secretions and air exchange.
- Other non-suitable masks include those that have been found to be manipulated frequently and thereby contaminating the individual's hands, such as gaiters, balaclavas and bandanas.

**Suitable masks for staff and students should:**

- Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- Completely cover the nose and mouth
- Be secured with ties or ear loops
- Include multiple layers of fabric
- Allow for breathing without restriction
- Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape

Schools will maintain six feet of physical distance between individuals whenever possible. Close physical contact will be limited overall. Students and staff will wash/sanitize hands upon arrival at school and frequently throughout the school day.

Multi-stall bathrooms will get scheduled cleaning and disinfecting once during the middle 1/3 of the school day and after school. Desks and common touch points will be sprayed with an electrostatic gun to disinfect the surface after buildings are closed. Finally, all teachers and building staff will have access to clean materials to disinfect surfaces when children are not in the area.

**When should I keep my student home?**

- Your student(s) show symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and/or diagnosis
- Your student(s) and/or members of your family are identified as a close contact by your school, workplace, and/or local health department.
- If your student shows symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and/or is a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, they will need to self-quarantine at your home for 14 days. If you or your student are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have had exposure to COVID-19, please reach out to your health care provider and your school nurse.
- We do acknowledge the difficulty of keeping students home from school when ill, or when there is a need to quarantine. We have some resources on our health website and will continue to update.

We are committed to providing you with the latest information as the CDC, DESE, Massachusetts, and Local Boards of Health continue to update their COVID-19 protocols. Please visit our website ([www.brookline.k12.ma.us/nurses](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/nurses)) to access health documents, important forms, and school nurse contact information.

We understand that there are uncertainties and fears as we navigate this school year. Our goal is to support students, families and staff as we create a culture of health and safety in our schools. We look forward to meeting the challenges of this school year together.

Sincerely,

Tricia Laham MEd, BSN, RN

Coordinator of School Health Services





THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE  
333 WASHINGTON STREET  
BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

Financial Assistance Application  
2020-2021 School Year

## Annual Financial Assistance Application

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s);

This is an annual Family/Household application for multiple program assistance. This single application procedure covers most school fees in the full school year, with the exception of optional field trips or programs and school lunch, which require a separate application for Free/Reduced fees. This form does not sign your child up for programs. No employee, coach, faculty or staff member has the authority to waive any fees or charges without the income determination letter provided by the Finance Office.

The Public Schools of Brookline Financial Assistance Program determination is based on the income of **ALL** household members. Anyone living in your household is required to submit income documentation, including domestic partners, relatives, and any other individuals residing at the address.

**From the list accepted documents shown below, please submit all of those that apply to your household:**

### Income Tax or BHA housing assistance:

1. If you filed 2019 taxes; we require 2019 IRS transcript for all adults residing in the household. We will not accept tax filing documentation from any other source than the IRS (**we do not accept the 10-40 form**). Call 800-908-9946 or visit <https://www.irs.gov/>. On the home page click "Get Your Tax Record". Click "Get Transcript Online". Available for free, 5-10 days after request is submitted.
2. Brookline Housing Authority Income Determination/ Calculation Worksheet (request most recent document from BHA building manager). This is the only document required if student lives in BHA property.

### Other Income: Submit a copy of most recent data if you receive:

3. If you are a single parent we require Alimony and Child Support Agreements (to request Child Support documentation, visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/child-support-enforcement-division> or call 617-660-1234);
4. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Disability Income;
5. Unemployment Compensation and Severance Pay;
6. Transitional Assistance Letters and Benefits (issued every August or upon request by parent);
7. Family support: gifts, donations, money from someone outside of the household– submit affidavit of family support.

### Other housing assistance: Submit a copy of letter of determination or affidavit of support:

8. Section 8 Housing Voucher;
  9. Housing support (e.g. rent-free housing, residing w/family or friends) – submit affidavit of family support.
- *Foster Children* are handled as one household and are not included as a member of the family in which they are residing or in the household income of the custodial parent.
  - *Families traveling on a VISA* –
    - Non-Immigrant Visa (for example a B, F, H or J visa) you are not eligible for Financial Assistance.
    - Immigrant Visa and you submitted an Affidavit of Support (i.e. I-864, I-134) along with your Visa application; you are not eligible Financial Assistance.

Completion of all information is necessary in order to make a determination. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Once a determination regarding eligibility is made, you will be notified of that decision by letter. Please allow four weeks for processing.

**For more information, please visit the Public Schools of Brookline website:** <https://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/>

Sincerely,  
Mary Ellen Normen,  
Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance

Tel: (617) 730-2425  
[financialassistance@psbma.org](mailto:financialassistance@psbma.org)



**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE**  
 333 WASHINGTON STREET  
 BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS 02445

**Financial Assistance Application**  
**2020-2021 School Year**

<b>Parent/Guardian</b> First Name	<b>Parent/Guardian</b> Last Name	Phone Number	Address (Street, Town, Zip code)
<b>Other Parent/Guardian</b> First Name	<b>Other Parent/Guardian</b> Last Name	Phone Number	Address if different from above
Email Address			

First Name Dependent/Child	Last Name	2020/21 Grade	2020/2021 School name

Family size (total adults + totals dependents)

<b>Required and Accepted Documentation</b> (provide copies of all that apply to your family's yearly income)	Check if Included
1. 2019 IRS Transcript <a href="https://www.irs.gov/">https://www.irs.gov/</a> (not the 10-40 tax document)	
2. Brookline Housing Authority Income Determination/ Calculation Worksheet. This is the only document required if student lives in BHA property.	
3. Alimony and Child Support Agreements	
4. Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Disability Income	
5. Unemployment Compensation and Severance Pay	
6. Transitional Assistance Letters and Benefits	
7. Family support: gifts, donations, money from someone outside of the household	
8. Section 8 Housing Voucher	
9. Housing support (e.g. rent-free housing, residing w/family or friends)	
10. Documentation for Foster Child	

**SUBMIT  
 APPLICATION  
 WITH REQUIRED  
 DOCUMENTATION.**

**Application will not be processed without required documentation.**

All documents are scanned and shredded. All documents provided are kept confidential, are not shared with any other offices or departments and are not included in any student file.

**An adult household member must sign the application.**

*I certify (promise) that all information included with this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the school will get Federal funds based on the information I give. I understand that school officials may verify (check) the information. I understand that if I purposely give false information, my children may lose benefits, and I may be prosecuted.*

Sign here by typing full name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL THIS FILLED OUT FORM AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION TO: FINANCIALASSISTANCE@PSBMA.ORG**



## **Tax Return Transcript Instructions:**

### Option #1A: Online Request - view, download and/or print your Transcript

- Go to the IRS Web site at <https://www.irs.gov/>
- On the home page click “Get Your Tax Record”.
- Click “Get Transcript Online”.
- You will need the following information: Full Name, Email, Birthdate, Social Security Number, Tax Filing Status, U.S. based Mobile Phone number and Current Address. To verify your identity they will need info on ONE of the following: Credit Card **OR** Mortgage or Home Equity Loan **OR** Home Equity Line of Credit **OR** Auto Loan.
- You can now click on the “2019 Return Transcript” to view, download and/or print. Do not use the “Account Transcript” as this is not a copy of the entire tax return.

### Option #1B: Online Request – get Transcript delivered by mail

- Go to the IRS Web site at <https://www.irs.gov/>
- On the home page click “Get Your Tax Record”.
- Click “Get Transcript Online”.
- You will need the following information: Social Security Number or Tax Identification Number, Birthdate and mailing address from your latest tax return.
- If successfully validated, tax filers can expect to receive a paper IRS Tax Return Transcript at the address included in their online request, within 5 to 10 days from the time the on-line request was successfully transmitted to the IRS.
- IRS Tax Return Transcripts requested online cannot be sent directly to a third party by the IRS.

### Option #2: Telephone Request

- Available from the IRS by calling 1-800-908-9946.
- Tax filers must follow the prompts to enter their social security number and the numbers in their street address. Generally this will be numbers of the street address that was listed on the latest tax return filed. However, if an address change has been completed through the U.S. Postal Service, the IRS may have the updated address on file.
- Select “Option 2” to request an IRS Tax Return Transcript and then enter “**2019**”.
- If successfully validated, tax filers can expect to receive a paper IRS Tax Return Transcript at the address that was used in their telephone request, within 5 to 10 days from the time the IRS receives the request.
- IRS Tax Return Transcripts requested by telephone cannot be sent directly to a third party by the IRS.

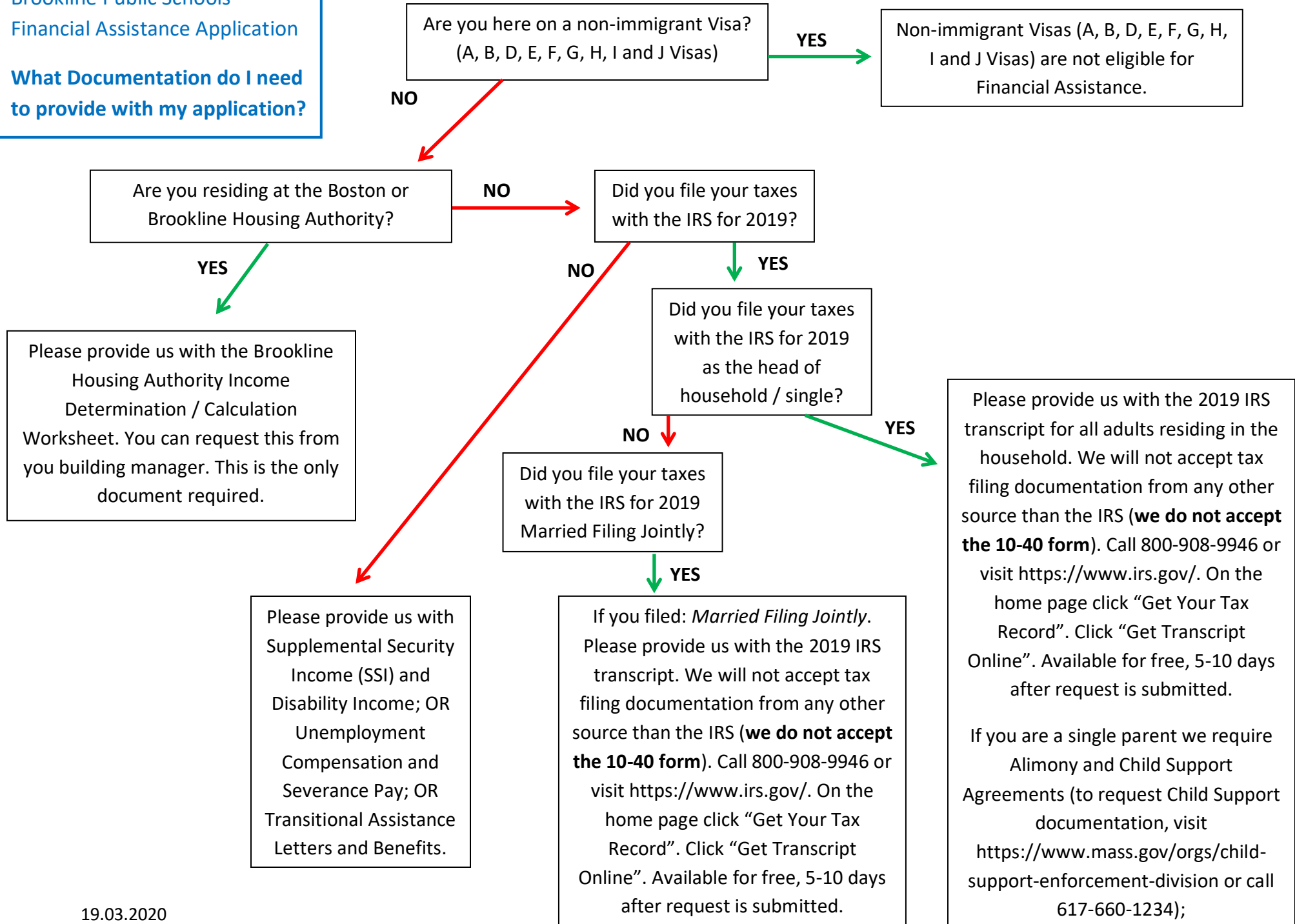
### **Helpful Links:**

Tax Return Transcripts: <https://www.irs.gov/individuals/get-transcript>

Order a Transcript: <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/irfof-tra/start.do>

Brookline Public Schools  
Financial Assistance Application  
What Documentation do I need to provide with my application?

START



## Public Schools of Brookline Food Service Program

The beginning of the school year is here! We are excited to share with you the following good news: on August 31, the USDA extended a waiver that allows schools to serve **free breakfast and free lunch to ALL students through December 31, 2020.**

### *What this waiver means for your family:*

- Your children will receive a healthy breakfast and lunch every school day, at no cost, in a safe and welcoming environment. This applies to students who are attending classes in-person, those taking remote classes at home, or the eventual hybrid combination.
- The families of remote learners may pick up meals at designated sites throughout the district or through the Mobile Meal Delivery service.
- The USDA waiver allows us to provide the most nourishing and appetizing meals possible for your children. The more meals we serve, the more funding we receive, allowing us to focus on meal quality, variety and innovative practices (new recipes, frozen take home meals, etc.). If your child has never participated in school meals before, consider trying the program this year!
- The USDA waiver helps you save time and money. By allowing us to prepare meals for your children, you don't have to plan and shop for your children's breakfast and lunch each school day.

We are currently offering two types of meal service:

### In-Person Learning

Students participating in in-person learning at school can access meals by pre-ordering them to be delivered to their classroom. To pre-order meals, parents will need to set up an account and order online at [ordering.linq.com](http://ordering.linq.com).

### Remote Learning

Students participating in remote learning can access meals (breakfast and lunch) at any of our remote pick-up sites listed in the table below. **No sign up is necessary to pick up meals!** We encourage families of students participating in remote learning to pick up meals at the site closest to you. Please note that pick up times are staggered to accommodate working parents as well as to coincide with times outside of the remote learning schedule. Any parent or guardian can pick up meals for their child(ren). A meal package will consist of breakfast and lunch to cover the non-pick up days. A complete list of pick up locations and times is listed in the table below.

### Menu Information

Our website [publicschoolsofbrooklineschoolnutrition.com](http://publicschoolsofbrooklineschoolnutrition.com) has additional menu and nutritional information. Please visit our site for interactive menu pages and monthly menus. We will continue to work hard to provide your children with quality meals during this challenging period.

### \* Meal Pick-Up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Meal Site	Location	Pick Up Time	Type of Site
Brookline High School	115 Greenough Street (in front of the main building)	5:00-6:00pm	Pick up Site
Pierce School	50 School Street (Town Hall parking lot)	5:00-6:00pm	Pick up Site
BHA 226 High Street	30 New Terrace Road	3:30-3:45pm	Mobile
BHA 22 High Street	22 High Street	3:50-4:15pm	Mobile
BHA Egmont Street	55R Egmont Street	4:30-4:45pm	Mobile
Baker School	Front entrance-205 Beverly Road	5:00-5:15pm	Mobile
Ridley School	Stedman Street entrance	4:50-5:00pm	Mobile

### Meal Payment

All meals served to students in Brookline from now until December 31, 2020 are FREE (no cost to parents). At this time please **DO NOT** submit any payments through the “myschoolbucks” payment app. If you have a “myschoolbucks” account with a recurring payment we ask that you log into your account and turn off autopay.

The district is streamlining its payment process and will be moving to a new payment system after the free national waiver ends on December 31, 2020. Since all meals are FREE, we want to give you one less thing to worry about and hold off on sending you information on how to set up your new account until closer to when the waiver extension expires.

If you are a new family you will receive detailed instructions about how to set up your child’s online meal account later in the fall. All existing families’ accounts will automatically be transferred over to our new system. For existing families, any balance on your student’s account will be transferred to the new system. Detailed instructions and step by step guidance on our new payment system will be sent out to you later this fall.

### Free and Reduced Meal Application

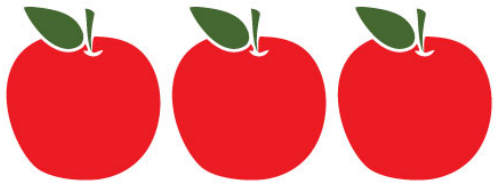
The district continues to accept Free and Reduced Meal Applications online at <https://www.lunchapplication.com> or a paper copy can be mailed to you upon request. Eligibility for the Free and Reduced Meal program can also provide access to a number of other benefits so you should consider applying even though it is not currently required for school meals.

For questions about the free and reduced meal application please contact [tess\\_washburn@psbma.org](mailto:tess_washburn@psbma.org). Paper applications are available upon request or can be downloaded at [www.brookline.k12.ma.us/foodservice](http://www.brookline.k12.ma.us/foodservice). Applications are accepted year-round, so if there is a change in your family’s financial situation please be sure to apply.

If you have additional questions, please contact Food Service Director Sasha Palmer at 617-730-2499 or email [sasha\\_palmer@psbma.org](mailto:sasha_palmer@psbma.org).

A BROOKLINE FOOD PANTRY PROGRAM

**BROOKLINE**



**THRIVES**

*Keeping Kids Fueled for Learning*

**Free Weekend  
Food Program**  
beginning  
**October 2, 2020**

Brookline Thrives offers free bags for any family who could benefit from additional food options for their child over the weekend. Each unmarked bag contains two breakfast items, two lunch items, two milks, and snacks for the entire week. All foods are in single-serve portions and do not require refrigeration.

**In-Person Students at BEEP, Florida Ruffin Ridley,  
Lincoln and Pierce schools**

Thrives bags will be delivered to students in school on Fridays. Families must register to receive bags at school. More information about registering for Thrives bags will be provided by your school in the coming weeks.

**Remote Learning and In-Person Students at BHS,  
Baker, Driscoll, Heath, Lawrence and Runkle**

Thrives bags will be available for pickup at most School Meal pickup sites and times on Fridays. No registration is required to pick up Thrives bags at remote pickup sites.

**Families may take Thrives bags for all children in their household.**

For questions or to get more information,  
email [thrives@brooklinefoodpantry.org](mailto:thrives@brooklinefoodpantry.org)





**The Public Schools of Brookline**  
Brookline Town Hall  
333 Washington Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445  
617.730.2401

**V. James Marini, Ph.D.**  
Interim Superintendent

September 2020

Dear Families,

I am pleased to be able to share the annual list of religious and cultural observances. For those of you who are returning parents and guardians, this letter and list will be familiar. For those families who are new to the school district, please take a moment to read the information below to understand the purpose and intent behind this annual message.

The students in the Public Schools of Brookline represent a diverse community of learners. Celebrating this diversity is one of the key characteristics of our district. PSB's core value of "Respect for Human Differences" calls on us to honor Brookline's diversity and value the varied perspectives and experiences that enrich each of our schools.

The assignment of homework over religious and cultural holidays is an issue often raised by parents and students. Following is a set of procedures, aligned with the School Committee's Homework Policy, that guide the practice of assigning homework over these periods. By following these procedures, we demonstrate our commitment to providing students with the opportunity to fully observe religious and cultural holidays and celebrations.

The list of specific holidays and dates for the 2020-2021 school year is attached.

**Category 1:**

*What this means:* Absences by staff and students impact the ability to conduct classes on this date or during this time. Designated as "days of low attendance", certain category 1 holidays are often embedded within school vacations.

*Instructions:* No homework will be assigned in any class for all students on the last day of school before a category 1 holiday. Homework assignments, projects, presentations, or other assignments cannot be due until at least the second school day after the holiday, even in the case of a longer school vacation. The same policy applies for the administration of tests.

**Category 2:**

*What this means:* School remains in session because these holidays are not considered to be a "day of low attendance". However, they are still celebrated by a significant portion of our school population.

*Instructions:* No homework will be assigned in any class for all students on the last day of school before the category 2 holiday. Homework assignments, projects, presentations, or other assignments cannot be due until at least the second school day after the holiday, even in the case of a longer school vacation. The same policy applies for the administration of tests.

**Category 3:**

*What this means:* School remains in session because these holidays impact a smaller number of our students than in the prior two categories.

*Instructions:* Students who are unable to complete a homework assignment due to this type of holiday should inform their teacher, who will arrange with the student an alternative time for completion of work, without loss of credit. Parents are also encouraged to contact teachers if a category 3 holiday impacts a student's ability to complete an assignment. The attached list includes the most common category 3 dates, but it is not inclusive of all possible dates.

**Thanksgiving Break**

In addition to the religious and cultural celebrations outlined above, no homework will be assigned over the Thanksgiving break. Projects, presentations, or other assignments will not be due until at least the second day following the Thanksgiving break. The same policy applies for the administration of tests.

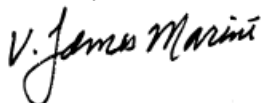
In all of the situations described above, teachers are asked to comply with both the “letter” and the “spirit” of this guideline. For example, educators are asked not to “double up” on homework assigned before a holiday.

**Athletics**

Our athletic programs are another important aspect of a student’s educational experience. Regardless of the category, coaches are advised of and will be sensitive to the religious and cultural needs of their student-athletes and families. There will be no athletic consequence for missing games and/or practices due to religious observances. Moreover, Brookline High School does not schedule league or non-league contests on any of the category 1 dates. Non-mandatory practices may occur on category 1 dates with prior approval by the Athletic Director.

I am grateful to be serving as interim superintendent in a school district that demonstrates its commitment to diversity in such a tangible way. I appreciate your attention to this important information.

Sincerely,



Jim Marini  
Interim Superintendent



The Public Schools of Brookline  
Religious and Cultural Observances  
2020-2021

**Category 1**

Rosh Hashanah (Day 1)	Saturday, September 19, 2020
Yom Kippur	Monday, September 28, 2020
Christmas	Friday, December 25, 2020
Lunar New Year	Friday, February 12, 2021
Good Friday	Friday, April 2, 2021
Easter	Sunday, April 4, 2021

**Category 2**

Eid al-Adha	Friday, July 31, 2020
Passover (Day 1)	Sunday, March 28, 2021
Eid al-Fitr	Thursday, May 13, 2021*

**Category 3\*\***

Rosh Hashanah (Day 2)	Sunday, September 20, 2020
Sukkot (2 Days)	Saturday, October 3, 2020
	Sunday, October 4, 2020
Diwali	Saturday, November 14, 2020
Hanukkah	Friday, December 11, 2020
Winter Solstice	Monday, December 21, 2020
Kwanzaa	Saturday, December 26, 2020
Nowruz	Sunday, March 21, 2021
Passover (other dates)	Monday, March 29, 2021
	Saturday, April 3, 2021
	Sunday, April 4, 2021
Good Friday (Eastern Orthodox)	Friday, April 30, 2021
Easter (Eastern Orthodox)	Sunday, May 2, 2021
Shavuot	Monday, May 17, 2021
	Tuesday, May 18, 2021

**Thanksgiving Break**

Thursday & Friday, November 26-27, 2020

*\*Tentative. Holidays on the Islamic calendar are confirmed only after a lunar sighting. Therefore, this date is subject to change following actual astronomical observations closer to the holiday.*

*\*\*This is not inclusive of all possible category 3 dates.*