



The Public Schools of Brookline
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Linus J. Guillory Jr., PhD
Superintendent

February 15, 2022

Greetings Select Board Members,

The Public Schools of Brookline is committed to delivering an outstanding education to our students. COVID-19 continues to impact our educational delivery and operations; our budget proposal seeks to mitigate those impacts while also providing support to our students and stabilizing the District by beginning to address systemic inequities.

The Public Schools of Brookline respectfully requests an FY2023 Local Education Appropriation (LEA) of \$130,619,874 to efficiently and effectively carry out our vision to educate the 7,000+ PK-12 students projected to be enrolled for the 2022-2023 school year. The current allocation from the Town is \$124.8M, leaving a structural gap of \$5.8M. More detail on the budget drivers is provided in the attached document.

In particular, we want to highlight that appropriate staffing is a critical component of the District's budget. PSB student enrollment declined dramatically in SY20-21 and, while enrollment is beginning to trend upward, it has not yet returned to pre-pandemic numbers, and that trajectory will be affected by international students yet to arrive. Additionally, the academic and social needs of our students have grown as a result of the interruptions caused by the pandemic. Furthermore, the students impacted by COVID will continue progressing through the system for the next decade.

In this context, we are reviewing and assessing staffing to ensure students have appropriate support. While it is counterintuitive, there is not a 1:1 correlation between reduction in student enrollment and staffing, particularly given the enrollment and student needs just described. With that being said, we are working to gain efficiencies in staffing (again, described in the attached document.).

The District is aware and sensitive to the Town's fiscal short- and long- term challenges; we recognize the tension that exists between our preliminary budget and the financial shortfall.

We want to state clearly that attempting to reduce the School Department budget in one-year to conform to the \$124.8M LEA appropriation would have long-lasting, deleterious impacts on our Town, our public education system, and ultimately our students. We appreciate your assistance and ask that following the conclusion of the PSB budget process, you close any remaining gap using revenue replacement funds. We will keep you apprised of our progress.

Sincerely,

Linus J. Guillory Jr. PhD
Superintendent of Schools

Suzanne Federspiel, Chair
Brookline School Committee