

Barbara J. Cataldo, Ed.D.



May 18, 2025

Mr. Alvin Cooper
Director of Human Resources
Brookline Public Schools
333 Washinton Street
Brookline, MA 02245

Dear Mr. Cooper,

Please accept my credentials for the position of Interim Superintendent of Schools for the Brookline Public Schools for the 2025-2026 school year. As an experienced interim central office employee, I have knowledge of the logistics that arise with being a short-term employee. The Interim Superintendent must have a proven record of leadership, steering districts through even the most difficult times, financially, emotionally, and academically by creating supportive and collaborative cultures.

As a retired Superintendent, I understand the position requires someone who can balance the complexity of demands while providing guidance and assurance to the community. For the last three years I have accepted roles in two high performing districts, like Brookline, also encountering significant transition due to leadership changes, difficult contract negotiations, rising costs and expansive increases in special education. In each district, I partnered with the new superintendent and offered guidance and support during this post pandemic phase while ensuring a positive culture. The most important facet of this work has been to listen to the concerns and needs of the educators and the community and make myself available to support and direct the work of the strategic plan. And in this particular year I was able to achieve a significant surplus in special education.

When reviewing the details of the successful candidate, I have had a similar experience working in six towns in the Central Office. Further, all but one of the towns participate in the METCO program. I am familiar with the challenges that towns now face around supporting the financial obligations of the schools while balancing the needs of the other government offices. This has included negotiating 10 contracts while serving as a Superintendent.

I recognize the extraordinary demands facing many districts. In the last three years, districts have experienced unprecedented rising costs due to the social/emotional needs of students. The conclusion of the ESSER Funds has resulted in changes in staff numbers and reductions in materials. Partnering with the School Committee and collaborating with stake holders builds

the strong bonds necessary to move a district forward. I have had the opportunity to reflect on the Brookline Public Schools FY26 budget and recognize similar trends to what I experienced in Wayland and now in Hingham. I would like to return to the role of Superintendent offering my skill set that will support the community. I believe my strong relationship building skills, knowledge of high performing districts, and ability to build capacity will allow me to support the work for the 2025-2026 school year.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barbara J. Cataldo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" and last name "Cataldo" clearly legible.

Barbara J. Cataldo, Ed.D.



STRENGTHS

- Expert interpersonal, negotiation, and team building skills
- Create School Cultures designed for all learners
- Strategic and collaborative educational leader
- Proven leadership for instructional improvement
- Developmental curriculum development, alignment and assessment
- Persuasive communicator with parents and faculty
- Student-focused needs analysis and improved performance
- Strategic planning and organizational restructuring

EDUCATION

Northeastern University
Ed.D in Educational Leadership

Boston, MA

Harvard University
Masters of Education

Cambridge, MA

Wheaton College
Bachelor of Arts

Norton, MA

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Interim Executive Director of Student Services

Hingham, MA

Hingham Public Schools

- Create system-wide change post pandemic issues
- Support the department and coordinate efforts with new Strategic Plan
- Responsible for working with all Principals to ensure legal mandates met in all buildings
- Overhaul system of programming PreK-High School
- Institute procedures and processes in order to calibrate services district-wide
- Work with families to instill a sense of trust
- Advised Superintendent on next steps on Student Service topics as well as other areas as requested
- Responsible for reorganization of Student Services Department

Interim Director of Special Education

Wayland Public Schools

Wayland, MA

- Create an organizational structure for the Special Education Department
- Design programs to assist students with special needs to remain in the community
- Wrote first handbook for Special Education Department for the district
- Advised the Superintendent on budgetary items
- Realign Team Leader structure in order to ensure fidelity
- Responsible for Circuit Breaker, IDEA Grant, METCO grant, etc.

Director of Student Support

The Kingsley Montessori School

Boston, MA

- Oversee all daily operations of Student Support
- Introduced recovery plan for students post remote learning
- Created reading plan for unified multisensory teaching

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- Collaborated with all classroom teams guiding teaching
- Responsible for directing SEL support for students

Director of the Boston College Campus School

BOSTON COLLEGE

Newton, MA

- Realigned professional development training program
- Established mentoring program for new teachers
- Created new Transition Learning Center for students ages 16-21
- Awarded \$20,000 grant from Joy in Blue Foundation to build assistive technology
- Created School Culture Program and introduced leadership opportunity for teachers enrolled in university leadership program

Superintendent of Schools

COHASSET PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cohasset, MA

- Manage eighteen-million-dollar budget
- Created technology plan with shared resources to reduce overhead
- Oversaw reorganization of leadership team
- Produced two Strategic Plans
- Built first collaborative relationship among all town departments in two decades
- Fortified K-12 curriculum alignment with common core standards
- Responsible for raising all schools to Level I within DESE designation

Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Milford, MA

- Responsible for multimillion dollar budget and cost containment
- Created system-wide professional development opportunities in curriculum and instruction
- Assisted elementary principals in reorganization to enhance RTI implementation
- Worked in conjunction with curriculum supervisors to address AYP
- Created first preschool program in the country offering iPads® to students for instructional use
- Advised the Superintendent on curriculum, special education, and leadership initiatives

Director of Special Education

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Arlington, MA

- Provided instructional leadership resulting in improved student achievement
- Developed inclusionary programs in all schools
- Managed multi-million-dollar budget
- Served as advisor to superintendent in curriculum and special education matters
- Conducted interdepartmental reading training at the elementary level

Special Needs Coordinator

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Cambridge, MA

- Developed professional development opportunities for all staff
- Served on the literacy committee of CPS and Harvard GSE
- Responsible for the implementation of technology across the district
- Served on Instructional Council providing leadership for teaching and learning
- Created and oversaw professional development for co-teaching at the secondary level
- Responsible for grant writing

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Reading Specialist

DEDHAM COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Dedham, MA

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Educational Consultant
Educational Solutions

Needham, MA

Interim Director of Student Services
SUDBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sudbury, MA

Interim Assistant Director of Student Services
WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Weston, MA

Reading Specialist
SHERBORN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Sherborn, MA

Co-Teacher of the Learning Program
NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Newton, MA

Special Education Instructor
FRAMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Framingham, MA

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created a sustainable technology plan for the district that entails a full rollout to students over two years
- Established RTI program to assist with enhancing classroom experience for struggling learners
- Saved more than one million dollars from special education budget by restructuring services and creating programs to reduce out of district participation
- Served as expert witness for Public Schools in special education cases
- Worked in collaboration with the Reading Coordinator/principal, the system instituted a structured reading program at the elementary level in both special education and the general education setting to reduce special education referrals as a means to address RTI
- Created menu of professional development for both regular education and special education teachers resulting in increased inclusion in the classroom and reduced referrals
- Produced study skills curriculum for the secondary level
- Chosen as stakeholder in development of Massachusetts District Guidelines for Dyslexia and other Learning Disabilities
- Trained in Wilson Reading System, Foundations, Project Read, Alphabetic Phonics, and Executive Function Skills

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- **Executive Function Skills: Classroom Activities to Train Students**
Wayland Public Schools, Wayland, MA February, 2023
- **Executive Function Skills to Assist Parents at Home**
Veritas Christian Academy, Wayland, MA January, 2023
- **Executive Function Skills for Teaching Assistants, Part II**
Wayland Public Schools, Wayland, MA January, 2023
- **Executive Function Skills in the Classroom for Teaching Assistants**
Wayland Public Schools, Wayland, MA August, 2022
- **Executive Functioning: Post Pandemic in the Montessori Classroom**
Kingsley Montessori School, Boston, MA August, 2021
- **Executive Functioning: Implications for Teaching and Learning**
Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association, Franklin, MA, January, 2017
- **Working with Students with Behavioral Issues**
Brookline Public Schools Professional Development Consultant, Brookline, MA, December, 2016
- **Working with Students with Neurological and Emotional Disorders**
Mansfield Public Schools Professional Development Consultant. Mansfield, MA, October, 2016
- **Overview of Disabling Conditions**
Wachusett Regional Public Schools Professional Development Consultant, October, 2016
- **Questioning and Checking for Understanding**
Saugus Public Schools Professional development, Saugus, MA, September, 2016
- **Creating Inclusive Schools**
Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents July, 2017

RELATED EXPERIENCE

- Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents Professional Development Committee
- Chair of the Board of Directors for South Shore Educational Collaborative
- METCO, Inc. Board of Directors
- Created first preschool program in the country offering iPads® to students for instructional use
- Harvard Graduate School of Education Learning Differences Conference presenter
- Guest lecturer at Lesley University and Lasell University
- Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Association presenter
- UNDERSTANDING OUR DIFFERENCES Guest speaker on Learning Disabilities
- Massachusetts Branch of the International Dyslexia Society Board Member at-large
- Masscue Spring Conference, "Engaging the Special Education Learner Through the iPad®"
- Expert witness in Special Education Hearings for Districts and Parents
- Guest lecturer at Boston College

MASSACHUSETTS CERTIFICATIONS

Administration: Assistant Superintendent/Superintendent, Special Education Administrator,

Special Education: Moderate Special Needs, N-12

Regular Education: Elementary Education, K-8, Middle School, 5-9, Reading, K-12

RHODE ISLAND CERTIFICATIONS

Administration: Superintendent of Schools, District Level Administrator-Special Education

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AASA, The School Superintendents Association

Massachusetts Association for School Superintendents

International Dyslexia Association

Massachusetts Administrators for Special Education

National Association of Independent Schools

American Montessori Association