

## PSB Yearbook Policy

The Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) support the publication of yearbooks to honor and promote the best interests of our students, staff, administrators, educators, families, friends, and caregivers. Yearbooks present an opportunity to reflect and memorialize the learning experiences and growth of our school communities. They serve as a permanent testament to our students' inclusion and participation in school activities.

### I. Inclusion:

1. All students enrolled in a PSB school at any time during an academic year shall by default be included in the school yearbook for that school if one is published.
  - A. Exceptions:
    - (i) Parents and guardians of non-emancipated minors may opt out of yearbooks on behalf of their children, in writing.
    - (ii) Emancipated minors and students aged 18 or older may opt out of yearbooks, in writing.
    - (iii) The PSB shall comply with any court orders preventing or restricting publication of a student's name, picture(s), and other identifying information.
2. Opt-outs shall be communicated in writing to both the school principal and the Deputy Superintendent for Student Services.
3. Opt-outs may be for excluding pictures of the student only, or for excluding both pictures and student names. Opt-out language should be precise in order to ensure compliance with the specific request.

### II. Content:

1. Yearbooks shall endeavor to accurately portray the personalities of the students, staff, and other community members depicted. Personal photographic and narrative/quote submissions, if included in a yearbook, shall be true to the individual's submission.
  - A. Exceptions:
    - (i) No material, opinions or otherwise, shall be printed which is lewd, libelous, personally insulting toward another member of the community, advocates an illegal activity, promotes discord or violence, constitutes a copyright infringement, or lacks informed written consent of depicted identifiable individuals. The editor of the yearbook shall reasonably exercise discretion in enforcing this provision, subject to First Amendment rights.

2. Any planned exclusion or modification of a student's personal yearbook submission shall be first communicated to that student a sufficient time prior to publication of the yearbook to ensure that student the opportunity to either cure the reported issue(s), or appeal the editor's determination to the Deputy Superintendent of Student Services.
3. Photographs violating school policies may be subject to investigation for disciplinary action.

### III. Proprietary considerations:

1. All photos shall become a public record upon publication of the yearbook. Submitted photos will remain copyrights of the original photographer.
2. Identifiable individuals portrayed in any photographs must provide advance written consent in order for the photographs to be included.
3. The yearbook staff, as directed by the yearbook editor, reserves the right to edit, retouch, crop, or resize any photos submitted without permission, notification, or approval.

### IV. Equity:

1. All students within a grade level at each school that publishes a yearbook must be offered the same base level of opportunities for appearance in that yearbook. For example, if a yearbook editor invites students in a particular grade level to submit one personal photograph and up to 50 words, then all students in that grade level at that school must be invited to submit one personal photograph and up to 50 words, irrespective of homeroom, percentage of time spent in the school building, number of years in that grade level, or number of days as a student at that school.
2. If a student does not respond by the deadline to a yearbook submission request, the teacher shall both remind the student and contact that student's parents or guardian about yearbook inclusion. If the teacher is unsuccessful in reaching the parent/guardian, or if the parent/guardian does not comply with the opt-out provisions of the PSB Yearbook Policy within a reasonable time period prior to publication, then the editor shall publish the student's name and include the official yearbook headshot of that student, if available.