

TO: Bella Wong, Superintendent
FROM: Brookline School Committee
DATE: [Insert Date]
RE: FY27–31 Budget Guidelines

Introduction: Budget as a Strategic Tool

The School Committee is responsible for approving and overseeing the District’s annual budget (educational plan). In accordance with our responsibilities, we present our suggested multi-year guidelines to (1) inform construction of the budget for the upcoming and future fiscal years, (2) allow us to review all spending proposals with a cooperative vision through a shared lens, (3) guide us as we make difficult, important choices, and (4) enable us to maintain a relentless focus on our priorities.

To ensure the budget process is aligned with the School Committee’s vision and that we are working as efficiently as possible, these guidelines explicitly link priorities to the five Strategic Plan goals.

The Public Schools of Brookline budget must advance the Strategic Plan, center student needs, and steward resources responsibly. The School Committee affirms that the budget is not simply a financial plan but the primary vehicle for implementing the district’s Strategic Plan (2024–2027). Our intent is to ensure that Brookline’s FY27–31 budgets are student-centered, vision-driven, and fiscally sustainable, so that every dollar advances the educational outcomes our community expects. With this framework, we are confident that our District leaders will be well-positioned to present budget proposals that reflect Brookline’s educational mission: to educate and inspire every student to lead a fulfilling life and make positive contributions to our world.

Budget Guidelines by Strategic Plan Goal

1. Teaching & Learning

- Maintain an intense focus on the district-wide literacy initiative (aligned with Science of Reading), including materials, and professional development.
- Sustain emphasis on writing and math, ensuring that curricula are rigorous, cohesive and culturally responsive.
- Complete curriculum adoption and assessments in ELA, Math, Science, and World Language, including planning for the return of World Language in lower grades with a target of FY28 if financially viable.
- Invest in professional development for Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to ensure

timely interventions and ensure the fidelity of implementation using data, consistent feedback loops and continuous training.

2. Community & Connections

- Ensure each School Improvement Plan (SIP) is connected to budget allocations, so school-based goals are funded and measurable.

3. Climate & Culture

- Fund an educational equity strategy, approved by the School Committee, by FY27 that right-sizes the resources directed towards equity initiatives, whether centralized or decentralized
- Expand Extended School Year (ESY) and summer offerings, beginning pilots in FY27, with a goal of robust programming by FY30.

4. Management & Capacity Building

- Develop dashboards that allow stakeholders to track progress on plan benchmarks.
- A return to the practice of holding limited reserve staffing funds to manage uncertainties.

5. Governance

- Prepare for a possible override in FY27, including a level-services budget scenario with identified efficiencies, restoration options, and anticipated growth needs (literacy, MTSS, enrollment).