



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

Casey Ngo-Miller
*Deputy Superintendent
for Student Services*

The communication below provides important information from the Public Schools of Brookline.

Translated versions are available at the following links:

- *Arabic:* [الرجاء الضغط هنا للترجمة العربية](#)
- *Simplified Chinese:* [点击这里查看中文翻译](#)
- *Traditional Chinese:* [點擊這裡查看中文翻譯](#)
- *Haitian Creole:* [Klike la a pou tradiksyon kreyòl ayisyen an.](#)
- *Hebrew:* [אנא לחץ כאן לצפייה במסמך בעברית](#)
- *Japanese:* [ここをクリックして日本語の翻訳にアクセスしてください](#)
- *Korean:* [한국어 번역을 보시려면 여기를 클릭하십시오](#)
- *Portuguese:* [Clique aqui para a tradução em português](#)
- *Russian:* [Нажмите здесь, чтобы получить доступ к русскому переводу](#)
- *Spanish:* [Haga clic aquí para acceder a la traducción al español](#)
- *Vietnamese:* [Nhấn vào đây để truy cập bản dịch tiếng Việt](#)

April 14, 2022

This notice is being sent because of a complaint to the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) alleging that disability-based discrimination, specifically retaliation, occurred when the Brookline Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC) passed a change in its bylaws limiting board membership to exclude individuals who were in a formal dispute with the District. After elections to the SEPAC Board were held under this change, SEPAC changed the rule. The District, by state law, provides significant assistance to the SEPAC. The District is also subject to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. Section 794, and its implementing regulation at 34 C.F.R. Part 104, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. Section 12131 et seq., and its implementing regulation at 28 C.F.R. Part 35. Both laws prohibit discrimination based on disability, including retaliation, which is defined as an adverse (negative) action, taken after an individual engages in protected activity such as advocating for rights protected by Section 504/II, that would deter a reasonable person from engaging in further

protected activity. Both laws also prohibit the District from aiding or perpetuating discrimination, including retaliation, against any qualified individual with a disability by providing significant assistance to an agency, organization, or person that discriminates on the basis of disability in providing any aid, benefit, or service to beneficiaries of the District's program or activity.

If the District provides significant assistance to an outside entity that is shown to have discriminated on the basis of disability, including by engaging in retaliation, the District must take steps to obtain compliance from the outside entity or terminate the assistance. Individuals who believe the District is providing aid or perpetuating discrimination against a qualified individual with a disability by providing significant assistance to an agency, organization, or person that discriminates on the basis of disability may file a complaint with:

Maria Letasz, Ed.D.

Director of Guidance and Clinical Services, PreK-12

Section 504/Title II Coordinator

333 Washington Street

Brookline, MA 02445

617-308-6400 (text enabled)

maria_letasz@psbma.org

In the event the individual alleged to have provided aid or perpetuated discrimination is designated by the District to receive or respond to these complaints, the alternate contact with whom individuals may file a complaint is:

Casey Ngo-Miller

Deputy Superintendent for Student Services

333 Washington Street

Brookline, MA 02445

617-730-2444

casey_ngo_miller@psbma.org

Individuals can also contact OCR with questions about retaliation prohibited by Section 504/Title II.

The Office of Civil Rights - U.S. Department of Education, 8th Floor

5 Post Office Square

Boston, MA 02109-3921

Telephone: (617) 289-0111

Facsimile: (617) 289-0150

Email: OCR.Boston@ed.gov

The District is also inviting all families of students with disabilities to a workshop on the rights of students and their parents and guardians under the special education laws of the Commonwealth and the federal government, including Section 504, Title II's prohibition against providing significant assistance to or otherwise contracting with an entity that discriminates against people on the basis of disability including different treatment, harassment, or retaliation. The workshop is scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 5PM. More details will be provided soon.