

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE POLICY MANUAL

SECTION J STUDENTS

10. (JQ) Student Fees, Fines, and Charges (Voted 7/11/16, #16-54)

Educational Equity is a core value of the PSB:

The Public Schools of Brookline are committed to identifying and eliminating barriers to educational achievement in our schools. To this end, we create policies and practices that are fair and just and provide educational opportunities to ensure that every student, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, disability, or economic status, meets our standards for achievement, participation, and growth.

In fulfillment of this value, this policy on student fees, fines, and charges commits the PSB to the following:

- Regardless of financial means, all PSB students shall have access to all educational books, materials, and other education-related opportunities;
- The PSB will engage in responsible financial management and practices to ensure the above can be made possible;
- The financial operations of the district will be transparent in order to ensure accountability to these commitments; and
- All students and families are treated with dignity in all discussion or disclosure of confidential information.

I. Establishing Fees

The School Committee reserves the right to establish fees for participation in certain activities and programs. Examples include, but are not limited to, community education, Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP), Summer School, and athletics.

Unless otherwise specified through School Committee action, each fee shall be established on a yearly basis for the next school year and communicated in a timely manner to students, parents, and/or guardians. Due dates and payment schedules for all fees will be established by the relevant program.

II. Collection of Fees, Fines, and Charges

A. Central Collection

This policy authorizes a centralized revenue collection and recording system for administration (charging and collecting) of Fees, Fines, and Charges. Such a system should provide efficiencies and transparency for parents and the community. Faculty and staff (e.g., departments, clubs, student organizations) shall use this system for administration of all fees, fines, and charges.

B. Non-Payment

For fee-based activities, the School Committee expects that all fees will be paid in advance of participation unless the payor has been qualified for financial assistance by the Office of Administration and Finance pursuant to the policy on financial assistance.

If payment of any fee, fine, or charge is not received and the payor has been noticed in writing of the amount(s) due, the Superintendent or his/her designee may take one or more of the following actions, unless or until prohibited by state law or regulation:

1. Prohibit participation of the student in the relevant program.
2. Prohibit participation of the student or other students in the student's household from participating in any future fee-based program until or unless outstanding balances are resolved.
3. Prohibit student participation in senior activities or graduation exercises.
4. Referral to small claims court.

Legal Reference:

M.G.L. Chapter 71: Section 47. Athletic programs; school organizations; student activity accounts

M.G.L. Chapter 44: Section 69. Municipal or district services, fees or charges; insufficient funds checks; penalty

M.G.L. Chapter 60: Section 57A. Payment by check not duly paid; penalty

M.G.L. Chapter 93: Section 40A. Dishonored checks; demand for payment

M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 49 Purchase of textbooks by pupils