



ROBERT F. SULLIVAN
Mayor

City of Brockton



MICHAEL P. THOMAS
Superintendent of Schools

January 27, 2021

Governor Charlie Baker
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Office of the Governor, Room 280
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker,

We, the leaders of the City of Brockton, respectfully request that you reclassify Early Education and K-12 teachers as a Phase 1 group so that they may receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible. We stand united with dozens of communities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in making this request and would like to specifically detail the circumstances in our city that underscore the urgency of this matter.

The facts are as follows:

- Brockton Public Schools students have not set foot in a classroom since March 12, 2020.
- With the exception of a brief few weeks this fall, Brockton has been in the high-risk "red" category since August 2020. While districts have been asked by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to bring students back as soon as possible, Brockton has not had an opportunity to do so due to the high number of daily cases.
- Twenty-six percent of BPS students are English Language Learners, 16.6 percent are students with disabilities, 73.4 percent are high needs and 57.5 percent are economically disadvantaged. These students need classroom time.
- As of this writing, more than 100 teachers with comorbidities or who live with an individual with comorbidities have requested leave in the event that we return to the classroom. This makes staffing our buildings for hybrid learning extremely challenging.

We are a state that so values education that it is written into our Constitution. Our values therefore demand the prioritization of a return to in-person instruction, which can only be successfully achieved if we treat teachers like the frontline essential workers that they are.

As noted by the North Shore Superintendents' Round Table in a letter recently sent to your office, there is precedent for reclassifying teachers. Several other states, including Connecticut, Maine and New York, placed educators in their first phase of vaccine distribution. Reclassifying teachers would be a critical step in getting our district, the fifth largest in the Commonwealth, back to some semblance of normalcy.

We appreciate your time and consideration.



ROBERT F. SULLIVAN
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City of Brockton



MICHAEL P. THOMAS
Superintendent of Schools

Sincerely,

Robert F. Sullivan
Mayor of the City of Brockton,
Chair of the Brockton School
Committee

Mark D'Agostino
Vice Chair of the Brockton
School Committee

Michael P. Thomas
Superintendent of Schools

Winthrop Farwell Jr.
City Council President

Tina Cardoso
Councilor-At-Large

Moises M. Rodrigues
Councilor-At-Large

Timothy Cruise
Ward 1 City Councilor

Thomas Monahan
Ward 2 City Councilor

Dennis Eaniri
Ward 3 City Councilor

Susan Nicastro
Ward 4 City Councilor

Jeffrey Thompson
Ward 5 City Councilor

Shirley Asack
Ward 7 City Councilor

Thomas J. Minichiello Jr.
Ward 1 School Committee

Cynthia Rivas Mendes
Ward 2 School Committee

Tony Rodrigues
Ward 4 School Committee

Judy Sullivan
Ward 5 School Committee

Joyce J. Asack
Ward 6 School Committee

Timothy J. Sullivan
Ward 7 School Committee