

**THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF BROOKLINE
OFFICE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Town Hall, 333 Washington Street, 5th Floor
Brookline, Massachusetts 02445



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brookline School Committee Advances Landmark Paid Parental Leave Proposal for Educators

BROOKLINE, MA – October 30, 2026 – As part of its latest comprehensive bargaining proposal, the Brookline School Committee has offered to accept, with minor adjustments, the Brookline Educators Union's (BEU) proposed expansion of paid parental leave, which the Committee believes marks a significant step forward in ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

Under the proposal, eligible educators would receive six weeks of paid parental leave in 2026-27, increasing to nine weeks in 2027-28 and twelve weeks of fully paid parental leave by 2028-29, without drawing on accrued sick time.

Unlike most private-sector employees in Massachusetts, municipal public school educators are generally excluded from the Commonwealth's Paid Family and Medical Leave program which allows access to paid leave. Expanding access to paid parental leave has consequently become a major statewide priority for educator unions.

The School Committee's willingness to advance this proposal, in addition to other proposals that expand access to paid family leave, reflects a meaningful investment in Brookline educators and their families and would position Brookline among the districts offering the most generous paid parental leave benefits in Massachusetts.

The Brookline School Committee looks forward to continued collaboration with the BEU toward a timely, comprehensive agreement that recognizes the contributions of Brookline educators while honoring the district's responsibility to manage public resources sustainably. The passage of Brookline's recent override reaffirmed the community's commitment to investing in its public schools and the educators who make them exceptional. Our shared goal is to bring negotiations to a successful resolution in the near term, allowing our educators and school communities to focus their time and energy on the exceptional work of teaching and learning.

Learn More About Collective Bargaining:

The Brookline School Committee appreciates the BEU's partnership in making collective bargaining sessions accessible to the public, reflecting a shared commitment to transparency and keeping stakeholders informed throughout the negotiation process. Recordings of bargaining sessions, along with current contracts and a collective bargaining primer designed to help community members better understand educator compensation structures, are available on the [School Committee's Collective Bargaining webpage](#).