

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE IMPACTS OF RECENT BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS (BPS) PERSONNEL CUTS ON STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

WHEREAS, With the recent vote by the Boston City Council to approve the Boston Public Schools (BPS) budget, hundreds of teachers, paraprofessionals and other front line workers are expected to lose their jobs; *and*

WHEREAS, These dedicated and compassionate workers provided critical social services to many of the most vulnerable residents in our city - students and children with disabilities. As we reflect on this terrible injustice and the impact on these BPS employees and their families, it is also incumbent on the City of Boston to acknowledge the potential ripple effects and consequences for students with disabilities, and services and programs they are entitled to by law; *and*

WHEREAS, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) governs how states provide early intervention and special education for eligible students with disabilities, including infants, toddlers, and children in grade school. In Massachusetts, all students are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment, meaning that students with disabilities are permitted to services like speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, behavioral support, assistive technology, transportation, and other academic accommodations, including deadline extensions; *and*

WHEREAS, These personnel cuts may result in devastating impacts for students with disabilities. In the absence of paraprofessionals, all students, including those with disabilities, may face difficulties with classroom support, accessing resources and accommodations, and ultimately result in a decline in academic and social progress; *and*

WHEREAS, With the projected loss of several hundred BPS employees, it is critical that the Boston City Council provides oversight and review of the potential impacts to ensure students, families, neighborhoods and the BPS community are fully prepared for the 2026-2027 school year; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the impact of BPS personnel cuts on students with disabilities.

Filed on: July 8, 2026