

[Date]

Sudbury Public Schools Superintendent Brad Crozier

Lincoln-Sudbury High School Superintendent Andrew Stephens

Sudbury School Committee

Lincoln-Sudbury School Committee

Dear Superintendent Crozier, Superintendent Stephens, and Members of the Sudbury and Lincoln-Sudbury School Committees,

On behalf of the Sudbury Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Commission, we write to support the request from members of the Sudbury community to recognize Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha as district holidays within the Sudbury Public Schools (SPS) and Lincoln-Sudbury High School (LS) calendars.

Our commission commends both superintendents and the school committees for engaging in meaningful conversations with the community on this matter, demonstrating a commitment to listening to the voices of Sudbury's diverse population. The proactive outreach and open discussions with parents and Muslim families have shown a willingness to foster inclusivity within our district's educational institutions.

Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha hold immense significance in the Muslim faith, marking days of worship, family, and community connection. Observing these days as school holidays would prevent Muslim students and staff from having to choose between participating in their religious celebrations and attending school. Celebrations for these holy days often start early in the morning and continue throughout the day, encompassing prayers, community gatherings, and family rituals. The current school calendar can force students to miss out on these essential religious and cultural practices, which is in contrast to the inclusive environment that our schools strive to provide.

We urge the school committees and administration to consider how this change could make Sudbury a more welcoming and equitable environment for all students.

Recognizing Eid as a school holiday would not only acknowledge and respect the growing Muslim population in Sudbury but also educate the entire school community about the cultural and religious diversity within our town. This inclusivity is essential for fostering understanding, reducing bias, and ensuring all students feel valued and seen within their school environment.

Many neighboring communities, including Lexington, Acton-Boxborough, Medford, Hopkinton, Westford, Natick, Westborough, Wellesley, Ashland, and Holliston, have already made the decision to observe Eid as a school holiday. Their examples show that incorporating these holidays is both feasible and meaningful. By taking this step, Sudbury would align with neighboring towns and demonstrate its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

We believe this action would serve as a powerful statement of respect and unity and inspire all students to embrace Sudbury's diverse cultural fabric. We hope you will seriously consider this request to establish Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Adha as official holidays in the Sudbury school calendar, honoring both the Muslim students in our community and our collective commitment to building a truly inclusive environment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your commitment to fostering a school system where every student feels seen, valued, and supported.

Sincerely,  
Sudbury DEI Commission