

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James Leo McGuinness Administration Building – 100 Bennett Street, Lynn, MA 01905
Tel. (781) 593-1680 ~ Fax. (781) 477-7487



*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

January 2, 2021

Dear LPS Families,

Happy New Year! I cannot recall a time in my life when that celebratory greeting, *Happy New Year*, has been more meaningful than now. We move into each new calendar year with plans, new commitments, and hope for a better year than the previous one. This year is no different, although there is undoubtedly a deeper longing for better times ahead. I remain deeply optimistic about better times ahead and I look forward to our continued partnership.

Although we launched the school year in full remote learning and continue to provide services in that manner, I want to make you aware of state-mandated assessments that must be administered in person between the months of January and June. The state-mandated assessments are as follows:

- All students who qualify as an English Learner (EL) are required to take the ACCESS test to assess progress toward English language proficiency.
- Students in grades 3-10 are required to take MCAS assessments in ELA and Math. 5th, 8th, and 9th will also take an MCAS Science assessment.
- High school students beyond grade 10 who have not earned a passing score on the high school English and Math sections in previous years are required to take MCAS assessments in English and Math.

Both assessments (ACCESS and MCAS) are used to make decisions about instruction and the high school MCAS remains a graduation requirement. Neither assessment can be administered remotely.

Safety continues to be our foremost priority. Since the summer of 2020, we have dedicated careful thought to safely accommodating students on site. In recent months, we focused our attention specifically on safe, in-person administration of the state-mandated assessments. In addition to full compliance with all [Center for Disease Control](#) and [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education](#) guidance, we have added additional safety precautions which include but are not limited to:

- Small groups of students on site at any given time
- Limited time on site
- No more than 10 students in a classroom
- Ability keep students physically distant at a degree of 6 feet or more
- Desktop plexiglass shields

If your student is expected to take the MCAS and/or ACCESS assessment this year, you can expect to hear directly from your student's building principal with specific information on dates, times, and protocols. Further we welcome and are prepared to respond to any questions or concerns.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent