

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

Superintendent's Report September 9, 2021

The 2021-22 school year is underway. The school year has launched in ways similar to that in pre-pandemic times but in a context that requires caution and vigilance. We began the school year with a staggered start, inviting groups of students beginning September 7th, with all students (except pre-kindergarten and kindergarten) beginning today. By observation and general feedback, the opening has gone smoothly. I credit this to the hard work and planning by principals and administrators during the summer months, the time and space created by three days professional development and preparation prior to the start of the school year, and close partnership with families.

Much of our launch will focus on reintroducing students to in-person experiences, which includes acclimating them to routines and protocols that protect their own safety and that of their peers. We will also set a rhythm of outreach and partnership with families, building on the success of those elements from last year. We have only just begun, but in my humble opinion we have started on the right foot.

LPS Families received a [video](#) on September 7th outlining the theme for our work with them this year and beyond. The theme, *Stabilize, Heal, and Transform*, is not a new path or direction. It is a reflection of a thoughtful and strategic set of initiatives and activities aligned to the district strategic plan that are designed to meet students' needs in the current context.

Stabilize

After a year of uncertainty, change, and even fear, stability now is vital. Full time in person learning, familiar routines, connection with peers and staff, and access to nutrition and mental health resources within the school each promote stability. Schools are a stabilizing force in a student's life.

Heal

We work intentionally to deepen our understanding of self and others. Through various professional learning programs and student panels, we are working to establish more meaningful connections between students and between staff. Developing these relationships are the core of teaching and learning and are critical for in our effort to meet student's needs.

Transform

The community as a whole accomplished a great deal last year. We shifted, grew, and our thinking about our work has evolved. This is all part of a transformation. Now is the time to embrace what we have learned to do differently. We will continue to evolve in order to transform our students' educational experiences to be everything we can imagine for them and everything they deserve.

Finally, The Lynn Public Schools (LPS) will be applying to receive Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to address issues related to the health and well-being and learning as a result of COVID-19. These funds are designated for one-time or short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic. Below is an outline of activities designed to inform how the funds will be allocated. A final allocation plan will be presented to the School Committee for approval on September 30, 2021.

Plan		
What	When	Description
Advisory Development Invitations will be sent to a small representative group who will serve in an advisory capacity	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serve as a sounding board on ESSER-funded initiatives.
Survey Development Survey will be developed to gather broad input from various stakeholder groups according to requirements.	Ongoing	

Engage		
What	When	Description
Survey Administration Surveys specifically geared toward the following stakeholder groups: LPS Students Families Teachers/Staff School Leaders Special Education Parent Advisory English Learner Parent Advisory Council LPS Partner Agencies	Week of September 13 th	Survey will be administered to students, families, and LPS staff through the district communication platform. Email will be used to administer survey to other stakeholders.
Virtual Town Hall	September 20, 2021	Superintendent will host a Virtual Town Hall to explain ESSER funding program, answer questions, and promote survey completion.
Share Survey Outcomes	Week of September 27 th	Survey results will be posted on the LPS website and social media.

Present		
What	When	Description
School Committee Share/Public Comment	Week of September 20 th	Survey feedback will be shared with the School Committee. It will also be posted on the LPS website for general feedback from the public.
Allocation Plan Shared	September 24, 2021	Superintendent will share allocation plan in advance of the September 30 th School Committee meeting.
School Committee Approval of Allocation Plan	September 30, 2021	Final allocation plan will be presented for School Committee approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
 Superintendent