



School Assignment Policy During Health Crisis

To: Joel D. Boyd, Superintendent

From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer

Date: May 1, 2020

Re: School Assignment Policy During Covid-19 Public Health Crisis

Request for action, pursuant to the 2020-2021 School Assignment Policy of the Lowell School Committee, to suspend all registration and lottery deadlines established within the policy and direct the Superintendent to implement a revised timeline and remote registration process for the duration of the ongoing public health emergency.

In exercising caution for everyone's health and safety, both the Central Office and Family Resource Center (FRC) closed to the public starting on March 17, with staff working remotely. On March 24, Governor Baker issued an emergency order requiring non-essential businesses and organizations to close. He also issued a stay-at-home advisory. Both of these measures have been extended until May 18.

As a result, the District could not initiate its in-person registration process for pre-K, kindergarten and new students to the district as initially planned and communicated. The Family Resource Center has developed a revised online registration process and implementation plan which has been adjusted to ensure safety for families and staff while executing a successful process.

A remote registration process for Pre-K, kindergarten and new students to the district will begin no later than May 30, 2020. The open registration period for pre-k and kindergarten will end no later than June 30, 2020 and the lottery will take place at the beginning of July 2020. The lottery date will be publicized no later than May 30th.

Communication and publicity of the remote process and lottery will take place over a two week period leading up to the opening date of the registration process and will be ongoing through the open period of registration.

We will make accommodations throughout this process as necessary given the extenuating circumstances and communicate to the greater LPS community regularly. We will return as needed to seek additional guidance from the School Committee should we arrive at any unanticipated decision points in the coming weeks and months relating to the remote registration process.

Thank you for your consideration.