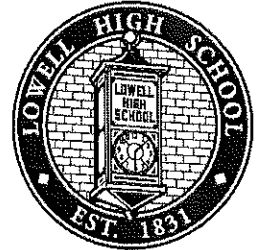


Marianne Busted
Head of School

LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: Paul Schlichtman

From: Marianne Busted, Head of School
Amy McLeod, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Date: January 31, 2018

Re: Support for the Hechinger Report Survey

We are writing in support of the survey work requested from the Hechinger Report.
(description of the work attached).

This survey will be part of the larger story by the Hechinger Report, focusing on the LHS Pathways, which the School Committee approved several months ago. This survey work is important as we continue to shape and grow our Pathway programs, analyze the data about the Pathway programs and courses, and get student feedback about what is working and what needs improvement as we move forward.

We are excited to continue with this work. Please let us know if you need any further information before we can proceed.



THE HECHINGER REPORT

January 29, 2018

To Members of the School Committee:


The Hechinger Report is a nonprofit organization that produces journalism on inequality and innovation in education. As you know, *Hechinger* is in the middle of reporting a series of articles looking at how schools across America are adapting to the future of work. One of our stories focuses on Lowell High School and its efforts to help students prepare for tomorrow's workforce and obtain good middle-class jobs.

As part of this important story, we are interested in surveying Lowell juniors and seniors about their career preparedness and plans. We feel it is extremely important to hear directly from Lowell students; this will provide valuable perspective for this project. To do this, we propose distributing paper surveys to students with approximately a dozen questions, which we have shared with the committee. We would then collate the data and use it to inform the article we're writing and several data visualizations that would run alongside it. Names of individual students would not be used as part of the survey unless they volunteered that information; rather, the data would present an overview of young people's expectations for the future.

Our hope is that this series, and the article on Lowell in particular, will inform policy makers, educators, grant makers and workforce experts as they seek to understand how the labor market is changing amid trends like automation and growing income inequality, and what these changes means for schools. Thus, we believe the article and survey serve a vital public purpose in line with the goals expressed in the Lowell Public Schools' Policy Manual. The research will help deepen knowledge of teaching and learning processes in a time of economic change. It will also strengthen public understanding of instructional challenges and opportunities schools face in preparing students for the future workforce. It will provide insights into what students want from their future careers and the education they think they need to reach their goals.

Hechinger will reimburse the school for any costs incurred in distributing and mailing the survey. Meanwhile, we are more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your consideration,


Caroline Preston
Senior Editor
The Hechinger Report

Survey Questions:

What is your grade level?

- 11th
- 12th

After I finish high school, I plan to:

- Earn a certificate or other credential
- Attend a two-year college
- Attend a four-year college
- Work at a job
- I don't know
- Take time off
- Other

What do you worry will hold you back the most in the future?

- Not being able to get a job that pays well
- Not being able to find a stable job
- Not having the money to afford the education I need
- Not having the right skills and knowledge for a good job
- Going into debt to afford the education I need
- Other

What's the highest level of education you think you will need to obtain the work you want?

- High school degree only
- Certificate
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree or higher

Who has the biggest influence on your plans after high school?

- Parents
- Other family members
- Teachers
- School counselor
- Employers
- Friends
- Other

I believe I will have to switch occupations multiple times throughout my life.
-strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

I feel prepared for life after graduation.
- Strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

I am optimistic that there will be good jobs for me in the future.
- Strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

I feel I have taken the right courses in high school to succeed in college and in the working world.
- Strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

I feel I have the digital skills to succeed in college and the working world.
- Strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

I wish my high school had done more to connect me with opportunities in the working world.
- Strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

I believe that I will have to move in order to obtain the work I want.
- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

I believe that I will be better off financially than my parents.
-strongly agree/somewhat agree/neither agree nor disagree/somewhat disagree/strongly disagree

What do your parents do?

What job or career do you hope to pursue after finishing school?

What are your plans after graduation?