



# Lowell Public Schools Special Education Update

*February 24, 2021*





# Agenda

- 
- Compliance Data
  - Update on Open Positions
  - Enrollment - Remote and In-Person Learning
  - Family Engagement & Outreach





# Compliance Data

Special Education Department maintains a tracking system to monitor initial evaluations, re-evaluations, annual reviews, and additional meetings. Below is the most recent data:

- Evaluations completed: 325
  - SLP Evaluations - 239
  - Evaluations Pending: 144
  - Re-Evaluations Completed: 240
  
- Annual Reviews Completed: 955
  
- Annuals Pending: 971
  
- Annual Reviews Scheduled: 184





# Lowell Public School Special Education Testing Sites for Initial Evaluations

- School Psychologists Continue to Make Great Progress:
  - Testing sites are strategically placed throughout the city for school psychologists to conduct testing (see map)
    - Pyne
    - Daley
    - Murkland
    - Wang
    - Reilly
    - McAvinnue
    - Stoklosa
    - Lincoln
    - McAuliffe
    - High School
    - Shaughnessy
  - Continue to Support Special Education Teachers by completing academic testing.





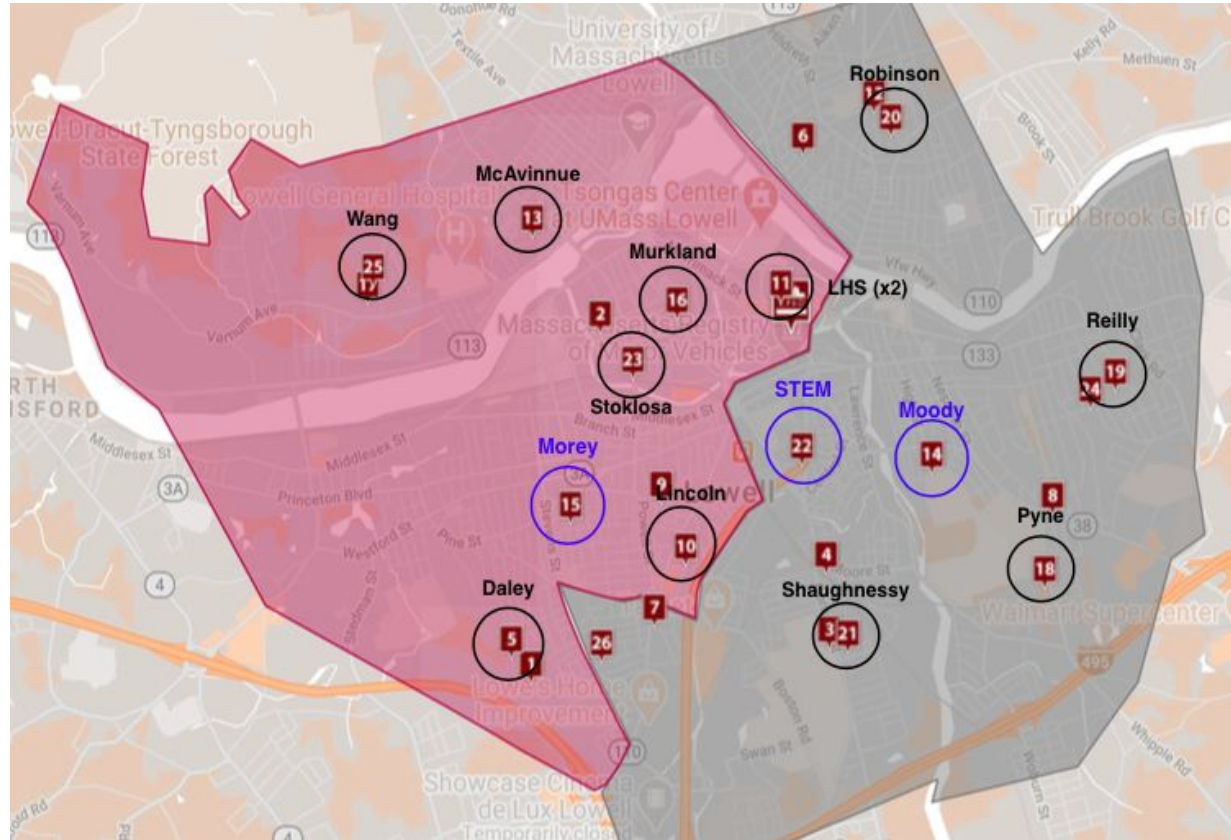
# Processes for Initial Evaluations

- Speech and Language Pathologists (SLP)
  - SLPs assigned to support non-enrolled evaluations.
  - All other evaluations (initials or re-evals) assigned to building SLP and re-assigned within the cohort as necessary to accommodate for remote vs. in person staff
  - Additional testing sites: Moody, Stem, Morey (see map)
- Occupational Therapists (OT)
  - All evaluations assigned to building OT and re-assigned within the cohort as necessary to accommodate for remote vs. in person staff
  - Testing sites at buildings
- Physical Therapists (PT)
  - All evaluations assigned to building PT
  - Testing sites at buildings





# Testing Sites





# Update on Open Positions

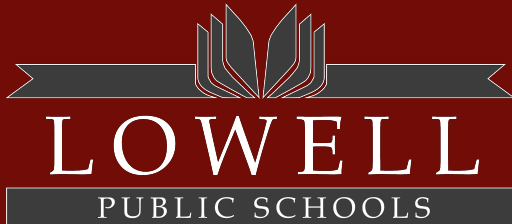
- 1 COTA
  - Interviewed - 12-23-20
  - Interviewed - 12-29-20
  - Caseload assignment 51 students
    - Average service time: 30 minutes weekly
- 2 Speech Language Assistants
  - Interviewed - November 2020
  - No qualified candidates have applied since
  - Caseload average 40 to 50 students
    - Average service time: 30-45 minutes
- 2 Speech Language Pathologists (FMLA)
  - Posting currently on School Stream
  - Posted currently on School Spring
  - Posted currently on Indeed
  - Average caseload 53 students
    - Average service time: 30-45 Minutes





# Update on Open Positions Cont...

- Paraprofessional Openings - 34
  - The Special Education Department will be supporting school principals in interviewing candidate pool.
  
  - Interviews are scheduled for:
    - 2-25-21
    - 2-26-21
    - 3-1-21
    - 3-1-21
  
- Special Education Teacher Openings -
  - 9 total vacancies (positions currently covered with long term subs pending hire)







# Enrollment Update

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- Sub Separate Students (3% returned on Feb. 22)
    - In-Person - 422
    - Remote - 170
  
  - Mainstream (25% return on March 1)
    - In-Person - 670
    - Remote - 1,300





# Enrollment Management

## New Incoming Students

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- Placement of students moving into Lowell
    - Review IEP to determine if sub-sep or general Sp. Ed
    - Contact parents for preference
    - Parents who request in-person
      - Communicate with school to determine opening
      - Place in-person in sub-separate
    - Parents who want remote
      - Place and share IEP with school
    - Determine transportation need if any
  - Coordinate placement with ECC when students turn three years old or move in to District with an IEP and registered for PreK IEP services





# Connecting with Families: In-Person and Remote Learning

- Students in Substantially Separate Programs
  - Special education staff continue to make contact with all special education students.
  - Staff contacted sub separate and day school families prior to start of school to confirm remote vs. in person and set up transportation
  - Staff contacted sub separate remote families to ensure remote instruction had commenced
  - Outreach to all remote families to follow up to ensure services
  
- Distributed Over 150 iPads to Students





# Connecting with Families:

## Special Education Family Advocate Support

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### Special Education Family Advocate Outreach

Contact Focus - Since October 2020 - conducted 400+ phone calls, emails (multiple per family), and Home Visits

- Providing support/resources to families who are struggling with remote learning
- Understand/determine obstacles in attending related service provider sessions i.e. Telehealth visits and completing telehealth consent forms
- Participated in Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meetings (Sped PAC)
- Conducted presentation/training to LPS families on the Special Education Initial Evaluation Process





# Connecting with Families:

## Outreach and Use of Social Media

- Utilize the LPSD-Special Education Facebook page and LPSD-Special Education website to inform/update families regarding family resources, community activities, and Special Education webinar opportunities.
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- Special Education Parent Advisory Council Meetings (Sped PAC)
  - Meeting reminders posted to Facebook, LPS District Calendar
  - Meeting dates: 11/5/2020, 12/3/2020, 1/7/2021

