

Lowell Public Schools

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

June 3, 2020





Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response

Agenda

- Close of School Year
- Central Office Re-Opening
- Graduation
- Summer Programs
- Meal Service
- New School Year Planning
- Online Registration
- Contact Information



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CLOSE OF SCHOOL YEAR

- The last day of the 2019-2020 school year will be Monday, June 15.
- All schools buildings in the state will remain closed until then and remote learning instruction will continue for the rest of the school year.
- In place of traditional grades, students will earn a “credit” or “no credit” rating based on the degree to which students meet the learning expectations in their courses during this remote learning period.
- Each school will be reaching out to students, families and staff about times to collect their belongs as well as return any Lowell Public Schools-issued devices that were borrowed.



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CENTRAL OFFICE RE-OPENING

- On May 19, Governor Baker released a four phase re-opening plan for the Commonwealth which included the allowance for MA businesses and organizations to reopen office spaces on May 25.
- In accordance with that guidance, LPS will adhere to the following parameters for each LPS work location for the months of June and July.
 - Phase 1: May 26 to July 4
 - Henry J. Mroz Administration Building, Family Resource Center and school sites remain open to essential onsite personnel only.
 - Phase 2: July 5 to August 1
 - Henry J. Mroz Administration Building, Family Resource Center and school sites are open to 12-month employees and those supporting summer programs.



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GRADUATION

- The last day for seniors at Lowell High School was Friday, May 22.
- A team of students, staff and community members have been developing plans for different scenarios for graduation depending on the status of COVID-19 during the summer.
- The district recently received [graduation guidelines](#) from DESE with clear standards regarding live, outdoor graduations which can only be held after July 18th based on current health conditions.
- Following this guidance, LPS is hopeful for a date near the end of July or early August for an in-person, outdoor graduation which is the overwhelming preference of the senior class; A virtual graduation ceremony is a fall back option if health conditions worsen over the next two months.
- Given the late date of graduation, students will receive their diplomas in June prior to the ceremony rather than the typical distribution protocol of handing them out after the ceremony.



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SUMMER PROGRAMS

- LPS is preparing to offer a full range of over 20 summer programs - both academic and enrichment.
- Right now, we are planning on holding these programs remotely
- We anticipate that there may be an opportunity to hold sessions in person - or a hybrid of in person and remote - depending on guidance from the state for programs being implemented after June 29.
- Registration for IDEA Camp - a hands-on, interactive opportunity for middle and high school students to explore topics in the field of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)- starts June 1, and more information can be found here:
<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/ideacamp>.
- Additional summer offerings can be found on the district website:
<https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/summerprograms>



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MEAL SERVICE

- We are continuing to provide breakfast, lunch and weekend meals for students at 11 sites while school is closed: Bartlett, Butler, Greenhalge, Lincoln, Moody, Morey, Murkland, Pawtucketville, Robinson, STEM (Rogers) and Westminster Village Apartments
 - All students ages 2-18 are eligible for meal service
 - Students don't have to be present to pick up food. Meals can be picked up by a parent or neighbor.

- And as is the practice each year, meal service will continue through the summer and we will let you know once the locations and service times have been set.



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NEW SCHOOL YEAR PLANNING

- A Return to School Task Force has been established and charged with designing scenario-based planning for return to school in the fall.
- This taskforce seeks to ensure the safety and support of every student and staff member while maintaining a commitment to academic excellence, equity, and engaging curriculum in the most responsive, efficient way possible.
- Using Department of Health guidelines, DESE recommendations, CDC school safety guidelines and the background and expertise of its participants, the task force will produce detailed plans for **three potential scenarios**:
 - Full, in-person instruction
 - Hybrid model of partial in-person instruction with a partial online/independent learning component
 - Remote instruction model with no in-person contact.





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ONLINE REGISTRATION

- The online registration process for pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and new students kicked on Tuesday, May 26, with over 750 applications submitted the first day.
- The first registration window will end June 30, 2020
- The lottery will take place in early July.
- Registration applications received after noon on June 30, 2020 will be placed on a wait list in the order in which the applications are received.



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CENTRAL OFFICE & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER:

- While still closed to the public, all services are still being conducted remotely.
 - Central Office - 978-674-4320
 - Family Resource Center - 978-674-4321
 - Technology Helpline - 978-674-2024 or helpdesk@lowell.k12.ma.us.
 - Online Form for General Inquiries

