



## Social Emotional Resources Response

TO: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Robin Desmond, Chief Academic Officer *Robin Desmond*

DATE: February 12, 2021

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The following report is in response to the motion by Robert Hoey:

*Request the Superintendent review the feasibility of setting up one or more locations for families of remote learners enrolled in Lowell Public Schools to safely access school district Social Emotional Learning (SEL) resources and services in-person.*

Lyndsey Killilea, Lowell Public School's (LPS) Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator, is currently reviewing potential service models for additional SEL supports throughout the District. At this time, in-person SEL locations have not been implemented due to safety concerns based on active COVID cases in Lowell. The District is currently using other options for social workers to connect with parents, students and their families.

The District has taken measures to identify student and families need. Building based social workers have provided a number of options for parent /student outreach such as: google classrooms, zoom parent meetings, home visits, referrals for outside agency assistance, teacher consultation and staff training around mental health and social emotional learning. The District also implemented the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA) screening tool. The goal of the DESSA tool is to universally screen, assess, monitor progress, measure outcomes, and strengthen the social-emotional competence of all students, K-12 in a strengths-based format. This assessment assists staff in identifying a student who might not have been previously established as needing or requiring assistance. The next assessment periods are set to be conducted in March and June.

Recently, school social workers participated in data collection to provide further insight to current offerings at each building. Individual building leaders may have different asks for social workers when it comes to parent and family outreach; however, of the social workers who responded to the survey, they indicated that the majority of their time is spent conducting student check-ins, social groups, counseling referrals and teacher consults to support student

engagement. Approximately 60% of social workers reported meeting with 10 or more students on average per day.

Moving forward with the plan to return in-person learning, social workers will adapt their current schedules to meet the needs of students, staff and families. This will be decided based on building administration team plans and building protocols. Social workers will continue to make decisions on home visits and in-person meetings based on safety guidelines and protocols.

I would like to thank Lyndsey Killilea, Lowell Public School's (LPS) Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Coordinator, for providing the information contained in this report.