



Finance Office
Derek Pinto, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent, Finance
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

dpinto@lowell.k12.ma.us
www.lowell.k12.ma.us
978-674-4324

To: Liam Skinner, Superintendent of Schools
From: Derek Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Date: February 5, 2025
Subject: Budget Update, Federal Grant Funding Pause

Purpose: To share information on the LPS **FY26 Budget Process**, and the recent **Federal Grant Funding** pause.

FY26 Budget Process

LPS Finance:

- is adhering to the draft calendar shared at the Jan 15 SC meeting. Upcoming activities include:
 - Analysis of preliminary Governor’s budget numbers, completion of budget workbooks to be distributed to schools
- is holding an Office Hour weekly on Fridays to answer review the current year budget and get input from School Sites on the FY26 budget
- released a survey to our Lowell Public Schools community for budget input. It is a nine-question survey to include questions on where the community thinks resources should be directed.
 - The survey was released in English and will be released in Spanish, Portuguese, French and Haitian Creole. Surveys will remain open for two weeks.
 - The survey will be delivered on multiple platforms: LPS Leader and LPS Connector, along with Social Media channels (Facebook and “X”).
- published deadline dates in the office weekly newsletter for FY25, shared information at the Lowell City Finance Team meeting on both FY25 and FY26 on Wed. 29th.

Federal Grant Funding Pause

On January 27, the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a memorandum directing a funding pause on discretionary grants at the Department of Education. These were to be reviewed by for alignment with Trump Administration priorities.

The Department of Education is working with OMB to identify programs not covered by the memo. We (Lowell Public Schools – LPS Finance) received information that the temporary pause did not impact Title I, IDEA, or other formula grants. On January 29, AASA, The School Superintendents Association, released news that:

“A federal judge temporarily blocked the funding freeze and that an administrative stay will be in place until February 3. Another court hearing is scheduled for that morning to consider the issue.”

LPS Finance will be communicating with and receiving information from the **Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)**, the **Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials (MASBO)** and the **Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS)** to examine the latest developments and impacts to LPS. LPS Finance will update you when there is more to share.

Sources:

AASA, The School Superintendents Association is the premier association for school system leaders and serves as the national voice for public education and leadership on Capitol Hill.

<https://www.aasa.org/resources/blog/federal-funding-freeze-and-potential-impacts>