



To: Liam Skinner, Superintendent
From: Latifah Phillips, Chief Equity and Engagement Officer
Date: January 31, 2024
Re: Motion Response - District Support for Students Housed at the ICC

This memo is in response to the following motion:

(By Eileen DelRossi): Request the superintendent to report on the incoming migrant students who receive English Language Learner support and provide an update of their progress from registration to present.

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, there were 93 Lowell Public Schools students living at the ICC. To date, there are only 84 students living at ICC, as nine students (5 families) have obtained housing in neighboring communities (Lowell, Lawrence, Methuen, Medford, & Billerica). While the term “migrant student” has been used to describe the students at the ICC, their circumstances do not fall under “migrant student” per DESE’s definition. More accurately, they are McKinney-Vento students who are living in the State Identified Emergency Shelter.

Families began enrolling in LPS in December 2023. The Lowell Public Schools team has been working very closely to support the families with this transition. There are multiple departments throughout the district that provide support for the students and families currently housed at the ICC.

- McKinney-Vento
 - Connect with previous school district to obtain all records and documents to help with enrollment
 - Coordinate with LPS team and the ICC site coordinator to set up on-site enrollment
 - Continue close relationships with site coordinators and train case managers at ICC to support the families and students.
 - Connect school staff for on-site visits and family meetings
 - Greenhalge team went to ICC
 - McAuliffe Team went to ICC and will be going again in March
 - Connect community resources to partner with ICC (The Wish Project)
 - Assist the family at the bus stop to make sure students get on the correct bus
- Family Resource Center
 - Working closely with MKV team to coordinate on-site enrollment

- Ensure that FRC staff are aware that the students at ICC are McKinney-Vento and can be immediately enrolled in school
 - Continue technical support and provide information on-site to families and case managers
 - Ensure that bus passes are delivered to the families before school starts
- Bilingual Family Team
 - Liaisons work alongside FRC team and MKV team to help with enrollment, translation, and support families in every way they need
 - Assist the families at school with language interpretation
 - Assist families with registration process and needed documents
 - Held listening sessions with families to learn about their thoughts and concerns regarding their child's education
- Family Leadership Institute
 - Connect family to Adult Education
 - Created survival English classes for the families at ICC in Spring 2024
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- Early Childhood
 - Work collaboratively with FRC coordinator and MKV liaison during enrollment process
 - Connect with site coordinators to set up playroom for preschool age children
 - Continue to engage and help families with school placement process
- MLE Department
 - Communicate with previous school district to obtain ACCESS and WIDA score
 - Ensure testers onsite to test students during registration
 - Work collaboratively with FRC coordinator and MKV liaison during enrollment process
 - Provide instructional assistance and appropriate English Language Development materials to school staff and teachers to ensure that they provide appropriate instructional support to these students.
 - Keep track of students' English learning progress in Ellevation
 - Ensure all students participate in state-wide ACCESS for ELLs testing

Information for this memo was coordinated by Bopha Boutselis, District Support Specialist.