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To: Liam Skinner, Superintendent
From: Derek Pinto Assistant Superintendent of Finance
Date: January 2, 2026
Re: Donation from United Way of Massachusetts Bay

The Community Schools Program in the LPS Office of Student Support Services received a rapid-response donation of gift cards from United Way of Massachusetts Bay to address food insecurity at our district's eight Community Schools.

United Way has provided 565 gift cards of \$100 value and designated for grocery purchases at grocery store and supermarket locations where debit Mastercard is accepted. Cards were distributed in accordance with documented need, with **Homeless students** being **first priority**. Schools included with the number of gift cards in parentheses: **Bartlett Community Partnership School (50)**, **Butler Middle School (70)**, **Career Academy (25)**, **Greenhalge Elementary (70)**, **Lowell High School Freshman Academy (90)**, **Reilly Elementary School (70)**, **STEM Academy (120)**, and **Sullivan Middle School (70)**.

The gift from United Way is in response to an increased need for food assistance in Massachusetts. Lowell is one of four public school districts in Massachusetts to have received this food assistance gift due to its partnership with United Way's Community School state coalition. Our Lowell Community Schools are grateful for the generous support of United Way and its donors for their rapid response support to families in need.

The federal government has made reductions to Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP – "food stamps") benefits that impact our population. As a result, LPS Student Support and Finance Offices in concert with the Superintendent agreed that the constituent need would be amplified and keenly felt at the Christmas/New Year's Holiday, so immediate distribution was critical.

Permission was sought from School Committee to move forward with distribution. This memo represents a request for formal acceptance of the donation in keeping with established practice.