



Lawrence Public Schools

Section J:	Students	J5AA
Subject:	School Assignment Policy	1 of 2

School Assignment Policy

School assignments within Lawrence Public Schools, preschool through grade 8, are made based on neighborhood residence, using an index of street addresses and associating them to a proximity school.

While the goal is have students attend the schools closest to their homes, in some cases adjustments are made to respond to school or program capacity. Therefore, it is possible for students who live on a street that is physically located closer to one school to instead be assigned to the next closest school, provided that school has the capacity to enroll additional students. Similarly, the district reserves the right to cap enrollment in schools. When this happens, students are assigned to the next closest school that has capacity. In addition, students with highly specialized needs may be assigned to a different school than their neighborhood school, dependent upon program availability. i.e. Not every school offers a program for vision impaired students; therefore a student who is blind or visually impaired may be assigned to the school closest to home that provides services as identified in his/her individual education plan.

The district has a range of school configurations. Students who are assigned to a school or program and continue to reside at a residence associated with that school have the right to remain in the school or program through the highest grade, with the exception of some preschool students.* While street address is the primary driver for assignment, some of our elementary and middle schools share a campus, creating a limited number of automatic feeder programs. Students whose home address provided them an assignment to one of these elementary schools are automatically assigned to the campus middle school. I.e. A student attending Parthum Elementary, would automatically be assigned to Parthum Middle School.

Students in grades 9-12 are predominantly assigned to one of the academies at Lawrence High School, beginning with Ninth Grade Academy. As an alternative, students entering grade 9 may also apply to attend Abbott Lawrence Academy, an exam school located on the high school campus. Invitations to attend Abbott Lawrence are based on a combination of ISEE test scores, past school performance and the completed application packet. Finally, ENLACE services grade 9 and 10 ELL students who have been in the country for two years or less and have scored a 1.9 or below on the ACCESS or W-APT exam.

The district also has a small number of alternative high schools that focus on learners who need additional support. Candidates must be referred by their current school for admission to these schools.

*Preschool Exception: Preschool is not available in every school. Therefore, while a student may be assigned to their closest school for preschool (or another school if that one is full), s/he will be reassigned to a new school for kindergarten if a school closer to their residence exists for this grade.



Lawrence Public Schools

Section J:	Students	J5AA
Subject:	School Assignment Policy	2 of 2

Change of address:

If a student's residency changes and s/he no longer lives within the catchment area of the school, s/he will be transferred to their neighborhood school. If the move takes place after February school vacation, the student will be allowed to complete the school year before being transferred. If the move is prior to this date, s/he will be reassigned immediately. Please see the Variance Policy for transition year exceptions. This policy applies to Lawrence residents only. Upon proof that a student has moved to a residency outside of Lawrence, s/he will be withdrawn from LPS.

School assignments for Lawrence Public Schools employees:

District employees are encouraged to utilize LPS for their children's education. In most cases, students will benefit from enrollment in their neighborhood school. However, if an LPS employee would prefer to have his/her child attend the school in which they work, this request must be made at the time of registration. Staff and student must both reside in Lawrence. The staff member must be the parent or legal guardian of the child, and must be gainfully employed with the school during the time of registration and during the duration the child attends that school. During registration, the staff member must provide proof of school employment and there must be seats available in the school at the time of registration. If a grade is closed at the time of registration then the request will be denied. All minimum and maximum age requirements apply. Additionally, the child may be returned to his or her neighborhood school if:

1. The parent or legal guardian ceases employment with the school
2. The student develops a record of disciplinary or attendance issues (see the Variance Policy for details)
3. The child moves outside of Lawrence

*Feeder School patterns and a street address index will be made available on the LPS website, listed under Assignment Policy, on the Policy page.

Inquiries pertaining to the assignment policy should be addressed to:

Community, Family and Student Engagement
237 Essex Street, 4th FL
Lawrence, MA 01840
(978) 975-5900