



July 30, 2021

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

I hope you're having a wonderful summer. Here at LPS we have just completed a successful five weeks of summer programming, and continue to prepare with great excitement for the 2021-22 school year.

Today I want to share some midsummer updates, reminders, and opportunities:

- School starts for K-12 students with a half day on Wednesday, Sept. 1. Pre-kindergarten begins on Tuesday, Sept. 7. As you know, all Massachusetts districts and schools will open the school year in person, full-time, five days a week for all students. We anticipate recommendations and guidance for health and safety protocols -- including mask-wearing -- from the state soon, and will communicate with you accordingly.
- The LPS Back-to-School Help Line will open this Monday, Aug. 2, and be available every weekday from 8-4:30. Call 978-722-8040 or email LPSHelp@Lawrence.k12.ma.us with your back-to-school questions!
- With a full return to in-person learning, LPS will be resuming its regular uniform policy. Now is a great time to stock up on uniform supplies, with many retailers offering back-to-school sales. Please visit our [LPS Policies page](#), under "uniforms", for details on what your child needs.
- Everyone 12 and over is currently able to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine. You can find more information on the many local options available at the [City of Lawrence COVID-19 information webpage](#).
- The Emergency Broadband Benefit program (EBB) is a federal benefit that allows Massachusetts residents wider access to high-speed internet. Any household with a student who is approved for the free or reduced-price school breakfast/lunch program, or receives Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, is eligible to receive a \$50 monthly discount on internet services and a one-time \$100 discount for devices. Visit <https://getemergencybroadband.org/#> to see if you qualify and to apply.
- The federal Child Tax Credit provided through the American Rescue Plan means eligible families may now receive monthly payments of \$250 to \$300 per child. Eligible families who filed taxes in 2019 and 2020 should have already received this payment. Families whose income was not high enough to require the filing of taxes in recent years are encouraged to submit an application or get more information through [ChildTaxCredit.gov](https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/efc).

I hope you find this information helpful. Please look for additional updates as the first day of school approaches on Sept. 1, and until then continue to have a happy, healthy summer.

Thank you,

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools