

LWFI Para-Educator Training

LAE Presentation

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Lawrence Working Families Initiative



Lawrence Working
Families Initiative

Lawrence Working Families

- ▶ LWFI is a 5 year old cross-sector collaborative led by Lawrence Community Works and the Lawrence Public Schools. LWFI makes employment and family engagement the cornerstones of a comprehensive strategy to increase family economic success and support.
- ▶ LWFI channels the strong support and shared vision of LPS, and more than 40 partners that include local and regional nonprofits service providers, regional/ nonprofit employers, including the WIB, Masshire, City of Lawrence, LALC and NECC.



Lawrence Working Families Initiative

- ▶ In addition to career coaching, financial literacy and referral processes, LWFI invests heavily in career training for Lawrence parents:
 - ▶ Home Childcare licensure
 - ▶ Graduated 40 parents occupying positions in childcare centers, childcare provider homes, etc.
 - ▶ ESOL courses
 - ▶ Since its launch we have provided ESOL level one classes to more than 70 parents, at the FRC and at 3 schools. As of this fall we will be hosting classes at 4 sites.
 - ▶ IT course
 - ▶ In collaboration with the WIB and GLTS, the IT course launched this September. 15 week program, 21 parents and LHS alumni/ GLTS alumni which will gain an Aplus certification.
 - ▶ **Para-Educator**
 - ▶ **Graduated the first cohort of 17 LPS parents in May of 2019!**



Para-Educator Program

▶ Program Partners:

- ▶ Lawrence Adult Learning Center
- ▶ Lawrence Community Works
- ▶ Northern Essex Community College
- ▶ MassHire Merrimack Valley Career Center
- ▶ The Community Group
- ▶ LPS Family Resource Center
- ▶ LPS host schools for interns



Para-Educator Program

► Fall Semester

- ParaPro test prep: Reading, Writing, and Math Classes
- Contextualized ESL
- Power Skills Development and Financial Literacy
- College and Career Readiness Advising
- CPR, Family Engagement and ongoing coaching

► Spring Semester

- Paid internships in LPS classrooms - 3x/week
- Free college course, *Into to Teaching* - 2x/week
- Continued ParaPro Test Prep
- Continued Power Skills Development
- Continued supports in career readiness and ongoing coaching



Para-Educator Program

► Employment!

- 9 graduates are now employed with LPS
- 1 graduate is now employed with Leominster Public Schools
- 4 graduates are actively looking for employment with the support of our LWFI coach
- 3 graduates receiving additional tutoring through ALC to pass the Parapro test -- focus on increasing ESL skills



What's Next?

- ▶ Cohort Two
 - ▶ Kicks off on September 10 with a class of 23 students!
- ▶ College continues!
 - ▶ Cohort One has 12 graduates signed up to take the next step, alongside 8 existing paras to continue on their path to becoming educators
 - ▶ NECC is hosting a Free “Intro to Special Education” class begin on Sept 23rd.
 - ▶ Our goal is to keep cohorts together, supporting those who want to pursue a career as a teacher.
 - ▶ Working with LWFI partners to develop a pathway to provide opportunities to grow our own educators
 - ▶ In pursuit of resources to help the Para to Educator pipeline be fully developed and implemented.



Thank you
for your time!

