



Lawrence Public Schools PO Box 1498 Lawrence, MA 01842

To: John Connolly, Chair for the Lawrence Alliance for Education Board
Cynthia Paris, Superintendent

From: Masiel Jorda, Chief Financial Officer

Date: September 11, 2019

Re: FY20 Chapter 70 Contribution & Chapter 70 Transition Relief Aid

I am pleased to report that fiscal year 2020 has seen the most significant Chapter 70 contribution in city history. Lawrence received \$199,995,369, which is approximately \$2.4M more than anticipated. This enabled us to add 17 FTE's to the district, all in line with our three budget priorities: Student Achievement, Student Services, Educational Infrastructure.

To support Student Achievement we funded 11.0 FTE EL teachers and 1.0 FTE Building Based Educator. In support of Student Services we added 1.0 FTE SPED Teacher and 3.0 FTE Behavioral Support Staff. Educational Infrastructure will benefit from the addition of 2.0 FTE Safety Officers.

Additionally, we have been awarded \$1,952,659 in Transition Relief Aid. The purpose of these funds is to provide relief to LEA's whose Chapter 70 aid and tuition revenue has been significantly and negatively impacted by the change in low-income enrollment measurement. These funds – which should be available within the next two weeks – are entirely unrestricted and do not count towards net school spending.