LWFI
Para-Educator Training

LAE Presentation
September 11, 2019
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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.
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!

“I want to help young people to transform their lives through education.”

-Bethania FUTURE PARAPROFESSIONAL