



May 6, 2021

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

I write to you at a very special moment in the 2020-21 LPS school year, as this week's return of our high school students means every grade and school have now resumed full in-person learning for the first time since our building closure more than 13 months ago.

As we look forward to these final weeks together, I want to share some important reminders and updates for the rest of the year, and take a quick look ahead to this summer and the 2021-22 school year.

- The last day of school will be Tuesday, June 15. It is a full day, including kindergarten. This may feel a little earlier than other years – we had no snow days in remote learning!
- LPS has been approved as a participant in the state's COVID-19 pooled testing program, which will add another layer of protection to our in-person return. Pooled testing reduces the risk of spread by testing larger groups – or “pools” – of people simultaneously, and identifying positive cases in people who do not show any symptoms. The testing is quick, painless, free, and completely voluntary. We will pilot it at limited schools before making it available district-wide for the remainder of the school year. Please look for additional details soon.
- LPS will be offering five weeks of expanded summer programming starting June 28. We are in the process of identifying eligible students now, and schools will be reaching out directly to those families in the coming weeks.
- The [2021-22 Student and Family Academic Calendar](#) has been finalized and posted to the [calendars page](#) of LPS website. You can find next year's first and last days of school, vacation schedules and other important dates and information.
- People 16 and older can now receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The City of Lawrence continues to offer [multiple options for residents to get vaccinated](#), including walk-in availability at the Arlington and South Lawrence East while supplies last (16- and 17-year-olds must have a parent or guardian with them). You can also learn more and register for a vaccination through the [state website](#).

I am deeply grateful to the entire LPS community – every family, student, teacher and staff member – for the extraordinary commitment that has made our return possible. While the pandemic continues to demand our collective, uncompromised focus on health and safety, we know we are up to it, and we know it is worth it.

Thank you,

Cynthia Paris  
Superintendent of Schools