



January 10, 2025

Patricia Mariano, Chair  
Lawrence Alliance for Education  
28 Ridgewood Circle  
Lawrence, MA 01841

Dear Ms. Mariano,

In light of the developments identified below, I am renewing the Lawrence Public Schools' (LPS) turnaround plan for a one-year period.<sup>1</sup> The turnaround plan will remain in effect until January 12, 2026, or the end of receivership in the district, whichever comes first.

State receivership is a transitional status, with a return to local control as the ultimate goal. Since its designation, Lawrence Public Schools (LPS) has made substantial progress toward becoming a system of empowered, high-performing schools, and considerable academic progress has been made and maintained. Under Superintendent Carrero's leadership, district leaders are in the process of developing a strategic plan to guide district improvement priorities once receivership ends. Further, in December 2024, the Lawrence City Council approved a home rule petition to establish a hybrid school committee, combining elected and appointed members to enhance community representation and governance. The petition was approved by the state legislature and signed by Governor Healey. It will go into effect immediately and new members of the committee will be appointed and elected in November 2025 and seated in January 2026.

In light of the ongoing work to develop a strategic plan and the impending change to the school committee's configuration, I will continue to confer with the Receiver, Mayor, and Superintendent about how to sustain and build upon the district's progress as we make plans for returning the district to local control. While these discussions continue, the turnaround plan will remain in effect.

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<sup>1</sup> LPS' current turnaround plan covers a three-year period, ending on January 12, 2025.

The Lawrence Alliance for Education (LAE) will continue to exercise the authority of receiver for the district. Please feel free to contact Acting Chief of Staff Lauren Woo (lauren.woo@mass.gov) if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Johnston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Russell D. Johnston  
Acting Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

Cc: Ralph Carrero, Superintendent, Lawrence Public Schools  
Brian DePeña, Mayor, City of Lawrence