

How to Select Your School Placement

- The default option for all students is remote learning.
- If a family would like in-person instruction on campus, they need to opt-in through an application. LPS will post this application form on the district website and will share this form via email and on social media. The application period will be August 19 - August 27, 2020. Families wishing to participate in remote learning do not need to fill out an application. It's important that families review the options, attend an information session and contact the Family Resource Center with any questions prior to submitting their forms, as we are asking that forms only be submitted once per child attending Lowell Public Schools.
- If more families opt-in than there are available seats (based on revised capacity numbers), a lottery will be held to determine who will be able to attend school in-person.
- A student's place in the lottery will be determined by a weighting system:
 - Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
 - Students identified with a 504 Plan (for learning related accommodations)
 - Students identified for McKinney Vento services
 - Students identified as English Learners (ELs)
 - Students in entry grades of each level (K-2; 5th grade; 9th grade)
 - Families who have more than one child enrolled in Lowell Public Schools
 - Students of Lowell Public Schools personnel
- We are encouraging students to walk or drive to school rather than take a school bus, in order to maximize safety and minimize exposure to other students on the way to and from school each day. In most cases, families will be responsible for providing transportation to and from their child's school. School bus transportation will be available for those with no other means of getting to school. A lottery will be held for the limited transportation seats available. For more information about transportation, see pages 20-21.
- Families who prefer an in-person learning seat at a school within walking distance to their home may make a transfer request to this school for consideration. The transfer

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would only be for this school year and depends upon available space at that school. A transfer form will be available on the district website and shared with families.

- Families who registered their child for kindergarten between May 26-June 30 were entered into the kindergarten lottery. Families who secured a seat through the lottery will be eligible to attend that school in the 2021-2022 school year. This coming school year (2020-2021), all kindergarten students will be assigned to their neighborhood school - defined as the school which is in walkable distance to the student's home. This assignment will be for one school year only. There may be some exceptions (i.e. students who have older siblings in the school for which they secured a seat through the lottery will be eligible to remain in that school for the 2020-21 school year).
- Families opting for in-person instruction will be notified about their placement for the 2020-2021 school year beginning on September 4.
- If a family requests a different placement based on an extenuating health or safety reason or a change in family circumstances resulting in the need for a different placement, they can submit an appeal with the Chief Equity Officer.
- Your initial choice for where to start the school year (remote or in-person) is not locked in for the entire school year. Families will be given the opportunity to select a different option on a quarterly basis.
- Any changes to where a student attends school in 2020-2021 is for the 2020-2021 school year only. Students will revert to their 2019-2020 placement, or in the case of an elementary student transitioning to middle school, the middle school they were going to feed into during the 2021-2022 school year.

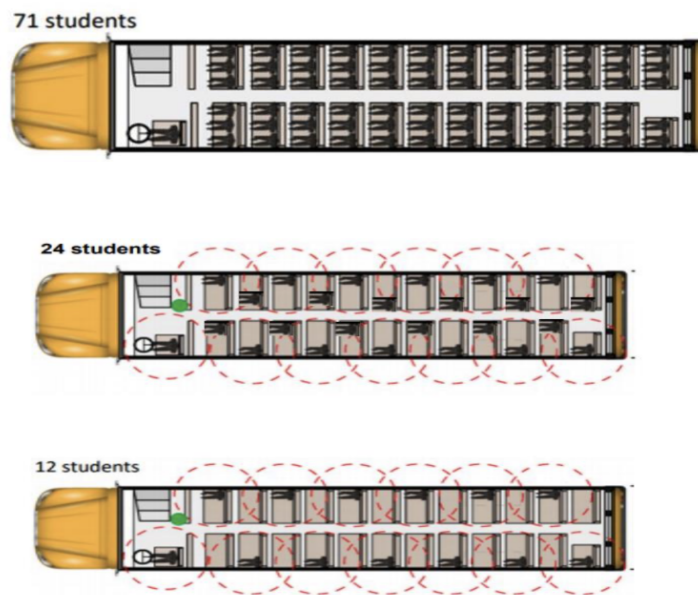
Transportation

Transportation is typically available for LPS students in grades K-8 - approximately 7,100 Lowell students (about 5,500 from LPS) utilized transportation services during the 2019-2020 school year. This fall, we are encouraging students to walk or drive to school rather than take a school bus, in order to maximize safety and minimize exposure to other students on the way to and from school each day. School bus transportation will be available for those with no other means of getting to school.

In 2019-2020, 66 buses were used for general transportation. These buses could hold up to 52 middle school students or 77 elementary school students.

With current CDC guidelines in place, only 25 would be able to ride a bus, which means we would need approximately 180 buses. We simply cannot acquire that many buses.

The following illustration shows what various distancing scenarios look like on a bus:



Process of Requesting Transportation

- Once transportation capacity numbers have been determined, LPS will begin the process of assigning available seats to students who have selected and been assigned for in-person learning and have indicated they need transportation.
- If students attend a school outside of the walk zone designated by school policy and state law, they may have to choose family-provided transportation or opt to transfer to a school within walkable distance to their home.
- If demand for transportation exceeds the number of available seats, LPS will conduct a lottery for available seats using a weighted formula which accounts for legal rights of protected student populations and equity considerations. Examples of Weighting Considerations:
 - Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs)
 - Students identified with a 504 Plan (for learning related accommodations)
 - Students identified for McKinney Vento services
 - Students identified as English Learners (ELs)
 - Students in entry grades of each level (K-2; 5th grade; 9th grade)
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