



# Lincoln Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Lincoln Public Schools Families,

I hope you were able to enjoy the sunshine this week! I have a message chocked-full of information, so I will jump right to it. This week's message highlights our budget book, which details the budget that will be voted on at Town Meeting on March 23rd; includes information about childcare opportunities during the Town Meeting; and summarizes a recently completed research study of the METCO program.

## Budget book

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Lincoln Public Schools budget for the 2024-25 school year will be up for a vote by town residents as part of the overall town budget. The School Committee approved the district budget back at the end of January, and that approved budget is what will be going before the town. Our final budget book, which provides detailed information about the budget approved by the School Committee, is [posted on our district website](#).

## Childcare for Town Meeting

Childcare will be available from LEAP during Town Meeting on the 23rd for children ages 4 - 12. The cost is \$40 per child and lasts from 8:30 until the end of the meeting. For additional information, and for a QR code to sign up, please see the attached flyer.

## METCO program study

METCO Inc. recently contracted with Tufts University economist Elizabeth Setren to conduct a research review of the METCO program. Dr. Setren used decades' worth of data to compare two different groups of students: children who had applied to the METCO program and been accepted, and those who had applied but not been accepted. Her dataset included approximately 20,000 Boston students who applied to METCO between 2005 and 2017.

The results of the study consistently showed benefits from participation in METCO (if you are interested in a more detailed description of the study, [here is a recent article from WBUR](#), which also has a link to Dr. Setren's presentation of her findings). She found that participation in METCO had a variety of positive effects for Boston-resident students, and there were no identified negative effects for the suburban residents of communities hosting a METCO program.

A couple highlighted benefits included:

- Over time, METCO participants had higher MCAS scores than students who applied to, but were not accepted to the program
- METCO participants were significantly less likely to drop out of school, and significantly more likely to attend a four-year college than non-participants
- METCO participants had markedly higher rates of employment post-high school, and higher average salaries (more than \$24,000 per year) than non-participants

While the results showed generally positive effects, there were some areas for improvement: Boston-resident students were more likely to be enrolled in lower-level courses than their suburban peers, and they were no more likely to participate in Advanced Placement classes than were Boston-resident students who did not participate in METCO.

Overall, however, the study validated the success of the METCO program as a way to expand academic and developmental opportunities for both Boston-resident and suburban students. Lincoln was one of the first communities to join the METCO program, and it's wonderful to see positive affirmation of this important part of our district.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Parry Graham

Superintendent

[ATM 2024 Childcare flyer.pdf](#)