

Parry Graham, Ed.D. Superintendent of Schools

Lincoln Public Schools

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Friday, October 10, 2025

Dear Lincoln Public Schools Families,

I believe the temperature actually got below freezing last night, which feels somewhat ironic given our recent stretch of unseasonably warm days. Unfortunately, that shift in the weather leads me to my first topic of this week's message: a reminder about inclement weather procedures (i.e., the process for handling potential snow days). In addition, I have an update about the federal shutdown, a reminder about the School Committee's calendar survey, and my annual notification about the district's asbestos management plan.

Inclement weather procedures

While I'm always hopeful that we'll have a winter without any inclement weather (and without the need for me to make a snow day decision), we live in New England, so I know that's an unrealistic hope. Therefore, I wanted to remind you about my process for making a decision, and how a decision will be communicated.

A decision to cancel, delay, or release school early because of weather is first and foremost a decision about safety, and the primary question for me is: Are students able to get to and from school safely? In making that decision, I will be in close communication with our facilities department (who also coordinates with town and Base officials), I will be reviewing forecasts, and I will be in communication with superintendents from neighboring communities.

If I do make a decision to cancel school, I will try to make that decision as early as possible. Ideally, I will be able to communicate a decision the evening prior, but I anticipate that there will be circumstances when I can't make a final decision until early in the morning. When that happens, my goal will be to get out a communication by 5:00 AM. The decision will be sent via a phone message, an email, and a text message, and we will also post the decision on a variety of local TV stations. Any decision will be a district-wide decision for both the Hanscom and Lincoln Schools. And, while we will be in communication with Base leadership, a decision about schools is separate from a decision about the Base; in other words, it is possible for Base leadership to decide to close Base offices even though the Hanscom School remains open, or vice versa.

And one final note: no news means that school is running on a regular schedule. So, if you don't hear anything from me, then school is open!

Federal shutdown

I know that many of our families and staff members may be directly or indirectly impacted by the current federal shutdown, and that our Hanscom families are likely to be feeling the impacts most acutely. We are in communication with Base representatives and looking at ways in which the school system could serve as a support if the shutdown were to continue into the second half of October. We are also in communication with Lincoln town services.

I don't have any specific news to share yet; however, if the shutdown does continue for a longer stretch, please look for more specific information about supports that the district may be able to provide.

School Committee calendar survey

As a reminder, the School Committees of Lincoln, Sudbury, and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School are looking for feedback about the school calendar for the 2026-27 school year. They are particularly interested in feedback around how to address religious and cultural observances. To complete the survey in English, <u>please access this link</u>. The survey is also available in a number of additional languages (here are those links: <u>Spanish</u>, <u>French</u>, <u>Portuguese</u>, <u>German</u>, <u>Cape Verdean</u>, <u>Russian</u>, <u>Chinese</u>, and <u>Korean</u>).

Asbestos management plan

Finally, each year I provide a notification about asbestos management in our buildings. A copy of this year's annual notification can be found at this link.

Thank you, and have a wonderful long weekend!

Parry Graham Superintendent