



Lincoln Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Lincoln Public Schools Families,

It's hard to believe, but we have been in school now for almost two full months. One of our regular practices at this time of year is parent-teacher conferences, when parents/guardians have an opportunity to meet with teachers and get feedback about their child's academic and social-emotional progress. If you were able to meet with your child's teachers last week or this week, I hope you found those meetings to be informative and productive, and that your child's experiences during these first two months have been positive.

Parent-teacher conferences focus on the experiences and progress of individual students. But this is a time of year when we are also thinking about big-picture goals for our schools and district – this week's message starts with a highlight of School Improvement Plans, which lay out some of the larger areas of focus at each school. I also wanted to provide a brief update about the federal shutdown, and share information about an upcoming opportunity for children to participate in accessible trick or treating.

School Improvement Plans

Each year our principals lead a process in their schools to develop School Improvement Plans (or SIPs), which identify some of the larger goals that each school is working on. Because we are implementing a new K-8 literacy curriculum this year, that was a common area of focus in the different plans (and, while the EL curriculum is not being formally implemented in our preschools, the preschool teachers are focusing on preschool literacy development and screening tools).

In addition to literacy work, the SIPs also focus on supporting what is called "Tier 1 instruction" in each classroom. Tier 1 refers to the content-area instruction that occurs each day in classrooms with all students; in other words, helping each student master the knowledge and skills identified for each grade level in the state's curriculum frameworks. That Tier 1 instruction should include high expectations for all students, with differentiated support when students might be struggling. That's the meat-and-potatoes work of public education, and we are always trying to improve the quality of the Tier 1 instruction we provide to all our students.

When students are struggling despite high-quality Tier 1 instruction, that's when we look to put in place additional regular-education supports, which are referred to as Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions. At the elementary level this might mean working with a literacy or math interventionist multiple times a week for extra instruction, or working in a small group with a middle school teacher during office hours. Strengthening our Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports – in education speak, we call the whole system "multi-tiered systems of support", or MTSS – is also a focus in many of the SIPs.

And finally, a common theme across the SIPs is looking at how we can continue to strengthen our relationships with family and community partners, while also maintaining strong internal cultures among our staff members. For more details, I would encourage you to take a few minutes to read through the School Improvement Plans – the principals put a significant amount of work into creating them! Here are the direct links:

- [Hanscom School K-8](#)
- [Lincoln School K-4](#)
- [Lincoln School 5-8](#)
- [Preschool](#)

Federal shutdown

We are continuing to carefully monitor information about the federal shutdown and potential impacts to families. While we know that some families are already feeling the impact, the end of the month is a possible financial pressure point for many of our military families. If the shutdown does continue into November and begins to directly impact a larger group of our families, we have begun discussing ways in which we could help to facilitate a variety of community-based supports. If the shutdown does continue past the end of this month, please look for us to send out more information.

Accessible trick or treating

Finally, for families that might be interested in an option for accessible trick or treating on October 31st, please see information in the attachment.

Thank you, and have a wonderful weekend!

Parry Graham

Superintendent

[Accessible Trick or Treating 2025.pdf](#)