



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT

To: School Committee

From: Rebecca McFall

Date: April 10, 2020

Subject: Enrollment Proposal for the 2020-2021 School Year

This memo serves to inform the Lincoln School Committee of 2020-2021 enrollment projections for new Boston students to the Lincoln School through the METCO program and, to approve employee requests for enrollment of their children in the Lincoln School. Given the closure of schools due to COVID-19, we do not have up to date projections for enrollment for the upcoming school year. In the coming weeks, we will be developing a plan for registering incoming kindergarten students and for determining how the Stay In Place orders for military personnel may impact our enrollment for 2020 – 2021.

METCO Enrollment

There are six eighth grade Boston students graduating from the Lincoln School in 2020. In addition, there is the possibility of three Boston students leaving the district for exam schools. Our goals are to maintain an enrollment of 91 METCO students, the maximum our grant allows, and to follow the policy of ensuring at least two METCO students per classroom. We have also set a priority of allowing students entry into the Lincoln School in the early grades to provide the greatest continuity of educational experience for students.

Currently, there are 88 METCO students enrolled. On October 1, 2019 we had 90 students enrolled. The October 1 enrollment number is used to calculate grant funding for the next school year. We had two student withdrawals from the program in January, 2020. One because their residency had changed making them ineligible for the METCO program and the second was a family decision in coordination with the schools.

The graduation of six eighth grade students will bring our total enrollment to 82 at the end of the 2019–2020 school year and down to 79 if three students are accepted to exam or private schools. We are aiming to enroll 9-12 new METCO students for the 2020-2021 school year. We requested 27 enrollment files, 12 for kindergarten, 9 for first grade, and 6 for second grade. We received 17 files; six for kindergarten, five for first grade - all files were males, and six for second grade. We are waiting for additional files and asking for female students to balance our cohorts, if possible. The files received have been reviewed by METCO Director, Marika Hamilton and Principal, Sarah Collmer to ensure that the applications are complete. At some point, a larger committee will review the files, families will be invited to an information session and students will be screened to ensure that we are able to meet their needs prior to being offered a space in the Lincoln METCO program.

We are currently planning for three kindergarten sections and the enrollment of six new kindergarten students, per our policy of at least two Boston students per class. With six to nine anticipated spaces available, we are proposing METCO enrollments for the 2020-2021 school year as follows: Six students in kindergarten and up to four first and second grade students with the total number of METCO students not to exceed 91.

Enrollment of Employee's Children

A copy of School Committee policy JFAB is enclosed. Students enrolling in 2009 or after are approved on a year-to-year basis as long as their parents remain eligible employees and space is available. The district does not add sections to accommodate enrollment requests of eligible employees.

We have received requests for continued enrollment of two preschool students and requests for enrollment of five new preschool enrollments. We have also received requests for the continued enrollment of twelve K – 8 students and four new enrollments for a total of 23 employee children PreK-8 for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Due to the school closure related to COVID-19, we do not have updated spring enrollment projections. The information below is based upon our October budget projections with updated METCO and employee children information included.

Grade	FY21 Budget Projected Sections	FY21 Budget Projected Enrollment plus requests	Proposed New METCO Enrollments	Preferred Class Size	Projected Average Class Size
K	3	54 (6-8) [2]	6 – 8	18/20	18
1	3	56 (9) [2]	1*	20/22	18.66
2	4	75 (14) [0]	0*	21/23	18.75
3	3	53 (15) [0]	0	21/23	17.66
4	4	68 (12) [0]	0	22/24	17
5	3	47 (9) [2]	0	22/24	15.66
6	3	59 (12) [2]	0	24	19.66
7	3	55 (6) [3]	0	24	18.33
8	3	45 (6) [4]	0	24	15

*Proposed K-3 METCO enrollments may vary, not to exceed a total of 91 students.

() METCO students

[] employee children

Recommendations

Based upon current enrollment projections, the following recommendations are presented to the School Committee:

Preschool Approve requests for enrollment of seven employee children in preschool, pending available space.

Gr. K-8 Approve requests for enrollment of 16 employee children in grades K through 8.

Approve requests for enrollment of up to 9 METCO students in grades K through 2 in order to fulfill our maximum capacity of 91 Boston students enrolled.



ADMISSION OF NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

Children of Employees

The Lincoln Public Schools provide a quality education to all of its students. It is a sign of confidence and support for our programs if non-resident employees of the Schools and the Town wish to enroll their children in our schools. The Lincoln School Committee wishes to show its appreciation of such employees by extending enrollment to their children on a space available basis. In addition, the Committee wishes to extend such privileges on a reciprocal basis to employees of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. This policy is also governed by MGL , c 76, § 12.

Therefore, dependent children of employees of: 1) the Lincoln Public Schools, 2) the Town of Lincoln, and 3) Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, may attend the Lincoln School or the tuition based Preschool on the Lincoln Campus upon approval of the Lincoln School Committee based on the following guidelines:

Eligibility Requirements

For the purposes of this policy, eligible “employees” are full-time or regularly scheduled part-time employees working 25 (twenty-five) or more hours per week.

- A. A student whose parent leaves the employ of his/her qualified employer will no longer be eligible to be educated in the Lincoln School or Preschool. If the parent leaves the employ before March 15, the student must transfer out of district. If the parent leaves the employ after March 15, the students may continue to attend the Lincoln School or Preschool for the remainder of the school year.
- B. Eligibility is dependent upon the ability of the Lincoln Public Schools to meet the educational needs of the child(ren) within the normal academic program and student support services.

Criteria for Enrollment

In consideration of both cost and space constraints, the School Committee reserves the right to limit the total number of employees’ children to ensure the quality of education delivered to all the District’s students.

Space availability will be determined by the actual enrollment in any grade or program at the time an employee requests to enroll their child in the Lincoln School or Preschool. The number of seats available will be established by the School Committee’s Class-size Policy.

- A. Eligible dependents that, by their enrollment, would cause a given grade to exceed its target class size will be denied admission unless recommended by the Superintendent and approved by vote of the School Committee.
- B. First priority will be given to children of the members of the Lincoln Teachers Association. Remaining seats will be allocated to the children of employees of the

Lincoln Public Schools, employees of the Town of Lincoln, and employees of the Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. If such requests exceed the number of available seats the remaining seats will be allotted based on a lottery of all eligible families in a given grade level.

- C. Once admitted, enrollment in the Lincoln School or Preschool will continue so long as the employee continues to meet all Eligibility Requirements and Criteria for Enrollment; however, if a student leaves the district, he/she will be subject to re-admission on the same basis as all other new applicants.

Enrollment Procedure

- A. Non-resident employees desiring to enroll a child(ren) in the Lincoln School or Preschool will submit a written request to the Superintendent of Schools. Requests for admission should be made by April 1 of the school year preceding the September in which enrollment is desired. The Superintendent may waive this date under extenuating circumstances.
- B. Based on the Criteria for Enrollment the Superintendent will recommend to the School Committee admission of eligible children.
- C. The School Committee will communicate its decision regarding enrollment by June 30, except under extenuating circumstances.
- D. The non-resident employee will be responsible for the transportation of his/her child(ren) to and from School.

Adopted by the Lincoln School Committee on June 17, 1998

Revised September 28, 1998

Revised March 30, 2003

Revised April 25, 2013



LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Lincoln, Massachusetts

**ADMISSION OF INTERDISTRICT TRANSFER STUDENTS
(ENROLLMENT OF METCO STUDENTS)**

It is the intent of the Lincoln School Committee to offer students the benefits of a multicultural educational experience by contracting through the Department of Education, under the provisions of Chapter 71, Sections 37C & 37D of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to bring a limited number of minority students from Boston to the Lincoln campus.

Number of Students to be Enrolled

Every attempt will be made to enroll at least two METCO students per classroom. The district will enroll a total of 91 students based on the current grant allocation from the Massachusetts Department of Education. In the event that the grant allocation changes, the School Committee may adjust the total number of METCO students. When it is clear that space is available under the School Committee's class size policy, both for the present year and future years as projected, the Superintendent may recommend for School Committee approval that the number of METCO students may be increased up to four per classroom. Consideration for accepting additional students will also include available funds and the desirable educational benefit for all students. Determination of space availability will be made by the Superintendent acknowledging predictable patterns of growth or decline of Lincoln students in various grades.

Enrollment of Students

First priority will be given to students enrolled in the district during the previous school year. Unless State, local or private funding is not available, children admitted to the Lincoln schools will continue through graduation from the eighth grade.

Second priority will be given to entering Kindergarten students.

Third priority will be given to new students in Grades 1 through 8 to maintain the commitment of two per classroom.

Fourth priority will be given to new students in Grades 1 through 8 to achieve the number of up to four per classroom under the conditions described above. Enrollment recommendations by the Superintendent under this priority will be coordinated with recommendations made under policy JFAB governing attendance of non-residents in Lincoln Schools.

Enrollment decisions will be made jointly by the METCO Director, the School Principal and the Director of Special Education.

If the Individual Education Plan (IEP) of a non-resident METCO student recommends placement in a program outside of the Lincoln Public Schools, the placement and funding remain the responsibility of the Boston Public Schools.

Replacement of Students

If students enrolled in Grades K through 8 transfer out of the district during the school year, an equal number of students may be admitted at the start of the following school year if space is available.

Necessity for School Committee Approval

Prior School Committee approval is always required for students entering at all grades.

*Approved at School Committee Meeting of May 11, 1981
Revised at School Committee Meeting of June 16, 1986
Revised at School Committee Meeting of January 28, 1991
Revised at School Committee Meeting of September 21, 1992
Revised at School Committee Meeting of May 6, 2004
Revised at School Committee Meeting of May 10, 2018*