



# Lexington Redistricting News and Updates

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## Family Notifications

We are continuing to follow up with families to ensure that all students who have been reassigned have been notified and grandfathering preferences. If you have not yet done so, please indicate your preferences in the links below:

- For students **eligible** for grandfathering only: [Family Redistricting Decisions & Directory Information Preferences](#)
- For families who have been reassigned and would like to give permission for directory information to be shared: [Directory Information Sharing Preferences](#)

It is our hope to soon share directory information for those who have chosen to share their submitted info with others as we continue to follow up with families. We are happy to continue to answer questions from families about school assignments and confirm decisions for next year. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have questions or concerns at [amonaco@lexingtonma.org](mailto:amonaco@lexingtonma.org)

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## March Coffee Circles

During the month of March, each of the elementary schools will host a coffee circle focused on redistricting. During times of change, people have mixed feelings and prior experiences. We are offering Circles for parents/caregivers whose children are impacted by redistricting. The purpose of these Circles is to share our experiences and hear from others about their experience of redistricting, and share strategies for helping with this transition. Circles are a guided process of communication that utilize “rounds” as a way for participants to be heard and to hear from others about a particular topic. Principals and counseling staff will participate in these Circles, affording the opportunity to begin to build connections between parents/caregivers and school personnel.

Parents/caregivers are invited to attend whichever Circles they choose. All Circles will follow the same process and agenda. Circles will be offered at the following times and locations:

- Harrington | March 2nd 8:45 am
- Bridge | March 3rd 8:45 am
- Bowman | March 4th 8:50 am
- Hastings | March 6th 9:00 am
- Estabrook | March 10th 10:00 am
- Fiske | March 12th 8:45 am

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## Resources for Parents and Guardians

Below are some resources and language to help with the transition:

- [Top 10 Tips for Students Changing Schools](#)
- [How Can I Help My Child Cope With Moving to a New School?](#)
- [10 Ways to Help your Child Adjust to a New School](#)
- [Changing School? 5 Parenting Tips to Help Kids Cope](#)

We also want to share with you some of the language we are using with your children when approach school staff with questions or concerns. It is reassuring for children to hear consistent messages during periods of transition.

- Create a safe space for your child to explore their feelings (don't assume what they might be): "People have all kinds of feelings about this, do you know what you are feeling?" (consider reading Barbara Cain's *Double Dip Feelings* with your child).
- Acknowledging feelings: "I know that you are feeling (name their feeling: sad, worried, excited)"
- Focus on the positive: "It's going to be a good experience ..."; You will be able to keep your friends AND make new friends"
- People will be there to help you: "It might be hard, but we know all the schools are working on helping with this transition ... "
- Focus on strengths: "I know when a new student joins your class, you are always the first to greet that student, make them feel welcome, so there will be lots of new students to get to know ..."
- Worries about isolation: "You are not alone ... there will be other students, including some who will be brand new to Lexington, going through this transition too ... there will be students you know from (sports, activities, teams, faith-based organizations, etc.)
- In addition, we have counselors and social workers at your current school available to talk with you or your child if you have specific concerns.

## Transition Timeline

We have created a timeline of project goals and events designed to implement the new redistricting plan. These events will take place over the coming months leading into the new school year. The timeline describes the general structure of events and includes efforts to engage and communicate with key stakeholders throughout the process. You can access the [Transition Timeline](#) here. This is a working document that will evolve this spring and summer.

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## IEP Transfer Process

Beginning on March 6, 2020 all sending and receiving Evaluation Team Supervisors will be meeting to discuss and review IEP's for those students that will be redistricted and to ensure that all services will be in place and that the transition will be smooth. If your child received special education services and you have questions about how those services will be delivered at your newly assigned school, please reach out to the Evaluation Team Supervisor at your school. Staff are ready to answer questions and ensure that services provided are continuous.

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## Special Transfer Request Process

We recognize that there are rare situations where, in the best interest of the student, an individual should attend a school outside of their school assignment area. This is addressed through the [School Committee Student Transfer Policy](#). Please note that students who attend a school as a result of a special transfer request in the past MUST re-apply for that special transfer for the 2020-2021 school year. This applies to families who fall into a grandfathering category such as a rising 5th grader or a student currently attending Hastings.

In order to make a special request, families may download and complete a [Request Form](#). Forms and attachments should be submitted to the Superintendent's office, located at 146 Maple Street or emailed to Sara Jorge at [sjorge@lexingtonma.org](mailto:sjorge@lexingtonma.org). To affect a transfer, space must be available in the receiving program or classroom. Approval of any transfer request rests with the Superintendent of Schools and her team. The first round of transfer requests were reviewed by the Superintendent, and families have been notified of their status. Please note that should a special request be granted, transportation is not guaranteed. The next round of requests will be reviewed on March 1, 2020.

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