

2-27-2025 PAG Meeting

LPS Attendees: Kurt, Cate, Vanessa, Amy D, Amy P, Marianne, Dawn

Family Attendees: Sara Abbott, Jonathan Phillips, Meredith Lopez, Erin (Cam's mom) Cristina Mullin

PAG & PIE

PAG: Parent Advisory Group is a mini State of the School presentation that provides parents/caregivers an opportunity to connect directly with LPS leaders.

Discussion topics include the academic program, testing schedules, policy updates, upcoming school and LPS community events, and ways to support the school.

Share information and encourage collaboration between LPS and families

PAG meets four times each year typically on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 9-10am

- ~~October 17, 2024~~
- ~~December 20, 2024~~
- ~~February 27, 2025~~
- April 17, 2025

PIE: Partners in Education organizes non-school related events for students & families, fundraises for LPS, and co-sponsors school events; speakers, field trips.

The PIE group meets 5 times each year on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 9-10am

- ~~Sept 19, 2024~~
- ~~Nov 21, 2024~~
- ~~Jan 16, 2025~~
- March 20, 2025
- May 15, 2025

PIE & PAG Meeting Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89453990390>

School Calendar: <https://www.learningprep.org/about-us/calendar>

Lunch Menu: <https://www.learningprep.org/student-life/lunch>

Grade Level Parents

Share info with families and organize social events

- **12th grade** - Kristen Koehler
- **11th grade** - Meredith Lopez
- **10th grade** - Jessie Brauer
- **9th grade** - Katherine Munz
- **8th grade** - Lauren Timmons
- **7th grade** - Amy Domow
- **6th grade** - Rachael Noonan
- **4th/5th grade** - James Toppe

Upcoming Events

- 3/27 Speaker Series pt.1: The Road Ahead
- 4/16 Speaker Series Pt. 2: Transition to College
- 4/17 All School Family Night
- 5/1 A Night of Administration

Student Council Events

- 2/28 HS February Mardi Gras Dance
- 3/7 MS Pizza Party Bingo
- 4/8 All-School Bake Sale
- 4/16-4/17 Book Fair

Transition Events

- 2/27 Mercyhurst University AIM Info Session- (AIM- Autism Initiative at Mercyhurst)
- 3/21 Financial Literacy Fair (Juniors and Seniors)
- 4/4 Post High School Fair
- 5/2 Alumni Panel

Speaker Series



LEARNING PREP SCHOOL'S

SPEAKER SERIES

THE ROAD AHEAD:
A TWO-PART EVENT ON PLANNING THE
FUTURE FOR YOUR CHILD WITH
COMPLEX NEEDS

Part I:

Plan, Initiate, Evolve: Financing Your Child's Future

Thursday, March 27, 6:00-7:15 PM
By: Brett Skloff & Michael Weiner - Via Zoom



LEARNING PREP SCHOOL'S

SPEAKER SERIES

THE ROAD AHEAD:
A TWO-PART EVENT ON PLANNING THE
FUTURE FOR YOUR CHILD WITH
COMPLEX NEEDS

Part II:

*Transition to College: Preparing students with
disabilities for the post-secondary world*

Wednesday, April 16, 6:00-7:15 PM
By: Susan woods, M.Ed - Via Zoom

Legislative Updates

Federal Affairs

Watching, but not concerned right now. We're not expecting any changes to our school or funding

IDEA related more to us than Title 1 does. IDEA gives \$250M/year to Massachusetts, which is then distributed to districts to serve students in Special ED.

FY26 Massachusetts Budget

The majority of the funding for our students comes from the state and is given to the districts. We keep an eye on how the state is funding Circuit Breaker, which is how the districts are reimbursed for Special Education out-of-district placements. This year's MA budget includes \$650M for Circuit Breaker funding.

Family Survey

This year we had 65 responses to our survey (50% of our families). Year over year we have increased participation and higher ratings.

1. Are your student's academic needs being met at LPS? (1-4)

~90% responded All or Most needs are met

2. Are your student's social emotional needs being met at LPS? (1-4)

~90% responded All or Most needs are met

3. How has LPS communicated with you? (1-4)

~86 % responded All or Most communications are received

4. Is Learning Prep staff supportive to your family? (1-4)

~90% responded All staff are supportive

5. How likely are you to recommend Learning Prep to another family? (1-10)

~90% responded Highly likely

A full recap will be sent to all families. Many families request more Social Options and Technology support, policies and resources.

MCAS Update:What we know so far:

MCAS is no longer a statewide universal graduation requirement., but there are still many unknowns about what that means for LPS students. We know that the MCAS exams will still be administered according to schedule.

- Passing MCAS no longer earns Competency Determination (CD)
 - No more cohort or portfolio appeals
 - No EPPs to support scores in “Partially Meeting Expectations” range
 - These were removed because MCAS is no longer a graduation requirement and therefore alternatives are unnecessary.

DESE released proposed updated regulations 2/25/2026

- Students must complete coursework and show mastery in content areas to earn CD
 - Class of 2026: Will need to show mastery in ELA, Math, Science
 - Class of 2027+: Will need to show mastery in ELA, Math, Science, US History
- Districts will develop their own CD policies
 - It’s unclear how this relates to LPS

Schools must continue to offer MCAS exams for all publicly funded students

- Updated eligibility criteria for retests
 - It’s unknown if we’ll need to offer retests.
 - New MCAS online testing portal this year

We’ll continue to gather information and work to answer these questions

- Will the proposed new DESE regs be approved?
- Can LPS develop our own Competency Determination Policy?
- What happens if LPS graduation requirements are different from district requirements?
- What are the requirements for the class of 2025?
- What about retests?

The law was not written to consider students in Approved Special Education Schools. MAAPS and our attorney are working to get answers and guidance from DESE. We will share information as we receive it.

Mission Statement Update

This year we're revamping our mission statement that articulates why we're a great program and what sets us apart from the other 766 schools. Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey.

- Survey Data
- Committee Review (In Process)
- Draft Mission Statement
- Community Feedback
- New Mission Statement

Program

Enrollment = 130 students

Middle School

4/5th Grades - 10

6th Grade - 11

7th Grade - 19

8th Grade - 26

High School

9th Grade - 16

10th Grade - 17

11th Grade - 16

12th Grade - 15

Activities Update

After School Program: Winter Session is currently underway!

Session Dates:

Monday Sessions: Jan 27 - March 17

Tuesday Sessions: Jan 28 - March 11

Thursday Sessions: Jan 30 - March 13

Program Director: [Sophia Rosselli Buttner](#)

Supporting LPS

Our annual Spring Fundraiser will be Thursday May 1- "A Night of Inspiration"

Invitations and tickets coming soon!

The raffle and auction items will be available online this year for those who are unable to attend!

Marianne has a great group of parent volunteers helping! Putting together more sponsorship opportunities and working to underwrite tickets for faculty and others who may need it. Last year's event raised \$40,000 and we're hoping to exceed that! If any families have contacts who may be interested in supporting this event, please reach out to Marianne or one of the Committee Members

Remember to follow us @LPSPanthers!

Questions?

Contact us:

Kurt Moellering: Executive Director kmoellering@learningprep.org

Cate Wilson: Chief Operating Officer cwilson@learningprep.org