



Superintendent Message

***Let's LIFT Lawrence* Announcement**

Friday, October 31, 2025

Hello Lawrence Public Schools Community,

As we enter November, I am reaching out to our Lawrence Public Schools and wider community with a pressing concern.

More than 1,100 LPS students and their families are directly impacted by the loss of federal food assistance; this need is immediate and significant with families represented at every school within our LPS community. Children account for approximately 39% of those who receive SNAP benefits, according to [USDA data](#).

To meet this moment in our community, we will mobilize [Let's LIFT Lawrence](#), a USD 497 food drive. **Now through November 19th**, we invite everyone in the community to join this effort, and to **please drop off needed, shelf-stable food items at any USD 497 school location, or at the Educational Support Center** at 110 McDonald Drive.

[Let's Lift Lawrence](#) will mobilize our school teams and community to serve as a support network at this critical time. We will partner with [Just Food](#), and once immediate school needs are addressed—meal kits shared with our students and their families in schools and school pantries stocked—all additional food will be delivered to Just Food in support of the wider community.

Julie Henry, USD497 Director, Nutrition and Wellness, has developed [nutritious recipes and coordinated the needed items list](#) in support of healthy, economical meals for families.

In addition, the [Lawrence Schools Foundation](#) is introducing the **Adopt A School Pantry** initiative. The foundation team shares that through this program, local businesses and organizations can partner to help collect food donations to be distributed directly to school pantries across our district. These pantries play a vital role in ensuring that students and families have access to nutritious food during this challenging time.

If your business or organization is interested in participating or would like more details, please email djohnsto@usd497.org. The Foundation Team is happy to match you with a school and provide all the information you need to get started.

Energy is building across our community for this effort, and by working together, we can help fill the gap for our children and families. If you would like to volunteer in this effort, please reach out to your local neighborhood school. I know we will step up during this time to make a positive difference for our children, our schools, our Lawrence community.

Thank you for your partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanice Kerr Swift". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Jeanice Kerr Swift
Superintendent of Schools
Lawrence Public Schools