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## Falling Back...an update! WPS 11-1-25

**November 1, 2025**

**Word Count: 1052**

**Approx Reading Time: 8 minutes**

What I didn't mention in my districtwide phone message this week is that "falling back" for Daylight Savings has always been one of my favorite weekends. That extra hour is an incredible gift if you choose to spend it wisely...or with this longer update, you can still have a good 52 minutes of found time!

**Nov 3 Elementary Start Time adjustments** In regards to the phone message reminding everyone of our Elementary School Hours adjustment starting this Monday, I did receive a couple of messages of concern from families that will be negatively impacted by the change. While we have been talking about this possibility since the very beginning of the school year, I do understand the potential concern that we might continue to make tweaks or adjustments as we continue through the year. As I shared in one response, we understand that families rely heavily on the established school schedule and I want to confirm that this schedule change to the school hours is highly unusual and generally avoided. This situation is unique; these necessary adjustments were a direct response to the data collected following the major, district-wide implementation of new school start times this academic year. The adjustments are being implemented to reduce the amount of time students were sitting on the buses on a daily basis. Please be assured that we do not anticipate or plan to make any further adjustments to the school schedules for the remainder of this academic year. As a reminder, the changes that we are making for Monday, November 3 is as follows:

- Abbot, Crisafulli and Day School elementary school times will change to 8:55am to 3:00pm.
- Nabnasset and Miller elementary school times will change to 9:05am to 3:10pm.
- There will be no change to the current school day at Robinson elementary. It will remain from 9:00am to 3:05pm.
- Many Bus Routes are adjusting, as well
  - [Bus Routes School Year 2025-2026](#)

**Town of Westford Tri-Board Meeting**

On Tuesday night, October 28, 2025, the WPS School Committee, TOW Select Board, and the TOW Finance Committee held a joint meeting to discuss the current FY26 budget and preview the upcoming FY27 budget development process. Concerns around current class sizes specifically at our elementary schools but also in different courses at Westford Academy were shared. It was also mentioned the need to explore how we can best support our students by increasing the number of school psychologists we currently have. Our staffing capacity to complete all of the assessment and evaluation requirements expected of these professionals is proving to be insufficient as evidenced by the need to contract outside providers for support. Additionally, we will be needing to address significant facility needs that exist throughout the district most notably the failing HVAC system and potential roof replacement at Westford Academy.

## **SNAP Benefits**

Earlier you all should have received information from our Food Services Director regarding any upcoming reductions or loss of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits. In the event that you missed it, I wanted to include it again here:

Dear Families of Westford Public Schools,

As you may have heard, effective Saturday, November 1, 2025 SNAP benefits will not be paid until the federal government shutdown is over.

Please be assured that free nutritious breakfast and lunch will continue to be available in all Westford Public Schools every school day for all enrolled students.

Further assistance may be available to you through Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline: <https://projectbread.org/foodsource-hotline>

FoodSource hotline counselors, in 180 languages, can help families find food assistance through other sources such as the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program and local food pantries.

Sincerely,

Colleen Wallace

Food Service Director, Westford Public Schools

[cwallace@westfordk12.us](mailto:cwallace@westfordk12.us)

Additionally, The Town of Westford is taking action to support residents by offering resources to those in need and encouraging community-wide participation in donation efforts.

If you have recently lost your SNAP benefits and are in need of food assistance:

- Visit the Cameron Senior Center at 20 Pleasant Street to receive needed perishable and non-perishable food items during Westford Food Pantry hours: Wednesdays 5:00-7:30 p.m. and Fridays 8:30-11:00 a.m.
- Impacted residents may also call Alison Christopher, Town Social Worker, at 978-399-2325 to schedule a confidential appointment for additional assistance.

- You can also find local resources and support through the Westford Health and Human Services Department: <https://westfordma.gov/1747/Resources-for-Health-and-Human-Services>

If you are looking for ways to help:

- Westford Food Pantry accepts non-perishable food and monetary donations. Learn more at: [www.westfordpantry.org](http://www.westfordpantry.org)
- Westford Remembers is working closely with Town of Westford officials to support our Westford neighbors that receive SNAP benefits. There are 650 families that are made up of 1,086 individuals that receive these benefits in Westford and will not receive them beginning this week. Westford Remembers accepts cash donations to support food security and other essential needs. The food insecurity for our neighbors is very real! Westford Remembers' goal with [this campaign](#) is to provide a \$50 Market Basket gift card to each individual that has lost these vital benefits. Mail a check to Westford Remembers, P.O. Box 869, Westford, MA 01886, or donate online via Venmo @**Westford-remembers**, <https://tinyurl.com/WestfordremembersSNAPhelp>

## ELPAC

Recently, we sent out information regarding how folks can get involved with our English Learner Parent Advisory Council (ELPAC). This council serves as an important forum for collaboration between families, educators, and administrators to support the success of our English Learner (EL) students. The ELPAC is composed of parents and guardians of English Learners who volunteer their time to advise the district on programs and policies that impact EL students. The council helps strengthen partnerships between families and schools while ensuring that the voices of English Learner families are represented and valued in our decision-making processes.

If you are interested in joining the ELPAC, please contact:

- Pete Myerson – [pmyerson@westfordk12.us](mailto:pmyerson@westfordk12.us)
- Melissa Richard – [mrichard@westfordk12.us](mailto:mrichard@westfordk12.us)
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## Community Coffee Hour

Finally, this month's Superintendent's Community Coffee Hour will be taking place on Friday, November 14, 2025 at 10:00am in the Millenium Building in Room 13 across the hall from ROUTES Roasters!

Cheers!

Chris

Christopher Chew, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools

Westford

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