

Supporting Newcomer Students and Families 2023-2024



WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

<https://www.wpsk12.com/domain/32>

Office of Student Support Services

219 Middlesex Ave.

Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887

Statement of Purpose: To support the district’s partnerships with the multilingual families of English language learners (ELLs), with a special focus on “newcomer students” (“newcomer students” refers to students from other countries who have recently arrived in the United States).

Mission

The mission of the Wilmington Public Schools is to educate and develop students academically, socially, and emotionally to be active, civic-minded contributors to our global society.

Vision

Community—Inclusivity—Respect—Collaboration—Learning—Engagement

The Wilmington Public Schools, in conjunction with the community, provides an **inclusive, respectful, and collaborative learning** environment where all stakeholders are engaged in the development of the whole child.

Core Values

The Wildcat CIRCLE of Values

- Community
- Inclusivity
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Learning Engagement

Theory of Action

IF Wilmington Public Schools...

- Provides challenging, engaging, and relevant instruction that is responsive to each learner’s academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs
- Fosters school communities where all students and staff experience a sense of belonging and safety
- Creates a vision for equitable and inclusive schools with students, staff, families, and community members
- Strengthens partnerships amongst students, families, staff, and the community that promotes a sense of pride, connectedness, and inclusiveness

THEN students will become...

- **Learners** who are inclusive and respectful collaborators who are engaged in academic and extracurricular endeavors that promote social and emotional wellbeing
- **Communicators** who promote respectful and appropriate discourse that is founded in well-informed ideas that are both inclusive and purposeful in manner and intention
- **Contributors** who assume responsibility for engaging actively for the good of the community and for participating locally and globally in a positive and impactful way
- **Collaborators** who assume responsibility to work productively as part of a team to promote learning and achieve common goals while valuing the contributions of team members
- **Leaders** who engage in respectful, inclusive, and collaborative learning experiences, promote healthy responsible decision-making and recognize, respect, and support the efforts and ideas of others

[WPS Vision of the Graduate]

Supporting Newcomer Students and Families

Immediate points to consider-

Some newcomer families have not yet become connected with an agency or support resource.

General Resources:

[Resource Guide for New Families](#): Quick reference sheet

Wilmington Public Schools partnered with Care Solace to support the well-being of students, staff, and their family members. Care Solace is a complimentary and confidential care coordination service that can help you quickly find mental health, substance use treatment options and social service coordination (food, shelter, community health services) matched to your needs regardless of circumstance.

If you would like to use Care Solace to help you find a provider:

- Call 888-515-0595 available 24/7/365 in any language.
- Visit www.caresolace.com/wilmington and either search on your own OR click “Book Appointment” for assistance by video chat, email, or phone

If families can self transport, then it is recommended that they go to the Welcome Center in Quincy, Massachusetts, this could be a good place to get support for basic needs. Contact

information is Eastern Nazarene College Cove Fine Arts Center 56 Wendell Avenue Quincy, MA. They are open on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For case management support, families are encouraged to self refer to the International Institute of New England (978) 459-9031. There is also a waitlist for this service, but it can be helpful to navigate larger systems with their support.

Families are also encouraged to reach out to the consulate specific to their country of origin. The consulate can assist with getting replacement passports.

Local churches are also providing specific assistance to families, but not always housing.

[Immigrant Support Alliance](#)

[About | La Colaborativa](#)

<https://mass211.org/>

[Programs - Community Teamwork](#)

Housing:

For emergency housing support, Families should contact (866) 584-0653. This will get the family on a centralized waiting list. You provide information and a representative will call the family back to officially be placed on a waiting list. The family can self referral as many times as they like to ensure they receive a return call.

The Immigrant Support Alliance has been an all volunteer group that supports mainly refugees but they may also help recent immigrants. They have just incorporated as a nonprofit. Their model is to use host families for up to a year (rotating to different hosts) when they sponsor a family. info@immigrantsupportalliance.org

LexRAP in Lexington is a non profit organization that assists with placing refugee families with host families and additional resources. <https://lexrap.org/>

[Lazarus House](#) in Lawrence has a family shelter as well as transitional housing but they are likely maxed on capacity given the large influx of immigrants. The staff there may have some ideas of who else to reach out to.

Some hotels will allow for cash payment if the stay is for longer than 7 days.

Extended Stay Woburn
831 Main Street
Woburn, MA
(781) 938-3737

Food

Wilmington Food Commissary. They are open the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6:30-7:00 pm

142 Chestnut Street (Hosted inside Old South School) Wilmington, MA 01887
(978) 658-7425

<http://www.wilmingtoncommunityfund.org/food-pantry.html>

Merrimack Valley Catholic Charities is open Mondays-Thursdays from 1:00-3:30 pm.

70 Lawrence Street Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 452-1421

<https://www.ccab.org/basic-needs/food-pantries/>

WIC is a supplemental food program for children under the age of 5.

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/who-gets-wic-and-how-apply>

[The Dwelling Place \(meal program in Woburn\)](#)

Food Resource Hotline (800) 645-8333

[Project Bread](#)

Clothing

Wee Care

Non-profit organization providing assistance with essential needs for children (gently used clothes, shoes, toys, books, baby items).

10 Saint Mark's Road
Burlington, MA
(781) 205 9810

Wish Project

166 Middlesex Street, North
Chelmsford, MA 01863
(866) 947-4360

With a photo ID for each adult and a copy of their children's birth certificates, anyone can come in once every three months and receive clothing, hygiene goods, and diapers/wipes without a referral needed. The warehouse is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9-3.

Medical

The list of Community Health Centers are listed on this website [CHA Cambridge Family Health North @ \(617\) 575-5570](#))

Find a Health Center: [Massachusetts League of Community Health Center](#)

Newcomers should be eligible to receive MassHealth Limited

MassHealth Limited insurance is accepted at Community Health Centers in Massachusetts. At most of the health centers, there are patient financial counseling providers. CHA and Lynn Community Health Center have advisors (who speak multiple languages) available for the caregiver to apply for the MassHealth application in person.

Boston Medical Center (BMC): 'Immigrant and Refugee Health Center (adults only). Apply for insurance and get connected to services. (614) 414-1994

BMC has its own pediatric outpatient clinic. New Patient Registration line 617-414-6060. This is done BEFORE applying for health insurance. Once the caregiver has registered the child they will then call the Patient Financial Counseling line @ 617-414-5155 and schedule an appointment to go in person and complete the necessary paperwork to apply for MassHealth Limited.

BMC Pediatrics will schedule vaccinations for minor children free of charge. (617)-414-5946

Beds/Furniture

[A Bed For Every Child](#)

[Mission of Deeds](#)

Family must be referred by a referral agency. Schools and nonprofit organizations are considered referral sources.

Employment

<https://www.mass.gov/topics/masshire>