

JOINT

Equity Advisory Council/ Parents of Color Advisory

November 2020 Updates

*(Due to the Presidential Election on 11/3, this meeting was cancelled.
Updates/info was shared electronically)*

- **School Board Updates**

Lawrence School Board met on 11/9 and heard a report about this fall's enrollment drop of 647.9 Full-Time Equivalency (FTE), unaudited. Since enrollment drives funding, fewer students will cause an estimated revenue shortfall of \$1 million in the current school year. This will also affect the budget for the next two years.

The district's enrollment fell across all levels, with the largest drop in the primary grades. Johnson said that the state offers a declining enrollment provision that will enable the district to use a higher student count from a previous year for budget planning purposes. "This helps to soften the blow this year," she said.

"We need to address the current shortfall and work on future planning for 2021-22 and 2022-23. Our Budget and Program Evaluation Committee (BPEC), Boundary Committee, and Fringe Benefit Committee will meet to look for efficiencies," said Johnson of next steps. [Read more.](#)

~~~~~

Lawrence Board of Education President Kelly Jones called a special meeting for 5:30 p.m. on 11/12 to discuss [Douglas County's Smart and Safe School Reopening Guidance](#) with Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health officials and members of Douglas County's Unified Command.

Lawrence Public Schools will continue in the current hybrid learning model next week. It will also proceed with athletics and activities as planned, except further discussion will occur around wrestling due to an indoor mask mandate.

"We don't recommend wrestling. It cannot be done safely with a mask," said Dr. Thomas Marcellino, Douglas County's health officer, during the meeting. Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health announced earlier Thursday changes in its guidance allowing schools to continue with hybrid learning in "phase orange."

"When it comes to the spread of the virus, it is going to happen at a higher rate without mask usage. A lot of school cases started outside of the school, and then are brought to the school. The school is a controlled environment," said Dr. Marcellino. "The gating criteria is not a one-size-fits-all. There are a lot of schools that have operated effectively in the community. We are saying you can continue in hybrid, but we are leaving it up to each school to assess their risks."

If Douglas County cases continue to increase and health officials move the guidance to "phase red" next week, the board will meet again. Jones asked the board to meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday to discuss the following week, which includes only two school days prior to Fall Break. [Read more in this news release.](#)

### • **ECAP Training**

In partnership with The Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center), LPS will engage in an in-depth analysis of the extent to which equitable practices are demonstrated at the class, school and district levels via the implementation of the MAP Center's Equity Context Analysis Process (ECAP). The purpose is to identify areas of strengths and priorities for improvement. The ECAP is a comprehensive data collection and analysis process developed by the MAP Center.

This will provide an overview of the extent to which aspects of educational equity are evident in LPS, identify areas that may be opportunities for growth related to advancing educational equity, and support equity-oriented strategic planning efforts, as well as ongoing monitoring and assessment activities related to promoting educational equity.

Thank you to those that signed up to participate. This training is taking place Nov. 17th (8:30 - 12pm) This training is now full. It will be recorded so we will be able to share it with anyone who is interested.

### • **SRO Committee**

A date/time for this group to meet is in the process of being coordinated. to meet.

### • **Boundary Committee**

The purpose/role of the Boundary Advisory Committee is “to monitor district population shifts and school boundaries and recommend changes to the board” and “to ensure that equity, district growth, budget, and transportation are considered in boundary changes.”

If interested in serving, please [complete the application on our website \(www.usd497.org\)](http://www.usd497.org). Submission deadline is Wednesday, November 25, 2020 by 3pm.