LEXINGTON
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear LPS School Community:

Following our October update, we released data from a new study two days ago. The study, completed by the Lexington Public Schools Office of Research, Planning & Data, explores "Adjusting Enrollment Projections Based on Historic Student Density and Known Housing Development."

Many are interested in whether the new "Bloom" design under consideration will be large enough to accommodate the anticipated enrollment increases from known housing development. The short answer is yes.

I. Bloom Expansion Strategies

The "Bloom" design enrollment is 2,395. However, Bloom can accommodate an additional 850 or more students in three ways.

- Space Utilization—By increasing class sizes from 23 to 25 and not impacting the 85% classroom utilization rates, we could accommodate an additional **+192** students. By increasing the class size to 25 and the utilization to 90%, we could accommodate an additional **+343** students.
- Repurposed Central Office Space—By converting the 11 classrooms reserved for the central office until students need the space, we could free up space for an additional **+244** students.
- Additional Expansion—By adding on to the new high school, we could add enough space to accommodate an additional **+256** students.

These three strategies yield enough space to accommodate just under **+850** more students at Lexington High School. Based on known housing development, let's examine the anticipated number of additional students at the high school.

II. High School Enrollment Projections (FY2026, FY2027 & FY2028)

The chart below shows elementary, middle, and high school enrollment projections, organized by low, mid, and high enrollment projections. If we take enrollments in the mid-range category, the projected enrollment is as follows:

- FY2026 = **2,395**
- FY2027 = **2,386**
- FY2028 = **2,384**

	Actual						Projected		
	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25		FY26	FY27	FY28
						Low	2430	2381	2294
K - 5	2790	2702	2702	2674	2541	Mid	2503	2528	2499
						High	2519	2559	2539
						Low	1676	1558	1461
6 to 8	1793	1748	1765	1737	1732	Mid	1741	1668	1622
						High	1750	1694	1656
						Low	2308	2212	2133
9 -12	2261	2273	2303	2318	2405	Mid	2395	2386	2384
						High	2405	2398	2410

- LPS reviews new student enrollment (based on October 1st numbers) and produces revised enrollment projections each year.
- Enrollment projections are built on the assumption that historical data and enrollment patterns can offer clues about the future. They are offered as a planning tool; not a definitive prediction of future enrollment.
- This year's projections include small adjustment for 3 housing projects with known completion dates (2026 & 2027). Adjustments were general small within each level & year, ranging from 5 to 14 students.

FY 2025 Budget LEXINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

III. Potential Additional Students Given New Development (as of January 2025)

Next, we have data showing the potential additional students given the new housing development (as of January 2025). The high school enrollment data from the chart is organized into minimum, average, and maximum enrollment numbers. Since we are estimating whether the new high school design could accommodate students in the new known developments, we will use the maximum enrollment projections by year, which are as follows:

- FY2026 = **+6**
- FY2027 = **+60**
- FY2028 = **+31**

Table 3: Potential Additional Students Given New Development (as of January 2025)

	Year	Min	Avg	Max
Elementary (K-5)	2026	14	17	19
	2027	54	77	100
	2028	20	33	46
Middle School (6-8)	2026	3	4	6
	2027	25	37	46
	2028	11	17	21
High School (9-12)	2026	4	5	6
	2027	34	45	60
	2028	15	22	31

IV. Enrollment Projections by Year Plus Potential Additional Students

Considering housing development as of January 2025, we need to overlay the number of potential additional students onto the enrollment projections by year to determine whether there is enough room to accommodate the new students. The total number of students per year is as follows:

- FY2026 = 2,395 + 6 = **2,401** students
- FY2027 = 2,386 + 6 + 60 = **2,452** students
- FY2028 = 2,384 + 6 + 60 + 31 = **2,481** students

V. Conclusions: Is the Bloom Design Large Enough to Accommodate New Housing Development (as of January 2025)?

Yes, the Bloom design, as currently planned, is large enough to accommodate the additional students from the new housing development as of January 2025. With an initial design enrollment of **2,395** and the potential to accommodate nearly **+850** additional students, the Bloom design could accommodate approximately **3,263 students** or more. Whether we want this many students in a high school is a different question for community consideration.

Is the Bloom Design Large Enough to Accommodate New Housing Development (as of January 2025)?

Bloom can accommodate up to 3,263 or more students as currently planned.

Considering enrollment projections and housing development as of January 2025, FY2028 would see the largest number of students at the high school: 2,481, including projected enrollment plus the potential additional students from the housing development.

With a total enrollment capacity of approximately 3,263 students and anticipated student enrollment with housing development projections included (FY26 = 2,401, FY27 = 2,452, and FY28 = 2,481), the Bloom design can easily accommodate ***close to +800*** more students ***beyond*** the known housing development (as of January 2025).

We are mindful that the Town of Lexington is also engaging consultants to explore the impacts of the MBTA zoning bylaw changes on all Town departments, including the schools. Further analysis may lead to adjustments in numbers, although we do not anticipate major changes. In the meantime, we hope this answers your questions about the new high school's enrollment capacity, including known housing development.

Sincerely,

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