

LINCOLN SUBBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

390 LINCOLN ROAD
SUBBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01776-1409



Andrew Stephens
Superintendent/Principal

andrew_stephens@lsrhs.net
(978)-443-9961 - EXT 2370
Fax: (978) 443-8824

Dear Members of the L-S Community:

Over the past week, we have received inquiries from folks concerning the role schools play in immigration information/enforcement and what protections exist for L-S members of the LGBTQI+ community. This stems from uncertainty due to recent developments and policies at the federal level. It is important to all of us at L-S that our students, families and staff feel safe and supported. As such, I hope this communication will serve to reaffirm what we believe is central to our mission as an educational institution, and provide you with some pertinent information.

The values and beliefs of the L-S community are centered on our goal to first provide a physically and emotionally safe environment for our students and staff. This is the foundation that is necessary for every one of our students to access their education and learn. Further, we are unabashed in our commitment to providing all of our students, staff, and families an inclusive school environment where they feel that they belong and are valued. These beliefs form the bedrock of our school community.

Immigration Information:

- Massachusetts law dictates that schools cannot ask for or collect any information about a student's or family's immigration status. Therefore, we have no records to that effect.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student records cannot be shared with an outside party without a parent's/caregiver's, or student's (if over 18) consent. In terms of individual student information/records requested by federal authorities, we would not allow such access without a judicial warrant signed by a federal judge and/or parent/caregiver consent.
- We are working closely with our school counsel to clarify our procedures should an immigrant official arrive at the school.
- We cannot counsel families on issues regarding immigration nor offer legal advice. That said, the Massachusetts Attorney General has provided the following resources:
 - [MA Attorney General Guidance Regarding K-12 Schools' Obligations to Protect Students and Their Information](#)
 - [Emergency Planning Guide for Parents with Uncertain Immigration Status.](#)

Protections for LGBTQI+ Students and Staff:

Protections from discrimination for members of the LGBTQI+ community are enshrined in the Massachusetts Constitution, state law, DESE regulations, and curriculum frameworks (see [Guidance](#)

[for Massachusetts Public Schools Creating a Safe and Supportive School Environment](#)). Our district policies that ensure student and staff protection from discrimination are consistent with Massachusetts state laws and DESE regulations.

I hope this was helpful information. Every member of the L-S school community individually contributes to our vibrant and inclusive community. We continually strive to maintain a welcoming and inclusive school community with the goal that each student is in the best position possible to thrive here at L-S.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Stephens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Andrew Stephens, LS Superintendent/Principal