

This data dashboard provides a snapshot of youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities transitioning to work in Lawrence Massachusetts. It draws from multiple state data sources as well as specific initiatives of the <u>Lawrence Partnership for Transition to Employment (LPTE)</u>.

# THE LPTE

## In 2024 the LPTE held:

- 4 consortium meetings (the LPTE consortium consists of 42 active members including: family members, professionals, selfadvocates, and researchers from Lawrence and the surrounding areas)
- 4 steering committee meetings
- 10 workgroup meetings

### TRANSITION PLANNING MEETINGS

**41 middle school / high school families attended** Family Transition Planning meetings in the 2024-2025 school year to discuss:

- Meeting to determine family needs/wants
- Information sharing about DDS, family support programs, guardianship and alternatives, as well as post-secondary education
- Early transition planning and awareness of services

### **WELCOME CENTER**

The Merrimack Valley One Stop Welcome Center opened this school year! In collaboration with MRC, DDS, DMH, and the City of Lawrence, the Welcome Center provides a place where students and families can schedule a 30 minute consultation with DDS, DMH, MA Ability to learn about their services.

# How is Lawrence improving processes for transition age youth?

In FFY 2023\* there were **2,425 students** with IEPs enrolled in Lawrence public schools. **66.4% of those students are served in full inclusion** (inside the general education classroom 80% or more of the day), **above the state target of 65.5%.** (profile)

As of Spring 2022\*, **82.6**% of 188 parents surveyed reported that "school facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for students with IEPs."

A state review of the IEPs of 35 students for the 2023-2024 school year found that **47.5%** met Massachusetts' Indicator 13 criteria, which means that they had transition planning as part of their IEP process. (profile)

## **WORKSHOPS & TRANSITION FAIR**

Lawrence Public School Transition Specialist Team held 4 workshops for parents in the spring of 2025. Topics discussed included:

- understanding post-secondary education
- career pathways
- independent living planning
- self-determination
- legal rights at the age of majority and available community supports.

Lawrence Public School held its annual Transition fair in 2025.

20 local and state agencies participated;
3 families and 114 students attended!

## How is Lawrence facilitating better cross-agency collaboration?

According to Lawrence High School transition staff, as of the 2024-2025 school year...

- 76 Lawrence students took advantage of <a href="Pre-Employment Transition Services">Pre-ETS</a>)
- **39 students** participated in <u>Mass Hire Youthworks</u>
- 4 students attended the NextGen program
- There have been 28 direct referrals to MassAbility

# **How is Lawrence improving Outcomes for Youth?**

- In FFY 2023\*, **53.2**% (66 students) with IEPs graduated with a high school diploma. (profile)
- Of the 38 Lawrence public school students with IEPs who responded to a DOE survey upon exit from high school, 3 were enrolled in higher education and 18 obtained jobs in the community (FFY 2023\*) (profile)

\*Indicates the most recently available data

## What's next?

- The LPTE is finalizing its Resource Hub! The Resource Hub will be an online database where students and families can learn about transition resources in the Lawrence area, get connected to services, and find out about local events, trainings and job opportunities! Look for announcements in Fall 2025!
- Keep an eye out for the report: How are transition age youth with intellectual/ developmental disabilities in Lawrence are being prepared for adult life by Lawrence Public Schools? Prepared by the LPTE's Partnering with Families workgroup, this report summarizes the findings from a survey of **205 Lawrence-area families** that asked about various aspects of the Lawrence Public Schools transition services.
- The LPTE has many events planned, including monthly work group meetings and quarterly consortium meetings.
- The LPTE is always looking for more students, family members, and business owners in the Lawrence area to get involved! The LPTE can even provide a stipend for participation! Check out the LPTE Website for more information!



This Dashboard is a product of the Lawrence Partnership for Transition to Employment (LPTE). The project is designed to improve transition outcomes in Lawrence, Massachusetts for individuals with ID/DD. The LPTE is a partnership between the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston and the Arc of Greater Haverhill-Newburyport.

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