



# Preparing Children for Success from Kindergarten to College, Career and Beyond!

## OUR MISSION

To prepare a diverse cross-section of Worcester children for success as students, workers, and citizens by providing them with a high-quality education at prevailing public school costs.

## CODE OF CONDUCT

Be safe. Be kind.  
Be responsible.

## CORE VALUES



WISDOM



JUSTICE



COURAGE



COMPASSION



HOPE



RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



INTEGRITY

## What Makes LFCPS So Special?

Learning First Charter Public School offers a family oriented environment based upon the belief that the school-home partnership is an integral component for the academic success of each child. Family involvement is strongly encouraged and expected.

We offer students and families:

- A safe and nurturing learning environment
- A staff that puts children and families first by maintaining strong communication and access to support services
- A highly qualified staff that is committed to ongoing professional development and collaboration
- A school schedule that provides more dedicated learning time
- A curriculum that is guided by clear and ambitious academic standards
- Well-rounded instructional programs that integrate art, music, technology and character education into everyday learning
- Health and fitness instruction starting in kindergarten
- Ongoing authentic assessment that allows teachers to tailor instruction to meet individual needs
- Opportunities to extend learning through assemblies, fieldtrips, and after school activities

## ORGANIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Learning First Charter Public School is governed by the Board of Trustees and school administration.

The school is organized into two academies. Each academy has its own Head of School who works with the teachers and school leadership team to provide high levels of support and accountability for all students, teachers and families.

A School Advisory Council, comprised of equal representation of staff, students, parents and community members meets monthly to develop and monitor an annual school improvement plan and related initiatives.



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## ENROLLMENT

As a public school, Learning First Charter is open to all students entering grades K-8, with first preference given to children who live within the city of Worcester.

We do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ancestry, athletic performance, disability status, proficiency in the English language or a foreign language, or prior academic achievement.

As mandated by the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, all students seeking entry into a Massachusetts charter school must apply and be selected through a public lottery.

## HOW TO APPLY

Applications are available at the school or on the school website after September 1 of each year. To request an Enrollment Application or for a tour of the school, call (508) 799-7500.

## WELL-ROUNDED CURRICULUM

At Learning First Charter Public School, each child's intellectual capacity is respected and nurtured through Reading, Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Students are challenged to excel in rigorous but absorbing programs of study featuring: direct instruction in phonics, composition and comprehension skills; immersion in various genres of classic and contemporary literature, math experiences that cultivate an intuitive sense of numbers and mathematical processes; and intentional inquiry into the Earth and its inhabitants.

Through Physical Education, Visual Arts, Music, and Character Education, student's creative capabilities are enhanced in an environment that prizes each one's unique strengths and talents through a quest for personal excellence. An emphasis is placed on cooperation, perseverance, self-discipline and confidence; and especially the joy of creation and the elation of performance.



## A BRIEF HISTORY

Learning First Charter Public School was founded in 1996 by a group of private citizens who partnered with Edison Schools, Inc. to provide an alternative model for public education in the city of Worcester. The doors opened to 524 K-7 students on September 11, 1996.

Since then, the school has grown to hold 665 children in grades K-8 and maintains a waitlist of approximately 300 students.



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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

We are required to take the same local, state, and national tests administered by other public schools. These results are posted on our school website and reported to the public and the Department of Education by an Annual Report and a School Report Card mandated by the No Child Left Behind legislation. To request a copy of any of these reports, contact the school at (508) 799-7500.



## Why Should You Join the LFCPS Family?

Every child is known, loved, and capable of high achievement. We are committed to celebrating the diversity of our student body and making parents feel welcome and connected. Parents and teachers have an obligation to work as a team to support each child as a learner and member of a caring school community.

Every staff member is chosen with care. We aggressively recruit dynamic educators committed to urban school reform and will do whatever it takes to ensure that every child succeeds. Salaries and benefit packages are competitive, and teachers may participate in the Massachusetts Teacher Retirement Plan. We provide a thorough induction, professional development, and support program for teachers. Teacher raises, bonuses, and annual contract renewals are based upon professional growth and student achievement. Outstanding educators have opportunities for professional advancement.

LFCPS has two academies, each with its Head of School, dedicated to providing high levels of accountability and support for students, teachers, and families. Two highly qualified educators teach each core class. Teachers tailor our rigorous academic program, based on the MA Common Core Standards, to meet the individual needs of each student. Teachers carefully monitor achievement and make adjustments to ensure that all students are challenged and supported appropriately.

All students study art, music, health and physical education, technology, and guidance.

We believe that a well-rounded education means integrating character education, the arts, and technology into all classes and providing opportunities for students and staff to showcase talents throughout the school and community. We offer cutting edge educational technology, and our drama club, stomp team, show choir, and competitive basketball teams are only a few of our highly acclaimed extracurricular programs.

We offer a full range of support services for students and families, including guidance counseling, enrichment programs, special education and related services, and English language learning programs. The Learning First Foundation offers five LFCPS graduates \$1,000 each to attend a private, tuition-based high school.