



# Superintendent's Newsletter Lexington Public Schools

# Welcome!

Dear Community Members,

Welcome to the 2015-2016 school year and to new residents in the town of Lexington!

I recently completed my first 90 days on the job and there are three things that continue to amaze me every day:

- ◆ the support from our community
- ◆ the dedication of our staff at every level: support staff, teachers and administrators
- ◆ The support of our School Committee and Town Manager

It is my pleasure to present my first newsletter as the Superintendent of Lexington Public Schools.

The Superintendent's Newsletters will be published on a periodic basis to inform members of the community and district staff of the events happening within the school system.

I hope you find them informative and I encourage you to provide feedback and suggest topics:

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## Opening of Schools

September 1st was the first day of school for over 6800 students and 103 new teachers. Lexington has a rich and proud tradition of academic excellence and our school-aged population continues to grow. You will see more details about our

growth further in this newsletter.

The first day of school was also my first opportunity to ride the #11 school bus with Joe Velardi. We started with high school students and then moved on to elementary and finished

with middle school students.



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## Update on Facilities

**New Hastings** – Construct a new Hastings building with up to 30 classrooms.

### **Pre-Kindergarten “Lexington Children’s Place” Relocation**

Immediate: The program is using additional space at the Central Office to meet current needs.

Short-term: Beginning fall of 2016, the program will operate at Minuteman Tech campus.

Long-term: Construct a stand-alone pre-Kindergarten facility.



### **Harrington Renovation**

After “Lexington Children’s Place” relocates, their former space at Harrington will be repurposed for general education use. This will yield four classrooms however, only three will be identified for redistricting

### **Pelham Property – “Armenian Sisters’ Academy”**

Negotiations to pursue acquisition of the property will be handled by our Town Manager.

Short-term: Anticipate opening as an elementary school with 10 to 12 classrooms in fall 2017.

Long-term: Property offers flexibility. If enrollment rises, it can support a new elementary school of up to 24 classrooms. If enrollment declines, the building could be used for other purposes, for example, central office administration.

Possible community uses: Adjacent to the Community Center, the site includes a large gym.

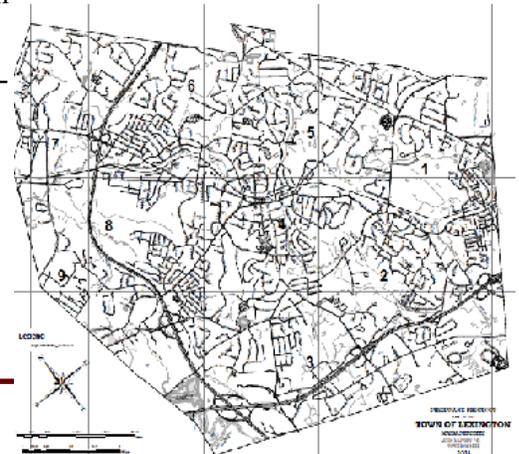
## Redistricting

The Superintendent’s Advisory Committee on Space will recommend redistricting to help alleviate overcrowding. They will adhere to our Redistricting Policy: no family or street address will be redistricted more than once in five years.

Phase 1 – 2016: We anticipate 6 classrooms would be available; 3 at Harrington, 3 at Estabrook. (This reserves 1 classroom at each for existing program growth.)

Phase 2 – 2017: We anticipate 10-12 classrooms at Pelham.

Phase 3 – 2018 or 2019: Upon completion, up to 9 additional classrooms at Hastings.



## Middle and High Schools

### **Middle Schools**

Recommended projects involve expanding capacity at both Diamond and Clarke Middle Schools. Options include pre-fabricated additions and a brick-and-mortar addition.

### **High School**

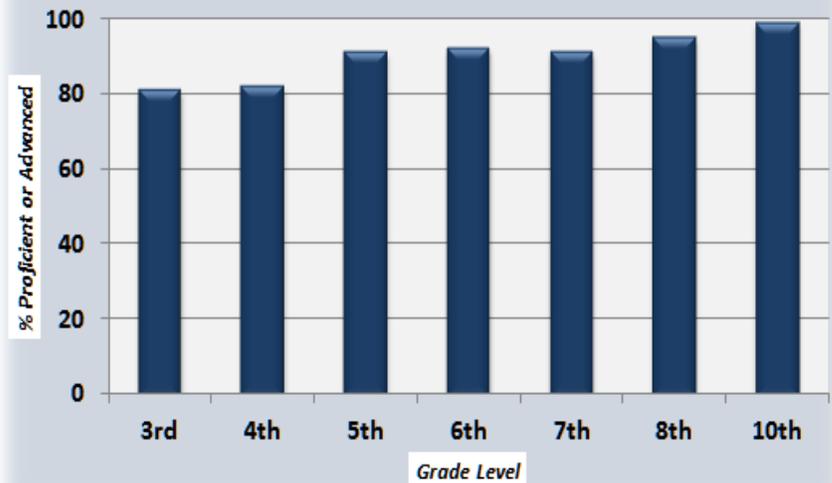
The recommendation for LHS requires either a new school building or a phased approach for major renovations.

All of the school options will be discussed at special town meeting next month.

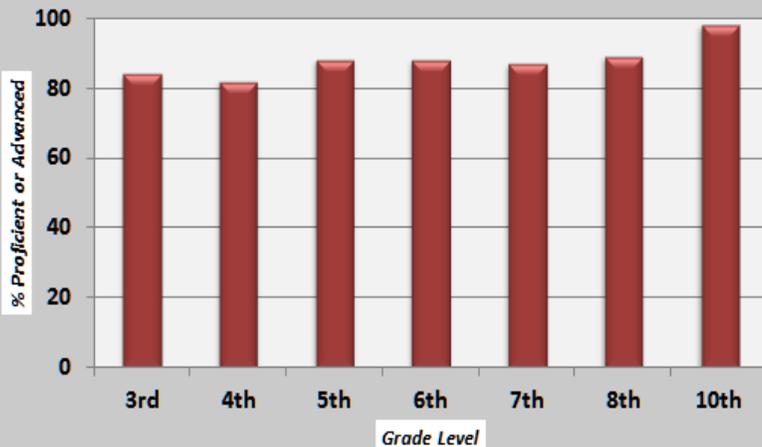
# 2015 MCAS

Our 2015 Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) results have been released and Lexington students continue to attain high proficient and advanced scores in all subjects assessed: English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science.

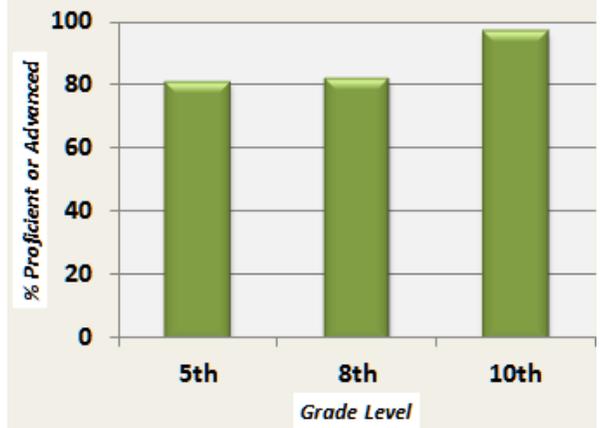
### 2015 ELA MCAS Proficient or Advanced



### 2015 Math MCAS Proficient or Advanced



### 2015 Science MCAS Proficient or Advanced



## Superintendent House Calls

When I became the Superintendent in Lexington, I wanted to continue a practice that I had started in my prior districts and that is Superintendent House Calls. These House Calls are invitations from parents or guardians to come to their home and talk about whatever is on their minds related to education. Oftentimes, there are

groups of parents or guardians present and the forum provides a wonderfully diverse opportunity to discuss varying topics.

I have made three House Calls as of this newsletter with three more scheduled this year and I thank the parents who opened their homes to me and others.



## 90 Day Plan

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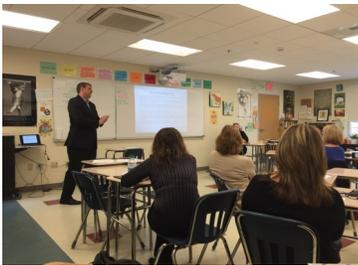
As I indicated earlier, I have recently completed my first 90 days as Superintendent. In my 90 day plan I outlined goals, objectives, stakeholder meetings and document review that would be the focus of my work and begin to form the creation of a strategic plan.

At the School Committee meeting on November 17th, I will summarize my activities related to this work.



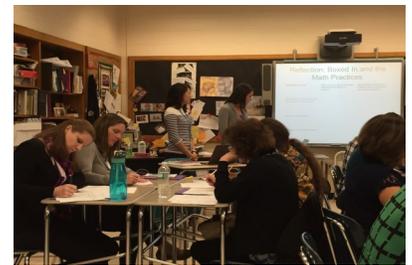
## Lexington Learns Together

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“Lexington Learns Together” is a wonderful professional development program of educators teaching educators.

Due to its incredible success last year, the events was repeated this year on October 9th. Over 85 seminars were offered by 194 facilitators to 900 staff members.



## Lexington Education Foundation

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Lexington Education Foundation is a fabulous organization whose purpose is to fund education opportunities outside of the traditional school budget. Funding is provided for grants, projects, summer fellowships and workshops. As I continue to experience the many firsts in Lexington this year, I am inspired by the personal and professional stories shared by our teachers who were so fortunate to be the recipients of the Foundation’s grants. It truly is a gift to have a partnership such as the one here in Lexington with the Foundation. I am so proud to serve as the Superintendent in Lexington where there is a true commitment to continuous personal and professional growth.

## Professional Teacher Status

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Congratulations to 28 teachers who were awarded Professional Teacher Status! They successfully completed 3 years of meeting professional teaching standards and license requirements.

