



PRESS RELEASE

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Major back-to-school emergency fundraiser organized for Leverett Elementary School

In response to the extraordinary costs to educate safely and creatively during the COVID-19 pandemic, The Leverett Education Foundation (LEF) and Leverett Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) have joined forces and have launched the ***Many Safe Returns Fund*** with an initial goal of raising **\$30,000** for the Leverett Elementary School (LES).

Leverett Elementary has prioritized the health and safety of its students, teachers, and staff by beginning the school year with remote learning, with plans to gradually introduce in-person learning later in the school year. This might mean months of online learning for students, or it might mean outdoor learning experiences until it is possible to safely return students and teachers to their classrooms.

Under all of the possibilities facing Leverett Elementary School, however, the extraordinary costs of educating children during a pandemic were never contemplated when the school budget was approved, and the ongoing restrictions made necessary by Proposition 2.5 mean additional tax revenues just can't be called on to make up the difference.

The ***Many Safe Returns Fund*** will support LES by raising money for supplies, training, curriculum, health and safety improvements, protective gear, special school equipment, and staffing increases the school may need to resume education creatively and safely.

"We are so grateful to have the support of the PTO and LEF always, and especially during this tricky time. We are having to reimagine how we go about providing an excellent education, changing the tools materials we use, building our capacity through quality professional development, and redesigning our school building to ensure the safety of our community. This is an expensive endeavor, and we are so appreciative of every contribution to our cause."

-Annie Foley Ruiz, Interim Principal, LES

"I am so grateful to the LEF for stepping up and helping our school grapple with all the knowns and unknowns of teaching in a pandemic. The LES teachers and administration are doing everything they can to make school a positive and safe experience for all this fall. LEF and the PTO are here to support them but we need the whole community to take part."

-Kate Martineau, President, LES PTO

"As the parent of two children who benefitted from Leverett Elementary School years ago, and as a long-standing resident of our town, it is clear to me that LES is more than just a school. It is at the center of our community, and its reputation for excellence has drawn young families to Leverett for years, helping to sustain our tax base, our property values, and the vibrancy of this special place."

-Steve Weiss, President, LEF

Donations to the Many Safe Returns Fund can be made at:

www.leveretteducationfoundation.org

or by check addressed to: Leverett Education Foundation, P.O. Box 235, Leverett, MA 01054