

# THE MELTING POT NEWSLETTER



Frederick Abisi Adult Education Center  
408 Merrimack St, Lowell, MA 01854  
[www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com](http://www.lowelladulthoodeducation.com) - (978) 937-8989

Elizabeth McKiernan, Director

February 2023



## Free HiSET® Testing for Massachusetts Residents Starting February 6, 2023



Effective February 6, 2023, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will pay for a candidate's first HiSET® test in each subject, plus two retakes per subject.

When scheduling your HiSET® test at an official test center or at home, enter the promo code MAHSET during checkout.

## CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Abisi Adult Education joins the entire Lowell community in recognizing and celebrating Black History Month.

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This month is an opportunity to reflect on the rich contributions and great achievements of African Americans here in Lowell and across the United States.

**The mornings are getting colder.  
The building doors do not open until 8:30am.  
Please plan your arrival accordingly.**

## SCHOOL CLOSING/DELAYS

If there is **NO SCHOOL** in the Lowell Public Schools, all AAEC Morning and Evening classes are cancelled.

If there is a **one-hour delay**, Morning (in-person and remote) ESOL and HSE classes will begin at **10:00am**.

If there is a **two-hour delay**, Morning (in-person and remote) ESOL and HSE classes will begin at **11:00am**.

When there is delay evening classes will meet at the regularly scheduled time.

School cancellation or delay information can be found by:

- Visiting our website, <https://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/adulted>
- Looking on Facebook
- Watching the local news
- Listening to WCAP (980AM) or WBZ (1030AM)



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

### “The Road to Success Begins with Good Attendance”

You are expected to be in class every day and to be on time. If you miss too many days, you risk losing your space to someone who is on our waiting list.

Don't forget to let us know if you are going to be absent. You can:

- Email us at:  
**ESOL Classes**—[apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:apearson@lowell.k12.ma.us) or  
**HSE Classes**—[bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:bgoodridge@lowell.k12.ma.us)
- Let your teacher know.



## VISITOR POLICY

Lowell Public School Policy states all outside visitors must report to the main office and sign in and out. For the safety of all our AAEC students, outside visitors are not allowed to contact students during class time or to interrupt classes. If you forgot something at home or someone needs to leave something for you, make arrangements to meet them after class. Deliveries and drop-offs are not accepted in the office. Please make sure you have all of your materials and items before you leave for school. Your class time is short and important for your continued success. If there is an emergency, please speak with the office staff, and they will assist you.



We love children, but children are not allowed in the school.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (HSE) TESTING INFORMATION



The Massachusetts High School Equivalency credential is issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to those who have passed the HiSET exam, the GED exam, or a combination of the two exams.

Candidates must create an account at [hiset.org](https://hiset.org) and/or [ged.com](https://ged.com) to schedule their testing appointments and see their subtest scores. If a candidate chooses to combine scores from both exams, the combined subject scores will be available after the student completes all their testing, and the transcript is generated at [www.diplomasender.com](https://www.diplomasender.com).

Last fall, the HiSET exam was acquired by a new company, PSI. All HiSET testers must create a myHiSET Account at [hiset.org](https://hiset.org). If you previously created an account with ETS, use the same email address and last name to ensure that all your data (including test scores) is transferred.

**NEW! Effective February 6, 2023, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will pay for a candidate's first HiSET® test in each subject, plus two retakes per subject.** When scheduling your HiSET® test at an official test center or at home, enter the promo code **MAHSET** during checkout.

**GED Testing is also FREE for Massachusetts residents.** When scheduling a subject test at a Test Center for the first time, use the voucher code: **MAFREEGED**. For a retest to be taken at a GED test center, use the voucher code: **MARETAKE**.

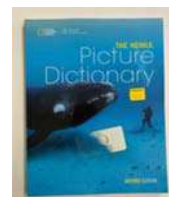
AAEC is an approved Test Center. We offer testing appointments for the HiSET on paper, HiSET on Computer, and GED (computer only).

#### Upcoming Testing Dates:

HiSET Computer-Based Testing	HiSET Paper-Based Testing Dates GED Computer Based Testing	GED Computer Testing
(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)	(Friday evenings beginning @ 5:00pm Saturday mornings beginning @ 8:00am)	(Thursday afternoons @ 12:30pm)
<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>March 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <b>Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and March 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>February 16<sup>th</sup></b> <b>March 16<sup>th</sup></b>
One subject test may be scheduled.	One or more tests may be scheduled, depending on appointment availability.	Math, Science, or Social Studies may be scheduled.

**Have questions? Talk to our HSE Testing Specialist, Denise, or one of our HSE staff members.**

## REWARD PROGRAM



**The Reward Center will be open on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am — 12:30 pm.**

The Reward Center is located outside Room 3 on the first floor. Classes will visit the center at specific times. Please wait to visit the center with your classmates.

If you plan to redeem your points, please bring your updated statement with you.

You can redeem your earned points now or continue to accumulate them for a bigger reward later.

Reward Points are only valid for the 2022-2023 school year. Reward Points are non-transferable. You cannot give your Reward Points to another student. Remember to redeem your points before the end of the school year or before leaving the program.

If you have questions about your Reward Program statement or the Reward Center, please see Olga.



## GOALS

Remember to report any goals you have achieved for the month to your teacher to receive your Reward Points!

Did you...

- start working, get a job?
- get a pay raise or a promotion at your job ?
- attend a community event/concert?
- pass one of the HSE tests?
- complete your Help Your Child with Homework journal?
- pass the citizenship exam?

Also, you receive points for :

- the time you spend on IXL, GED Flash, Aztec
- outstanding attendance
- taking a school leadership role

and many other activities. See the AAEC goal sheet.

**Earn points. Get Rewards.**

AAEC - Reward Program 2022-23

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYMENT		Pts.
EM1	Create a resume	5
EM2	Update resume	3
EM3	Become a member of MA One-Stop Career Center	4
EM4	Apply for a job	3
EM5	Go on an interview	3
EM6	Get a job	5
EM7	Meet new job requirements	4
EM8	Increase earnings	3

EDUCATION		Pts.
ED1	Pass a HSE test section	5
ED2	Enter LINKS or transition to college	5
ED3	Enroll in college	5
ED4	Enter/Complete Occupational Training	5
ED5	Get the US equivalency of education abroad (CED - Center for Educational Documentation)	5
ED6	HSE MAPT or ESOL BEST Plus / TABE Class E	2

CIVIC PARTICIPATION		Pts.
CP1	Apply for health insurance	3
CP2	Get and use a library card	3
CP3	Get a learner's permit	3
CP4	Get a driver's license	3
CP5	Open a bank account	3
CP6	Buy a house or a condo	10
CP7	File application for Legal Permanent Residence	10
CP8	Get social security number/card	5
CP9	Get work authorization permit	5
CP10	File application for Citizenship/ Pass citizenship exam	10
CP11	Register to Vote	3
CP12	Vote in an election	5
CP13	Help child with homework for 1 months	4
CP14	Participate in activities at child's school	2
CP15	Volunteer at a community organization	2
CP16	Participate in community activities	2
CP17	Learn about and use community organization	2
CP18	Attend first time home buyer seminar	3
CP19	Start a business	8
Outstanding Attendance (one month)		5
Help with Recycling at AAEC(one week)		2
Take a school leadership role		3
Represent class at the monthly advisory mtg.		2

AAEC - Reward Program 2022-23

## CITIZENSHIP CORNER

### Should I Consider U.S. Citizenship?

Many lawful permanent residents, or Green Card holders, are interested in becoming U.S. citizens. Why? According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) citizenship status offers many benefits.

Here are some important reasons to consider U.S. citizenship:

**Vote.**

Only citizens can vote in federal elections. Most states also restrict the right to vote, in most elections, to U.S. citizens.

**Serve on a jury.**

Only U.S. citizens can serve on a federal jury. Most states also restrict jury service to U.S. citizens. Serving on a jury is an important responsibility for U.S. citizens.

**Travel with a U.S. passport.**

A U.S. passport enables you to get assistance from the U.S. government when overseas, if necessary.

**Bring family members to the U.S.**

U.S. citizens generally get priority when petitioning to bring family members permanently to this country.

**Obtain citizenship for children under 18 years of age.**

In most cases, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen is automatically a U.S. citizen.

**Apply for federal jobs.**

Certain jobs with government agencies require U.S. citizenship.

**Become an elected official.**

Only citizens can run for federal office (U.S. Senate or House of Representatives) and for most state and local offices.

**Keep your residency.**

A U.S. citizen's right to remain in the United States cannot be taken away.

**Become eligible for federal grants and scholarships.**

Many financial aid grants, including college scholarships and funds given by the government for specific purposes, are available only to U.S. citizens.

**Obtain government benefits.**

Some government benefits are available only to U.S. citizens.

(Source: <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/learn-about-citizenship/should-i-consider-us-citizenship>)

### AAEC citizenship classes are starting!

<u>In-person (10 weeks)</u>	<u>Remote (9 weeks)</u>	
Thursday, February 2 <sup>nd</sup> 9:30 am-11:00 am	Tuesday, February 7 <sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm- 8:00 pm	Wednesday, February 8 <sup>th</sup> 7:15 pm – 8:45 pm



## PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

### MASSHIRE CAREER CENTER OF LOWELL

#### Home Instead Recruitment February 9, 2023 9:00—11:30 am

**RECRUITMENT:**  
Companions, Personal Care Assistants (PCA),  
& Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA)



**MASSHIRE**  
LOWELL CAREER CENTER

<b>Companions:</b>	<b>PCA's:</b>	<b>CNA's:</b>	<b>Thursday, February 9, 2023</b>
\$16/hr - Lowell	\$17/hr - Lowell	\$18/hr - Billerica	9:00 am to 11:30 am
\$16/hr - Wilmington	\$17/hr - Dracut	\$18/hr - Tewksbury	107 Merrimack Street
\$16/hr - Tyngsboro			Lowell, MA 01852
			<b>Register at:</b> <a href="http://masshirelowellcc.com/pca">masshirelowellcc.com/pca</a>

Please register at [masshirelowell.com/cpa](http://masshirelowell.com/cpa)

#### LCHC Recruitment February 15, 2023 11:00am —2:30 pm

**HIRING EVENT**

**LOWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER**

70+ Open Positions

Physicians, Nurses, Clinicians, Medical Assistants, Case Managers, Patient Advocates, Community Health Workers, Khmer Call Reps, Patient Services, Patient Accounts Reps, and more

Wednesday, February 15, 2023  
11:00 am to 2:30 pm.  
107 Merrimack Street  
Lowell, MA 01852

Learn more at:  
[masshirelowellcc.com/lchc](http://masshirelowellcc.com/lchc)

**MASSHIRE**  
LOWELL CAREER CENTER



Please register at [masshirelowell.com/lchc](http://masshirelowell.com/lchc)

#### FREE TRAINING

### CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT

#### INTERESTED?

Call Caitlyn at (978) 805-4731  
or go to:  
[masshirelowellcc.com/nursing](http://masshirelowellcc.com/nursing)



#### ELIGIBILITY

- Must have H.S diploma or GED
- Must pass a literacy exam
- Criminal background check
- Unemployed or underemployed



### PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

[masshirelowell.com/pharmacy](http://masshirelowell.com/pharmacy)



### AUTO TECHNICIAN

[masshirelowell.com/auto](http://masshirelowell.com/auto)



### PLUMBING

[masshirelowell.com/plumber](http://masshirelowell.com/plumber)

#### Schedule of Abisi Adult Education Advisors Days.

**Margie Miller**

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

8:30 am—12:30 pm

**Cindy Taft**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

8:00 am—1:00 pm

**Martha McQuaide**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

9:00 am—1:00 pm

## CTI—COMMUNITY TEAMWORK



# FREE TAX RETURN PREPARATION

**Community Teamwork Inc**  
IRS VITA Program - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

## Three Filing Options

(February 1st 2023 through April 8th 2023)

### Online Visit

[www.getyourrefund.org/cti](http://www.getyourrefund.org/cti)

### Drop Off

Monday - Thursday  
10am-5pm  
OR  
Saturday  
9am-1pm

### In Person

Schedule an  
appointment by  
calling (978)735-6748  
or (978)735-5589

**For Drop Off** - You will need to pick up an intake and instruction packet  
ahead of time at **17 Kirk Street**

1. Pick up your intake and instructions packet.
2. Complete the intake package with all forms that need to be filled out  
(don't forget to sign)
3. Make copies of your documents
4. Drop off your completed packet and copies at **165 Merrimack Street**

## Questions?

Call, Email or Visit Our Website

[www.commteam.org/vita](http://www.commteam.org/vita)

Eric Rosario:  
(978)735-6748

[erosario@commteam.org](mailto:erosario@commteam.org)

Jackyie Gonzalez:  
(978)735-5589

[jgonzalez@commteam.org](mailto:jgonzalez@commteam.org)

## For More Info



• MA Tax Deadline is April 18, 2023.

• Federal Tax Deadline is April 18, 2023.



## LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

[www.lowell.k12.ma.us](http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us)



**Preschool Registration 2023-2024**

**February 1 - April 24**  
**Register Online**  
[www.lowell.k12.ma.us/preschoolregistration](http://www.lowell.k12.ma.us/preschoolregistration)  
**OR**  
at the Family Resource Center  
151 Merrimack St.

- Social Skills
- Language & Literacy Development
- Explore Math, Science & Social Studies

**Questions?**  
Laurie Carney  
[lauriecarney@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:lauriecarney@lowell.k12.ma.us)  
978-446-7000  
Laura Valdez  
[lvaldez@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:lvaldez@lowell.k12.ma.us)  
978-674-2065

**Children must be 4 by Sept. 1**  
**Transportation not provided**  
**Full-day offered at Bartlett, Cardinal, Greenhalge & Murkland only**

**Information on Kindergarten Registration Coming Soon**



*Lowell High School*  
**GRADE 8 OPEN HOUSE**

**MARCH 23, 2023, 5-7 PM**  
**FRESHMAN ACADEMY**  
**40 PAIGE STREET, LOWELL**

Join us for guided tours; meet LHS Staff, and learn more about:

- Academic Programs
- LHS Athletics
- Student Activities & Clubs
- Early College Opportunities

Use this link to pre-register today.

## POLLARD MEMORIAL LIBRARY

401 Merrimack St. Lowell, MA 01852

978-674-1529 [www.lowelllibrary.org](http://www.lowelllibrary.org)



**Winter Reading Challenge 2023**

**January 23—March 11**

For Children Grade 5 and Younger\*

Sign up and track your progress online via Beanstack  
(<https://lowelllibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>) or contact  
the Children's Department at 978-674-1529.

## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

[www.lbgc.org](http://www.lbgc.org)



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF GREATER LOWELL

**2022-2023 AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Serving Youth 8-18**  
**\$30 for youth 8-12**  
**\$5 for youth 13-18**  
**Apply Online or**  
**In-Person**

**Mondays-Fridays**  
**2PM-6PM**  
**Teen nights:**  
**Tuesdays-Thursdays**  
**2PM-8PM**

Activities offered: Life skill activities, STEM programs, Arts & Education, Sports & Fitness, Field Trips, and more

Contact: 978-866-9391 [membership@lbgc.org](mailto:membership@lbgc.org)





## FREE Citizenship Assistance

February 16th at the Center for Hope and Healing.

**By appointment only!**



Call or email for an appointment: 617-350-5480 ext. 200  
[citizenship@miracoalition.org](mailto:citizenship@miracoalition.org) [www.miracoalition.org/citizenship](http://www.miracoalition.org/citizenship)



### LOWELL WINTERFEST 2023

FEBRUARY 17 AND 18

Enjoy a variety of food vendors, experience music of many genres, shop the Arts Market, and of course- check out the Soup Competition!

<https://www.lowellwinterfest.com/>

## Lowell Kids Week 2023

**February 18 – February 25**

Family activities are scheduled throughout the week!

The schedule is posted on [www.lowellkidsweek.org](http://www.lowellkidsweek.org)

Event coordinator: Nadia Peattie  
[nadia\\_peattie@nps.gov](mailto:nadia_peattie@nps.gov)



## Indoor Winter Mobile Markets

Purchase wholesome, locally grown produce in the City of Lowell

University Crossing Atrium at UMass Lowell \*

220 Pawtucket Street, Lowell

Monthly on Wednesdays from 2pm – 4pm

February 15, 2023

\* Parking is available at the Pawtucket Metered Lot across from University Crossing at 219 Pawtucket Street.

Mill City Grows ROOT Kitchen












19 Hall Street, Lowell

Bi-weekly on Thursdays from 2pm – 5pm

February 2 & 16, 2023

# School Activities Calendar

## February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2  CBT starting @ 12:30pm	3  Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy&Carrie's Class	4
5	6  Welcome New Students	7	8	9	10  Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy&Carrie's Class   PBT starting @ 5:00pm   CBT starting @ 5:00pm	11   PBT starting @ 8:00am   CBT starting @ 8:00am
12	13	14 	15  MassHire Career Center Presentation	16   CBT starting @ 12:30pm	17  Conversation Class 9:30 - 11:30 Daisy&Carrie's Class	18
19	20 	21	22	23	24	25
Mid-Winter Vacation Week      No School						
26	27	28  Reward Center Open				