

Lexington Public Schools

Land Acknowledgement

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The Big Backyard Program would like to acknowledge that our schools and their natural surroundings are on the traditional homelands of the Massachusett, Agawam, and Pawtucket nations. (Within the Massachusett nation, there were multiple bands, one of which is the [Ponkapoag](#), a tribe that still exists today).

We owe gratitude to the Indigenous Peoples of Massachusetts, who respected, cared for, and protected the land for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans and to Indigenous Peoples who continue these traditions today. We can learn from their experience and knowledge and find ways we can all be better protectors of the air, water, soil, plants, and animals around us.

The Big Backyard Program is examining ways our curriculum and instruction can be more inclusive, respectful, and truthful to all people, including the Indigenous Peoples, past and present. During Big Backyard explorations, students are encouraged to connect to their natural

surroundings, consider what the Earth provides us, and think of ways we can be giving to the Earth in return.