



Lawrence Child Care Grand Opening

Hundreds of Lawrence kids will be greeted each day by bright, modern preschool and after school classrooms at the Lawrence YMCA, unveiled in a ceremony June 14th. Deputy Commissioner for Administration and Finance/CFO for the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) Bill Concannon joined YMCA officials for the celebration and ribbon cutting for the new facility, made possible in part thanks to an Early Education and Out of School Time (EEOST) Grant of \$800,000 from the EEC. Four-year-old Aiden Reyes opened the event with the [Pledge of Allegiance](#). Theresa Jordan, Director of Children's Facilities Finance for the Children's Investment Fund also spoke at the event. The Children's Investment Fund partnered with the EEC to administer the grant.

The classrooms will serve up to 230 children in a secure, NAYEC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accredited preschool program as well as an afterschool program. Preschool rooms on the second floor are designed for learning and connected to a large common space, giving teachers the freedom to collaborate and offer special programs. The ground floor is home to the afterschool program, which is connected to the Lawrence Music Clubhouse and other multipurpose rooms, giving children the opportunity to explore interests, make new friends, and build self-confidence.

"The YMCA has a proud history of serving families in Lawrence. With this renovation and expansion, we have an unprecedented opportunity to improve and expand our services and influence the health and well-being of current and future generations of the City," said Merrimack Valley YMCA President Gary Morelli.

The new classrooms are just the first phase of a planned \$5.2 million renovation and expansion of the Lawrence YMCA, which is being funded by the HERE FOR GOOD Capital Campaign. For more information on the project or to make a donation, please visit our [web site](#).

