
Planning for 2020-21

School Committee
May 26, 2020

CDC COVID-19 Considerations for Schools

Guiding Principles to Keep in Mind

The more people a student or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases in school settings as follows:

- **Lowest Risk:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.
- **More Risk:** Small, in-person classes, activities, and events. Groups of students stay together and with the same teacher throughout/across school days and groups do not mix. Students remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures, or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).
- **Highest Risk:** Full sized, in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.

Assumptions

- We will follow federal, state, and local guidelines when deciding what plan or parts of several plans will be implemented in September 2020.
- This includes
 - Health screenings
 - Increased cleaning in schools
 - Masks/face coverings for all adults and children
 - Physical distancing
 - Increased hand washing

Planning Process with District Educators, part 1

- Solicited volunteers →
 - 43 teachers, administrators, and staff joined the 2020-21 planning group
- Meeting #1, May 8
 - Assigned articles about COVID-19 and school re-opening ideas, plans, guidelines
- Meeting #2, May 15
 - Brainstorm in breakout groups → 3 options

Option 1: Traditional Opening in September

If all students, teachers, and staff return to school as we have in the past,

- Can students start with last year's teachers to have closure?
- How do we focus the first days/weeks on building community and social/emotional well-being?
- How do we ensure a safe physical environment for all children and adults?
- How do we address the trauma of the school closure and pandemic?

Option 2: Hybrid Opening (remote and in-person)

If all only 33-50% of students can attend school at one time,

- How do we ensure a safe physical environment for all children and adults?
- How do we design a schedule that brings students to school in smaller groups?
 - Morning/afternoon sessions?
 - Alternating days or weeks?
- Who provides remote learning? Who provides in-person learning?

Option 3: Remote Learning for All

If all students continue remote learning,

- How do we build relationships between teachers and students in a virtual learning environment?
- Can we have optional small group sessions outside to meet teachers in person (weather permitting) in September?
- How do we improve remote learning in a way that advances learning, increases engagement, and streamlines communication with families and caregivers?

Planning Process with District Educators, part 2

- Central office administrators and principals draft plans for 3 possible scenarios using brainstorm ideas
 1. Traditional opening, all students
 2. Hybrid opening, combining in-person and remote learning
 3. Remote learning, all students
- Meeting #3, May 29
 - Breakout groups review and give feedback on draft plans

Planning Process with District Educators, part 2

- Central office administrators and principals use feedback to finalize draft plans
- **Draft plans are presented to School Committee at their meeting on June 9**
 - **This meeting will be a public forum to get input and feedback from the community.**