

Fall 2020 FULL School Return Feasibility Update

Medway Public Schools
Community Forum; July 23, 2020



Our Goals

- To provide our *Medway* families with updates on:
 - the feasibility study that the *Medway Public Schools* conducted regarding a full return in Fall 2020
 - school return next steps' decisions and timelines
- Tonight we will highlight our process and road to decision making

But First...

- ★ We hope that you and those in your circles are well. You have been in our thoughts!
- ★ We miss our students and families and can't wait for their safe return to their schools.
- ★ We know that this has been challenging for our community, our Commonwealth, and our nation.
- ★ We know that uncertainty is inevitable, and also so unsettling.
- ★ We are committed to making the best decisions with the information that we have available to us...each step of the way.

Background



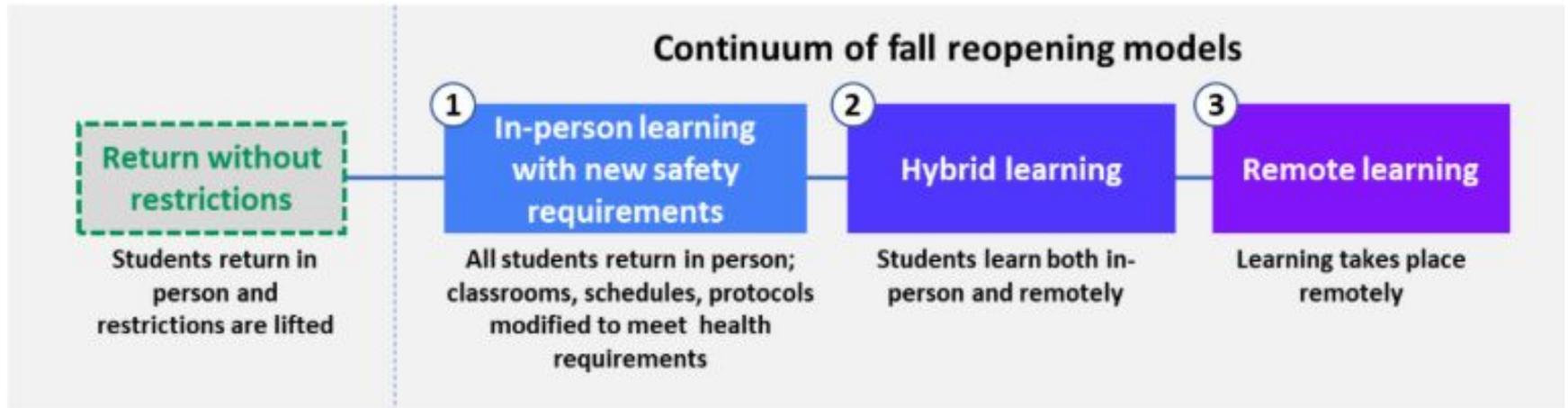
School Return Planning to Date

- **May 26, 2020:** District Reopening Task Force Convenes
- **Week of June 21, 2020:** Building Based Task Forces Convene
- **June 25, 2020:** [Initial Fall Reopening Guidance](#) Released by Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)
 - 3 models for reopening (remote, hybrid, full return)
 - Focus first on full return through a feasibility study
 - 3-6 ft. physical distance
 - *“Students in grade 2 and above are required to wear a mask/face covering. Students in kindergarten and grade 1 should be strongly encouraged to wear a mask/face covering”.*
 - “Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.”
 - “Cohorting” of students where possible

Considerations and Disclaimers

- **School Calendar:** may change due to leniencies at the **state level** regarding required # of instructional days / hours - strong possibility that school will not begin prior to Labor Day
- **Health, Safety, and Well-Being:** Top priority for all students, faculty, and staff
- **Nimble and Responsive:** Still many unknowns - including the local trajectory of the illness and its impact
- **State Guidance Received and Expected:**
 - Transportation (R)
 - Stop and Start Protocols (R)
 - Vocational Schools (E)
 - Music, Physical Education, Athletics (E)
 - Facilities and Ventilation (R)
 - Extra-Curricular (E)
 - Initial Guidance ®
 - Special Education Guidance (R)

Definitions: Three Student Learning Models



Source: DESE Commissioner's Initial Fall Reopening Guidance, June 25, 2020

Our North Star: MPS Core values

Active, Continuous Learning...
Equity and Empowerment...
Relationships Characterized by Trust and Mutual
Respect...
Comprehensive Wellness...
For ALL!

Reopening Planning Process

A district Task Force convened and engaged in a phased approach to reopening:

- ❑ **Phase I:** Established return to school building protocols for staff who had to close out the 2019-2020 school year (administrators, nurses, and school counselors)
- ❑ **Phase II:** Established protocols for summer programming for Community Education, Special Education, and Summer Kindergarten
- ❑ **Phase III:** Partnered with our Medway Federation of Teachers to develop school based advisories as we awaited initial guidelines from state
- ❑ **Phase IV:** Conducted a full return to school feasibility study (tonight's focus)

Full School Return Feasibility Study Process

In school based teams, task force members engaged in an examination of the following:

- Physical distancing
 - Classroom
 - Cafeteria
- Student cohorting
- Daily schedule
- Student transitions
 - Arrival, dismissal, within the school day
- Health and Safety Protocols

Fall 2020 Full School Return Building Based Feasibility Study Findings



McGovern Elementary School

- Physical distancing
 - Average of 4' physical distancing in classrooms for in person learning; 6' hybrid
 - 6' physical distancing in the cafeteria and eating spaces
- Student Cohorting
 - Students will remain with their classroom throughout the day to the extent feasible; same 2 classes will eat lunch together, recess will be scheduled individually
- Daily Schedule
 - Follow developed student schedule
- Student Transitions
 - Push/pull out model for allied arts, special education, and EL services
 - Limit transitions throughout the day; create scheduled bathroom breaks and traffic patterns that include one way hallways
 - Consider staggered arrival and dismissal
- Health and Safety
 - All students, faculty and staff wear masks; built in mask breaks; handwashing schedule and protocols for student and staff safety
 - Individual materials/supplies, to the extent possible
 - Medical Waiting Room
 - Cleaning and disinfecting

Burke-Memorial Elementary School

- Physical distancing
 - Classroom: Average distancing 4' when all students return; 6' hybrid
 - Cafeteria: Individual seats 6' apart; two consistent cohorts to each eating space
- Student cohorting
 - Students will remain with their classroom throughout the day to the extent feasible
 - Recess will be scheduled individually
- Daily Schedule:
 - Typical student schedule with Allied Arts and support as push-in
- Student transitions
 - Arrival, dismissal: adjusted schedules and routines; developing structures and procedures to ensure physical distancing
 - Implementation of specific routines and pathways
- Health and Safety Protocols
 - Mask wearing for all in building throughout the day with mask breaks
 - Hand cleaning schedules and protocols for student and staff safety
 - Medical Waiting Room

Medway Middle School

- Physical distancing
 - Minimum 3' physical distancing in classrooms for in person learning; 6' in hybrid model
 - 6' physical distancing in the cafeteria and eating spaces
- Student cohorting
 - Cohort groups will be developed; students will remain with cohort to the extent feasible during the school day
- Daily schedule
 - Adjusted schedule to limit transitions
 - Schedule will allow us to transition among in person, hybrid, and remote, as needed
- Student transitions
 - Traffic patterns that include one way hallways and stairways
 - Staggered arrival and dismissal
- Health and safety protocols
 - Masks for all students, faculty, and staff; hand sanitizing and mask breaks built into the day¹⁴
 - Medical Waiting Room

Medway High School

- Physical distancing
 - Minimum 3' physical distancing in classrooms for in person learning; 6' in hybrid model
 - 6' physical distancing in the cafeteria and eating spaces
- Student cohorting
 - Maintain student course selections, including electives and AP courses
 - Maintain Freshman Academy model
- Daily schedule
 - Adjusted schedule to limit transitions (fewer courses per day and additional lunch block)
 - Schedule will allow us to transition among in person, hybrid, and remote, as needed
- Student transitions
 - Traffic patterns that include one way hallways and stairways
 - Staggered arrival and dismissal
- Health and safety protocols
 - Masks for all students, faculty, and staff; hand sanitizing and mask breaks built into the day¹⁵
 - Medical Waiting Room

Next Steps



For Families

- **Family Surveys:**
 - *Student learning model:* Please complete one for each child. Non-binding decision about which student learning model you believe to be most supportive of your child. (due July 29)
 - *Transportation:* Please complete one for each child. Will you be requiring yellow bus transportation for the 2020-2021 school year? (Survey sent on July 22, 2020; (due July 29)

Timeline: Action Items

- **Week of July 20, 2020:** Meetings with building based faculty and staff and families
- **By Friday, July 24:** Families receive *School Transportation and Student Learning Model Preference Surveys*; faculty and staff receive school reopening survey (**non-binding; due by July 29**)
- **Friday, July 31:** Preliminary Reopening Plan summary due to DESE
 - *Part I asks for the district's contact information, key findings from the district's feasibility study on in-person learning, and the district's preliminary thinking about which of the three reopening models it may use to open the school year this fall.*
 - *Part II asks the district to provide a brief description of each of the three reopening models districts have been asked to develop: 1) in-person learning with new safety requirements, 2) hybrid learning, and 3) remote learning. Each model must include support for High Needs students as 18 defined here.*

Timeline: Action Items

- **Weeks of August 3 and 10, 2020:** Collate family and faculty and staff feedback; develop *Final MPS School Return Plan* for Fall 2020
- **Week of August 10, 2020:** *Final MPS School Return Plan* Due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **August 13, 2020:** MPS School Committee Vote on *Final MPS School Return Plan*
- **August 14, 2020:** Publication of *Final MPS School Return Plan* shared with community; publication of *Final MPS School Return Survey: Student Commitment*
- **Due by August 17, 2020:** *Final MPS School Return Survey: Student Commitment*

Resources

- [DESE Initial Fall Reopening Guidance](#)
- [DESE Fall 2020 Special Education Guidance](#)
- [DESE Fall 2020 School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [DESE Protocols for Responding to COVID19 Scenarios](#)
- [DESE Return-to-School Working Group webpage](#)
- [DESE Fall Reopening Transportation Guidance](#)
- [DESE Fall Reopening Facilities and Operations' Guidance](#)

Building Based Follow-up Opportunities

McGovern School: Tuesday, July 28; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Burke-Memorial School: Monday, July 27; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Medway Middle School: Thursday, July 30; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Medway High School: Wednesday, July 29; 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Questions?

Thank you!

