

# School Reopening Update and Next Steps

School Committee Meeting, November 12, 2020



# Tonight's Goal

Provide context, progress, and future plans to bring more students back to school more fully.



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# With Gratitude!

We are still here!



# A focus on health and safety...

- We have continued to prioritize health and safety
- We should continue to expect there to be positive cases within our schools
- For most staff, the structure of our schools does not create close contacts with students, or other staff
- Continue to practice, with vigilance, the safety measures that have been put into place that include mask-wearing, whether in contact with students, or colleagues.
- Individuals asked to maintain a log of potential close contacts (student and adults). This information will be helpful should we need to determine close contacts. The MA DPH continues to define close contact as 15 or more consecutive minutes within six feet of an infected individual.

**Focus to ensure a maximum number of in person learning days!**



# Grade-level Enrollment

Integrated Preschool: 24

K: 143 (18 Virtual School)

1: 148 (21 Virtual School)

2: 146 (19 Virtual School)

3: 148 (18 Virtual School)

4: 149 (23 Virtual School)

5: 168 (22 Virtual School)

6: 162 (17 Virtual School)

7: 178 (17 Virtual School)

8: 175 (11 Virtual School)

9: 144 (7 Virtual School)

10: 160 (9 Virtual School)

11: 177 (12 Virtual School)

12: 155 (7 Virtual School)



# A Look Back...September, 2020

At the start of the school year...

- All PK-2 Hybrid Students attend school M, T, Th, F
- Grade 3-12 Hybrid Students attend school either M, T OR Th, F
- Grade 3-12 Cohort C students - some with identified learning needs, social and emotional needs, English Learner needs attend school M, T, Th, F
- Grade K-12 Virtual School (fully remote): ~10% of our total population



# Integrated Preschool to Grade 2

## Recent Changes

- All PK-2 Hybrid Students began attending in person learning for a ½ day on Wednesdays (11/4/2020)

## Future Plans

- Migrate to full days on Wednesdays, as soon as possible



# Grades 3 and 4

## Recent Changes

- All Cohort C eligible students invited to return to in person learning 4 days each week
- Synchronous Learning Pilot Underway

## Future Plans

- Grade 3 students will join model of PK-2 and attend school 4 ½ in person days each week, November 16, 2020
- Grade 4 students will join model of PK-2 and attend school 4 ½ in person days each week. Target date: As soon as possible





# Grade 5

## Recent Changes

- All Cohort C eligible students invited to return to in person learning 4 days each week
- Synchronous Learning Pilot Underway

## Future Plans

- Exploring opening two additional classrooms in grade 5 to accommodate a full return of all grade 5 students. Target date:  
As soon as possible



# Grades 6-8

## Recent Changes

- All Cohort C eligible students invited to return to in person learning 4 days each week
- Synchronous Learning Pilot Underway

## Future Plans

- Exploring schedule change to provide students with daily interactions of all subjects. Target date: mid-November



# Grades 9-12

## Recent Changes

- All Cohort C eligible students invited to return to in person learning 4 days each week
- Synchronous Learning Pilot Underway

## Future Plans

- Exploring targeted invitations for struggling students to return to in person learning 4 days each week in December
- Exploring full return of all students for start of second semester



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# Barriers to a Full Return



# Barriers to Fuller Return

- Current trajectory of virus
- Adoption of 6' of physical distancing
- Transportation
- COVID-19 Testing: lack of regular testing, speed of receiving results

# Physical Distancing

- Currently adhering to 6' of physical distancing in all school spaces
- Creation of additional classrooms in K-2 (and soon 3-5) AND hiring of additional teachers have allowed us to maintain this distance
- Grades 6-12 unable to return fully at this level of distancing

# Transportation

- 66% of families require transportation
- Capacity on buses is limited to about 33%
- Final Survey conducted to ensure understanding of need
- Options:
  - Double runs
  - Additional buses

# Regular Testing: Understanding our Vulnerabilities

## Faculty and Staff

- Baseline testing completed with ~50% of our staff on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (resulted in 4 positive cases)
- Regular testing can be done at no cost to staff and is voluntary. We will need at least 90% of faculty and staff to participate to gain surveillance benefit
- Gaining staff interest currently

## Students:

- Bi-modal interest in testing from our community survey, will conduct another webinar (11/30) to answer questions and assess interest based on grade level
- DESE providing Rapid Testing potential through Abbott Labs BinaxNow - Antigen Test. The concern is that this test is not definitive, and individuals would need to also have a PCR test





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# Planning for a More Full Return

If we don't have a plan for return, we will never return. We have a responsibility to complete this planning.



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# Questions?

