

What We Know

Health & Safety is First Priority

- Current goal is develop a plan to return to in-person learning while meeting health and safety guidelines.
- Health & Safety Guidelines have been developed by state level medical experts endorsed by MA Pediatricians
- It weighs the health and safety impacts on students for both in-person and remote learning models

Continue to plan for a Hybrid of In-Person and full Remote Learning scenarios

Planned Improvements Remote Learning in Fall of 2020

- Structure
- Schedule
- Real-time instruction and coursework
- Accountability

DESE will make a determination on compulsory attendance requirements

- Parents May Have the Option to Keep Students Home
- Depending on the determination there may be statewide and/or regional offering for remote learning

We Won't Have Final Guidance Until Late July

- Significant Planning & Implementation Will Likely Take Place Through Mid-August

● *Everything is subject to change* ●

Feasibility of In-Person Learning

What we are studying:

- Physical space capacity when meeting social distance requirements
 - Can we physically fit all students back in the schools?
- Cost estimate of implementing in-person learning
 - Facility reorganization
 - Additional Staffing Needs (Faculty, Support Staff, Custodial)
 - Technology Needs
 - Transportation
 - Available Staffing
 - Professional Development/Training
- Program impacts of implementing in-person learning
 - Student Movement
 - Course offerings
 - Student Activities



Current DESE Guidelines

- Social Distance Students
 - 6 feet or more if possible
 - 3 feet minimum
 - Desks facing forward
- Minimize movement and intermingling of students
 - Elem/MS in classroom for duration of day - lunch in room
 - HS organize into teams/cohorts - lunch in room
 - Potential for some movement – guidance anticipated mid-July
 - Restrictions on electives that are deemed high risk
- All students grade 2-12 required to wear masks
 - Students K-1 strongly encouraged to wear masks
 - Families to provide masks
 - Mask breaks to be provided
- All staff required to wear masks
 - Minimize movement – additional guidance anticipate mid-July



Elementary

		Classroom Square Footage Needed					
		<i>Majority of Classrooms between 880 - 950 sq. ft.</i>					
		Class size	3 FEET	4 FEET	4.5 FEET	5 FEET	6 FEET
Essex	GRADE K	16	484	676	784	900	1296
	GRADE 1	21	635	887	1029	1181	1701
	GRADE 2	17	514	718	833	956	1377
	GRADE 3	20	605	845	980	1125	1620
	GRADE 4	15.5	469	655	760	872	1256
	GRADE 5	18	545	761	882	1013	1458
Memorial	GRADE K	15.5	469	655	760	872	1256
	GRADE 1	14.7	445	621	720	827	1191
	GRADE 2	14	424	592	686	788	1134
	GRADE 3	15.3	463	646	750	861	1239
	GRADE 4	21	635	887	1029	1181	1701
	GRADE 5	22.5	681	951	1103	1266	1823

- EES & Memorial can accommodate all students for in-person instruction with 4.5 feet social distancing.
- Given current class sizes, students can be assigned to a single classroom section and teacher.
- Classroom organization and alternative spaces may need to be reconfigured to match larger classes to rooms with greater square footage. Ex. Utilizing the art room or library / Grade 5 in K rooms
- This model is enrollment dependent (1) Will not be able to add school choice (2) Unanticipated surge in enrollment could create space concerns

Middle School

		Classroom Square Footage Needed <i>15 classrooms avg. 750 sq. ft.</i>					
		Class size	3 FEET	4 FEET	4.5 FEET	5 FEET	6 FEET
Middle A	Grade 6	22	666	930	1078	1238	1782
	Grade 7	27	817	1141	1323	1519	2187
	Grade 8	24	726	1014	1176	1350	1944
Middle B	Grade 6	11	333	465	539	619	891
	Grade 7	13.5	408	570	662	759	1094
	Grade 8	12	363	507	588	675	972

The MS has a space problem

Under Middle A Model

- Can accommodate all 6th/8th grade students in traditional configuration at 3ft SD
- Grade 7 would need to be subdivided into A/B groups and require alternate classrooms (5)

Under Middle B Model

- Can accommodate all students using 4.5 SD and alternative spaces
- All grade levels would need to be subdivided into A/B groups and require creation of alternative spaces
 - Class Cohorts (11-14) up to 15 classroom spaces from common areas (café, library, gym, etc.)
 - Modular Classrooms to expand space - est. \$250K per unit / long lead time
 - Large Grade Level Groups approx. 30-50 housed in gym, café, auditorium (if guidance allows)
- Will likely require additional staff (5-10) depending on configuration

High School

		Classroom Square Footage Needed <i>26 classrooms avg. 750 sq. ft.</i>					
		Class size	3 FEET	4 FEET	4.5 FEET	5 FEET	6 FEET
HS	Class Size	22	666	930	1078	1238	1782
	Class Size	20	605	845	980	1125	1620
	Class Size	18	545	761	882	1013	1458

- Can physically accommodate all students at 3' SD
- Significant impact to programs and student access to course work
- HS would need to heterogeneously group students (no leveling) into cohorts that do not change classes throughout the day. This will require a change to the structure and content of our program.
 - Heterogeneous courses
 - Focus on teaching core subjects
 - Easier to manage at grades 9 and 10 more limitations on grades 11 and 12
 - Lack of access to specialized courses and AP program (program may need to be offered online)
 - *Lack of access to specialized art, music and other elective programs – there may be restrictions*
- If limited movement approved – potential for humanities rooms; math/FL rooms; science rooms which would reduce typical movement to three times per day

Initial Findings

- It is feasible to return to in-person instruction at the elementary level.
 - Instruction will look and feel different
 - Students will be able to be with a single class and teacher
 - Students and staff will be required to wear masks and eat lunch in room
- There are space constraints at the MHS that impact organization of in-person learning
 - Instruction at the Middle School level may require an in-house hybrid teaching
 - It is dependent on the identification and development available alternative spaces
 - It may require students to be spend a school day/week in small or large groups doing online work in school (in-house hybrid)
 - Final organization dependent on guidance and reconciling Middle and High School space needs
 - It will likely require increased staffing and available space

Initial Findings

- In-person instruction at the High School level will not allow for the current program to be implemented due to space and movement constraints.
 - Heaviest impact on Grade 11/12 access to elective courses
 - An in house or external hybrid may provide greater access to the program
- Current Estimated COVID Related Costs Under Current Scenarios

	Monthly	Annual
PPE	35,000	350000
Additional Custodial	12000	120000
Technology - Laptops	NA	75000
<i>Technology -Video</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>30750</i>
		575750
Additional Staff (5)	65000	325000
		900750
Transportation (?)		

Additional Study & Questions

Additional Study

- Impact of both Middle and High School needing to use large group spaces for alternative classrooms.
- Organization of MS class sections and use of alternative space
- Retaining Grade 6 at the elementary schools if space is available

Questions for the Committee

- Should there be a district standard for social distancing of students in classrooms?
- If we are using social distancing under 6FT should we utilize plastic barriers?
Should this be standardized district-wide.
- Is the Committee open to having two different models for the elementary and the secondary?

What We Don't Know

What additional or new limits might be placed on organization of the school day

- Class size – large groups
- Programs after-school activities
- Athletics
- Open/Closing Criteria
- Transportation Requirements

Tentative Timeline

Plan Development

- **Initial In-Person Feasibility Report Out – July 7,2020**
- **July 7th – July 21**
 - Continue to study and resolve outstanding questions and policy issues
 - Develop Draft Plan for In-Person Structure, Schedules, Procedures , Staffing and material needs
 - Process Remote Learning Feedback and incorporate into Draft Remote Learning Fall 20 Plan
- **July 22 – August 4**
 - Revise Draft Plans (In-Person & Remote) to align to updated DESE Guidance
 - Share Draft Plans with community and seek feedback via *Return to School Survey*
 - Process and Revise Draft Plans
- **August 5 – August 18**
 - Finalize Plans
 - Complete Necessary Facilities Upgrades
 - Establish Teacher Training Schedule for Remote and In-Person