

2020-2021 REOPENING UPDATE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING

AUGUST 20, 2020

PUBLIC SCHOOLS of
BROOKLINE



Presentation can be accessed at
www.brookline.k12.ma.us/reopen

Agenda

- ▶ Reopening updates
 - ▷ What we've done to date (high level)
 - ▷ What is still left to do (high level)
- ▶ Changes since 8/12 decision
- ▶ FAQ's
- ▶ Next steps

What We've Done

- ▶ Sent weekly communications to entire community (translated where necessary)
- ▶ Surveyed staff and families multiple times (May, July, August)
- ▶ Created health and safety guidelines with school nurse team in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, Advisory Panel 4, and DESE guidance
- ▶ Completed window and ventilation inventory of school buildings and classrooms
- ▶ Procured PPE (set for first 3 months and have ordered more), tents, and furniture
- ▶ Ran successful ESY, Project Discovery, STAR Academy, etc. summer programs
- ▶ Vetted and adopted a universal screener for SEL
- ▶ Provided professional development to over 700 staff participants
- ▶ Submitted preliminary and final plans to DESE

What We've Done

- ▶ Established common instructional platforms for teaching & learning
- ▶ Worked with teacher teams on defining, revising, narrowing PSB Essential Curriculum, learning expectations, and standards in preparation for return to school
- ▶ Met weekly with members of Brookline Educators Union
- ▶ Created (and continue to create) schedules at the K-8 and high school level each time we pivot to a new plan
- ▶ Responded to 100's of emails from community members
- ▶ Enlisted support of Expert Panels in four different areas and meet with them weekly
- ▶ Held Town Hall meeting for staff in collaboration with BEU
- ▶ Provided meals to students throughout summer months

What We Still Need to Do

- ▶ Memorandum of Understanding with Brookline Educators Union
- ▶ Solidify enrollment of students in RemotePlus, Remote Learning Academy, Homeschool, etc.
- ▶ Finalize staffing lists for schools (including Remote Learning Academy)
 - ▶ Begin hiring for additional staff as needed
- ▶ RemotePlus, Remote Academy, and potential Hybrid schedules (indoor and outdoor) and class placements for K-12
- ▶ Finalize list of most vulnerable students
- ▶ Continuously work on ventilation enhancements in all in all classrooms
- ▶ Work with members of school and district leadership to plan for first 10 days with staff
- ▶ Survey families for additional information (example: Technology needs)

What We Still Need to Do

- ▶ Create signage and other necessary materials for schools that encourage social distancing, provide information on entry/exit, describe appropriate hand washing, etc.
- ▶ Continue working with Expert Panels on recommendations (ex: parent engagement, testing, professional development, etc.)
- ▶ Set up classrooms with correct distancing and furniture for in-person instruction
- ▶ Make decisions around extended day
- ▶ Distribute COVID Attendance Form and Affidavits of Residency to enrolled families

RemotePlus

<i>Preparation</i>	<i>9/1</i>	<i>Staff report to begin training and professional development</i>		
	Date	In-Person (5 full days)	Hybrid	Remote (5 full days)
Phase 1	9/16**	BEEP Kindergarten Most vulnerable 1-12	N/A	All remaining 1-12 students
Phase 2	TBD, Ongoing	BEEP Kindergarten Most vulnerable 1-12	Grades 1-12*	Remote Learning Academy

*Students in Grades 1-12 will enter the hybrid learning model, grade by grade, as health and safety benchmarks are met. Students in the youngest grade levels will be prioritized.

**Tentative start date

Changes Since August 12

Remote Learning Academy (RLA)

- ▶ Commitment required through the end of the first quarter (change from Dec. 31 date)
- ▶ District academy will run K-8 (change from K-12)
 - ▷ BHS will run own 9-12 remote model
 - ▷ More information for BHS families and staff on 8/20/20

Selection of FAQ's

FAQ's

What are the school hours for RemotePlus, Remote Learning Academy, and the Hybrid model (when/if transition occurs)

- ▶ School hours for all students will remain roughly the same as in previous years (full day of school)
- ▶ Includes collaboration time for teachers

Will students eat lunch at school?

- ▶ Lunch will be eaten at school when students are in-person.

What staff will be selected for the Remote Learning Academy?

- ▶ Staff decisions will be made pending enrollment of students.
- ▶ Staff will include: teachers, paraprofessionals, support-staff, etc.

FAQ's

Can Grade 1 be brought back full in-person instead of hybrid when building ventilation is complete?

- ▶ Not feasible due to space, staff, and other logistical challenges.
- ▶ Space and staffing needs:
 - ▷ Need to re-distribute classes due to 6ft social distance requirements for K (current) and 1 (if brought back in full)
 - ▷ When re-distributing, grade 1 would be taking classrooms from grades 2-8
 - ▷ These classrooms would no longer be available for when grades 2-8 transition to hybrid
 - ▷ Every additional class = additional teaching section for specialists (art, music, PE/Wellness)
 - ▷ Specialists are teaching in-person students and remote/hybrid students

GRADE K and 1: FULL IN-PERSON

School Specific Example:

- ▶ For K full in-person: 3 additional K teachers; 3 additional paraprofessionals (8 total K sections)
 - ▷ 3 additional spaces turned into K classrooms
 - ▷ K furniture for 3 additional spaces
- ▶ For grade 1 full in-person: 3 additional grade 1 teachers (8 sections)
 - ▷ 3 additional spaces turned into grade 1 classrooms
- ▶ 6 additional sections in K and 1 requires extra FTE for art, music, and PE

Total:

- ▶ Approximately 7 teachers and 3 paraprofessionals
- ▶ 6 extra spaces taken away from: specialists classrooms and/or non-grade K and 1 classrooms while other grade levels are starting remote.
- ▶ Additional furniture needs for flipped K classrooms

FAQ's

Will schools create class placements that accomodate learning pods?

- ▶ Community learning pods are not considered part of the public education program that PSB offers to its students and families.
- ▶ School leaders will not be able to consider learning pods as they are finalizing class placements.

What type of K-12 Extended Day will be available to families in each learning model configuration?

- ▶ PSB is currently looking at how to make the extended day programs work for those students who are receiving in-person education.
- ▶ BEEP extended day remains the same as previous school years

FAQ's

In the Remote Learning Academy (RLA), will there be efforts to group cohorts of students coming from the same school?

- ▶ Until we confirm student enrollment for the Remote Learning Academy, we cannot give a firm answer to this question.
- ▶ Goal of the Remote Learning Academy is to provide similar social and emotional support that children would receive in their home school.
 - ▶ Students will have the chance to interact with peers in the RLA. Examples of this could include: morning meeting/advisory, lunch groups, student clubs and activities, etc.
 - ▶ Each student will also have a Guidance Counselor who will support the social emotional wellbeing and mental health of students.
- ▶ Ongoing work with staff and advisors on how we can build community for these students.
- ▶ The decision on whether students enrolled in Remote Academy can play approved sports is up to local School Committees per DESE

FAQ's

Will the curriculum in learning models be parallel so that the transition will be mostly seamless?

- ▶ Students should be receiving a comparable curriculum experience independent of their learning environment or model.
- ▶ Remote Learning Academy teachers will deliver the same curriculum and teach to the same standards and expectations per grade level as home schools.

Is the amount of synchronous teaching more or less in the Remote Learning Academy?

- ▶ Schedule is similar and PSB anticipates students will be with their teachers around the same amount of time.

FAQ's

Can I still enroll my student in remote learning if we decide to reside outside of Brookline?

- ▶ PSB regulations continue to apply - your student must actively reside in Brookline to enroll in PSB.
- ▶ All active families will be asked to complete a affidavit of residency during September by the Office of Registration and Enrollment.
 - ▷ If a student is found not to be actually residing in the Town of Brookline, the student will need to withdraw from PSB and enroll in the school district of the city/town where they actually resides.

WHAT'S NEXT?

- ▶ Administrators retreat, Monday 8/24
- ▶ Negotiation meetings with BEU begin week of 8/17
- ▶ Staff survey -- due Friday 8/21
- ▶ Parent choice -- due Monday 8/24
- ▶ New teacher training -- 8/25 and 8/26
- ▶ Staff report: September 1
- ▶ Grade 9 Orientation: 9/15

QUESTIONS?