

PSB 2020-2021 Reopening Information for Families

The Public Schools of Brookline will begin the 2020-21 school year under the RemotePlus Model. Under this model, the majority of our students will begin the year remotely and gradually phase into in-person learning throughout the year:

First Day of School	Wednesday, September 16
School Hours	Full day, similar to the 2019-20 school year
Students beginning the year <u>In-Person</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Brookline Early Education Program (BEEP) <input type="checkbox"/> Kindergarten <input type="checkbox"/> Selected students determined by PSB as “most vulnerable”
Students beginning the year <u>Remote</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> All other students in grades 1-12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSB will bring students in grades 1-12 back to in-person learning as health and safety metrics are met. The youngest grade levels will be prioritized first. - Students in grades K-12 who do not intend to return to any in-person learning for health and safety reasons will be given the opportunity to enroll in the PSB Remote Learning Academy. - PSB School Leaders will work with staff to design predictable outdoor in-person meetups at school buildings to facilitate community, relationship building, and social-emotional wellness for all grade levels. - Teacher/cohort assignments and class schedules will be finalized by September 1. 	

Important Guidelines:

Any student or staff that is returning to in-person settings must follow these guidelines:

1. Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students and staff
2. Six (6) feet of physical distancing must be maintained by students and staff at all times
3. All required immunizations and physical examinations must be current and accurate
4. All contact information must be current and accurate
5. PSB staff will enforce other local and state COVID-19 guidelines and procedures as needed

Reopening Checklist:

More information on each task will be sent to families beginning the week of August 17.

- Complete the Reopening Form to confirm your student(s) placement.
- Receive teacher/cohort assignments and class schedules from your school
- Verify your student(s) health records with the school nurse
- Verify your student(s) contact information and permissions with the PSB Data Team
- Receive Chromebooks, internet access, and additional supporting materials, if needed
- Begin school

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

How will I know if my student identifies as “most vulnerable”?

PSB defines their “most vulnerable” as students with IEPs, designated as “high needs” on “Primary Disability/Level of Need PL3; students who cannot access due to disability-related needs; students from low-income households; students who are homeless, in foster or congregate care students; students who primarily use aided and augmentative communication; and/or students identified as English Learners and have complex and significant needs. PSB staff will contact you directly if they believe that your student(s) should be prioritized for in-person services.

When will students who begin the year remotely return to in-person settings?

As of August 14, 2020, PSB school buildings do not meet the health and safety regulations determined by local and state departments to facilitate a return for all students. The PSB operations team is working with public health experts to enhance indoor ventilation systems and modify classrooms to meet these measures. As these metrics are met, PSB will notify families and staff to begin bringing students in grades 1-12 back to in-person learning in a hybrid model. Students in the youngest grade levels will be prioritized for return.

What will remote learning look like for my student(s)?

School leaders will finalize class schedules for students in grades 1-12 in early September once each school confirms their student and staff enrollment for in-person and remote settings. It is expected that remote learning will follow the same daily schedule as previous school years. Students will experience synchronous lessons with the entire class, asynchronous instruction which will be driven by teacher provided materials, and independent work time. Student attendance and participation are required.

Unlike the extended learning model we implemented in the Spring of 2020 when the teaching and learning were primarily focused on review and extension, the district plans to return to the teaching of a new curriculum including necessary prioritizing of the most essential standards. PSB educators will continue to work collaboratively with colleagues to design learning experiences that are impactful in both remote and hybrid settings. Brookline will use its instructional and personnel resources to support teachers, students, and families.

What socio-emotional supports will PSB provide to my student(s) while they are doing remote learning?

PSB will implement universal screening for students in grades PreK-12s throughout the school year to monitor for mental health issues. Separate from the universal screening survey, an initial Back-To-School Survey will be administered before the start of this school year to secure crucial student feedback on their experiences, perceptions of the learning environment, engagement with school, and relationships. All students will also be invited to participate in predictable outdoor in-person meetups at school buildings to develop community and relationship building.

What if my student(s) do not have access to resources and materials for remote or in-person settings?

PSB will ensure that student(s) will have access to district-issued technology devices and assist with internet connectivity issues as needed. Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will be able to pick up breakfast and lunch from our cafeterias across the district and Brookline Housing Authority sites to ensure their nutritional needs are being met. Students who do not have access to masks or facial coverings in in-person settings will be provided one by the school nurse.

I do not want my students to return to in-person settings. What should I do?

PSB understands that not all families will want their student(s) returning to school buildings, even if local and state departments approve a safe return. The PSB Reopening Form will include an option to select a “remote only” learning model for their student(s). Selecting this option will enroll your student in the Remote Learning Academy and confirm their remote only placement in 2020-21.

What happens if there is a case of COVID-19 in my student’s classroom/school?

PSB School Health Services will be working in conjunction with the Brookline Health Department in order to monitor illness, potential COVID-19 cases as well as any positive cases. You will be notified if your student(s) is directly affected. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19, and/or were close contacts of a positive case cannot return to school until they have self-quarantined for 14 days and/or provide evidence of a negative test. Schools may be closed under the discretion of the Brookline Health Department and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

How will I be notified of updates and changes to our reopening plan?

All information will be communicated by email and posted on the PSB reopening website (www.brookline.k12.ma.us/reopen).