

August 21, 2020

Dear Boston Public Schools Families:

Thank you for your continued patience and support. With your help, we have planned throughout the summer for a safe and successful start to the school year. Throughout the fall, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) will continue to follow evolving public health guidance and will respect family choice as we welcome students back to school.

Our school year will start remotely for grades K0-12 on Monday, September 21. All school-based staff will return to school beginning Tuesday, September 8, for professional development and to begin reaching out and welcoming our students and families.

I and Mayor Walsh have listened to and consulted with public health experts, teachers and staff, city officials, and gathered feedback from thousands of community members in dozens of virtual meetings. With this input, BPS has decided that all students will begin the school year learning remotely. We will responsibly and safely phase into the hybrid model of learning starting Thursday, October 1. The hybrid model allows students to learn in person two days a week and learn remotely three days a week. **Families with students who have not opted in to the hybrid model, and plan to learn remotely five days a week, will not lose their spot.**

After all students begin remote learning on September 21, the phases for rolling into in-person learning will begin no sooner than the dates listed below. The two dates represent the planned different first days for students in Group A and Group B. More information about these assignments will be shared in the coming weeks.

- **Thursday, October 1:** Students with the highest needs
- **Thursday, October 15 (B) & Monday, October 19 (A):** Grades K0, K1, K2
- **Thursday, October 22 (B) & Monday, October 26 (A):** Grades 1 - 3
- **Thursday, November 5 (B) & Monday, November 9 (A):** Grades 4 - 8 (secondary schools start grades 6 - 8)
- **Monday, November 16 (A) & Thursday, November 19 (B):** Grades 9 - 12

We understand that family circumstances shift; therefore, families may request a change in their initial preferences selected in our most recent form, sent to families on August 19. On Monday, August 24, BPS will begin making calls to families who have not completed or may not have received the form to assist them with completing it. We will also email all families to confirm their selections, and will later provide a school schedule and yellow bus transportation information, as applicable.

For more information about learning models, as well as the most recent draft of our reopening plan, please visit bostonpublicschools.org/reopening. If you have any questions, please contact reopening@bostonpublicschools.org.

We will continue to provide updates to families throughout the next several weeks. Thank you for your continued partnership as we focus all our efforts to ensure a safe and healthy year of learning.

The best way to keep us all safe and to get our children back to school is for all of us to do our part by wearing a mask, keeping a distance of six feet from one another, avoiding crowds, staying home when you're not feeling well, and washing our hands frequently. By following these health guidelines, we will not only be keeping ourselves and our families safe, we will also be helping our community, keeping our schools safe for our children.

Thank you for your partnership and patience,

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent