

Belmont Public Schools

“Return-to-Learning” Fall 2020

BELMONT SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AUGUST 6, 2020

AGENDA

1. Update on feedback from Community
2. Presentation of Plan for Consideration

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- ✓ We have received over 680 questions and comments over the last 48 hours.
- ✓ They have all been read by several administrators and organized into categories.

Those categories are:

- Safety
- Building concerns
- Hybrid model
- Personal safety
- Teaching and learning
- Technology
- Full Remote
- Liability
- Transition
- Student schedule / support
- METCO
- Need for home schooling
- Kindergarten
- Aftercare / learning
- Special education and EL services
- Food service

SAMPLING OF QUESTIONS

- Are you going to implement a testing and contact tracing program for students and teachers?
- What about students/teachers who have to be quarantined for two weeks?
- What about students who are medically compromised and cannot come to school? What about families who want to go fully remote, even if the district chooses a hybrid option?
- How will BPS assess the academic gaps between students or regression due to the abrupt end of 2019-2020 when school starts? How will grading work?
- How will cohorting work? For example, can neighborhood children of similar ages be on the same schedule?
- How does a parent/guardian supervise and support remote learning while also working? What resources will be in place for families regarding at-home support, and technology?
- How will families be notified if there are positive COVID-19 cases?

SAMPLING OF QUESTIONS

- Can families change their mind throughout the year about which model they prefer? For example, if I choose the full remote option will I be stuck there all year or can I change my mind?
- Can we see a sample hybrid schedule for each level to better understand what children's days will be like? Can we see a remote schedule for each level to better understand what children's days will be like?
- How will aftercare interact with the school system? Will it be available and in what capacity?
- How will the decision to move from one model to the next -- to or from remote, hybrid, or full return -- be made? What metrics will the district use?
- Is BPS using a 3 foot or a 6 foot physical distancing standard?
- What is the deal with fall sports? Will afterschool clubs and programs still run?
- When will the final "return-to-learning" decision be made? Who makes the final decision? Once the final decision is made, what happens next?

OPENING FOR FALL 2020 - CURRENT CONTEXT

DESE options are consistent with BPS options:

- In-Person Opening
- Hybrid Opening
- Remote Only Opening

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

1. Health and Safety
2. Social Emotional Well-Being
3. Academic Engagement and Return to Learning

1. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATUS

There are several categories we are assessing to determine the district's readiness for in-person learning, hybrid learning and remote learning.

- General health Metrics
- State and local data on rate of infection
- State and local testing capacity
- State and local contact tracing capacity
- School based health and safety protocols
- Facilities health status and capacity

2. SOCIAL EMOTIONAL STATUS

- Desire to engage and meet students in person to check in, assess, and support the transition back to learning
- The ability for educators to build relationships with students to ensure their SEL safety that will in turn support readiness for learning
- Continued SEL support during the school year
- We are working with McLean Hospital on Professional Development opportunities for BPS educators

3. ACADEMIC STATUS

- Meet students where they are academically and scaffold learning to move them forward
- Move curriculum and learning forward
- Engage students academically

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

1. First and foremost, we need to provide a safe and healthy environment for students and staff.
2. We must be confident in our plan from a health standpoint first.
3. This would include assessing our local school and community conditions based on the science and data from our local and state experts, facilities health assessment within our schools, our day-to-day health and operational protocols that must be taught to staff and practiced before implementation with students.

PROPOSED PHASED PLAN FOR BPS

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4
K-12 Remote Learning	Continued Remote Learning (for majority of students)	Full Hybrid Learning (for all students)	Full In-Person Learning
In-person for our “high needs and complex profile” students, per DESE guidelines	In-person learning for next level of vulnerable students, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade K and/or Grade 1 • Economically disadvantaged / SEL / academic students in need 	In-person and remote learning via hybrid schedule This option would include full remote learning for those students who are unable to attend in person	Full student return with some restrictions within DESE guidelines

All in-person transitions will be based upon a *successful assessment of conditions for health and safety.*

HOW DO WE MOVE FROM PHASE TO PHASE?

We will assess the conditions for health and safety based on the data from our state and local medical and science experts.

WHY THIS APPROACH?

- Safety first.
- This process acknowledges that there is uncertainty with the science and health data at this time.
- The current data trends in some areas are shifting in the wrong direction.
- Objectively, we need to look at data and science to make this determination first and foremost before taking risks with our students and staff.

WHAT WOULD REMOTE LOOK LIKE?

As discussed Tuesday night:

1. Synchronous teaching and learning following the outline of a traditional school day schedule
2. Attendance , Feedback, Grades
3. Assessing our students academically and social emotionally
4. Supporting and advancing curriculum throughout the year
5. Building in SEL and in-person opportunities for staff and small groups of children to meet and build relationships

WHAT IS NEXT?

1. The School Committee will discuss this plan tonight.
2. The School Committee will receive the survey data on Monday to inform their vote.
3. The School Committee will need to assess and decide on the three options and our current proposal for a vote at our Tuesday, August 11, 2020 meeting (6:30 pm).
4. When the model is voted, we will put our full attention, expertise, effort and creativity to the chosen plan.