



Return to In-Person Learning Working Group

Meeting 2: March 1, 2021



Agenda

- Updates (12 minutes)
 - Health metrics
 - What's transpired since last meeting?
 - Commissioner's updates and implications for Belmont
 - Updated guiding questions
 - Proposed timeline
- Subgroup Time Charge (4 minutes)




Agenda

- Subgroup Major Questions and Proto-Recommendations (40 minutes)
- Proto-Recommendations Presentations and Feedback (10 minutes)
- Revisions to Proto-Recommendations in Subgroups (10 minutes)
- Next Steps (5 minutes)



Mitigation, Learning Modes, & Community Transmission

Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission

Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
All schools: Universal and correct use of masks is required; implementing other key mitigation strategies: handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing and diagnostic testing ² in combination with quarantine and isolation.			
 K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible ³	Elementary schools in hybrid mode ⁴ ; physical distancing of 6 feet or more required		Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases; schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases ⁵
	Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required		
Sports and extracurricular activities with masks required; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible ⁶	Sports and extracurricular activities with masks and physical distancing of 6 feet or more required	Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with masks and physical distancing of 6 feet or more required	Sports and extracurricular activities virtual only

Levels of community transmission defined as:

- **total new cases** per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; **moderate, 10-49**; substantial, 50-99; high, ≥100), and
- **percentage of positive tests** in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%).

Belmont's Level of Community Transmission (3/1/2021)
Total new cases: 40.28
Percentage of positive tests: ~0.98% (14 day average)

Sources: Center for Disease Control. (2021a). [CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation.](#)



Level of Community Transmission Over Last Month

Level of Community Transmission Metrics Belmont, MA

Date	Total New Cases per 100,000 persons (last 7 days)	Percentage of Positive Tests (last 7 days)*	Belmont's Level of Community Transmission
3-1-2021	40.28	0.98%	Moderate
2-22-2021	47.6	1.43%	Moderate
2-15-2021	65.92	1.85%	Substantial
2-8-2021	113.53	2.42%	High
2-1-2021	124.51	3.01%	High

Levels of community transmission defined as:

- **total new cases** per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high, ≥ 100), and
- **percentage of positive tests** in the past 7 days (low, $< 5\%$; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, $\geq 10\%$).

Sources: Center for Disease Control. (2021a). [*CDC's Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation.*](#)



What's Happened Since We Last Met

- Central office leaders provided virtual update from Commissioner after announcement
- Elementary principals and central office leaders met numerous times to...
 - Collected and analyzed data for two potential models for full in-person (enrollment, staffing, etc.)
 - Respond to WG inquiries and questions
 - Continued work on physical distancing guidelines
 - Consolidated **Major Questions** based on previous internal and RTIPL WG work
 - Planned and led faculty meetings to share information about current RTIPL WG work
 - Planning public forums for family information and engagement
 - Continued supply inquiries and acquisitions
- Responded to additional inquiries and ideas from multiple stakeholders
- ...



Commissioner's Update

- Commissioner Riley called for a “phased in approach” for in-person learning, beginning with elementary students.
- BoE will vote on whether to give him authority to impose a return plan for all schools across the Commonwealth.
 - All districts to implement a full in-person and a full remote option for elementary only and eliminate hybrid options by first week of April.
 - March vote whether to approve or deny his request



Commissioner's Update (cont'd)

- The Commissioner has outlined *general ideas* which include:
 - Full day duration to include lunch at school
 - Full week (i.e. 5 days / week) scope
 - The Commissioner has asked districts to implement a plan that provides a minimum of 3 feet distancing and a recommended distance of 6 feet where feasible
 - Commissioner has not released *specific guidance* to date



Commissioner's Update (cont'd)

- President Biden has established a “First 100 days” goal to get elementary students back in-person
- A remote-only option will continue this year, but “will most likely not continue next year”



Updated Guiding Question

Meeting #1:

How can we create more opportunities for K-2 in-person learning?

Meeting #2:

How can we implement a full in-person return for grades K-4?

Future Meetings:

Next week: How can we implement a full in-person return for grade 5?

Future weeks: How can we implement a full in-person return for grades 6-8? 9-12?



Some Major Questions We Are Grappling With

- What distancing (3 ft +?) will we be using? What is the impact of this distancing on room-by-room spaces?
- How do we hold lunch safely with our current constraints?
- How do we include specials for in-person students? Teachers in-person? Or remote?
- What additional resources will we need? How/when could we get them?



Some Major Questions We Are Grappling With

- Will we use a live-streaming *or* remote-only academy model?
- How would each model (live-streaming *or* remote-only academy) impact the remote *and* in-person experiences?
- If we were to use a remote-only academy, how would we staff it? Current BPS teachers? Hiring? Support from other positions?
- What costs (financial and otherwise) would stakeholders incur with each model?
- How will in-person and remote enrollments shift?



Potential Masked Spectrum of Distancing

MINIMUM DISTANCING

3 feet

...Additional expanded distancing options...

6 feet

STILL IN DEVELOPMENT



Potential Unmasked Spectrum of Distancing

- Lunch
- Snack
- Mask breaks

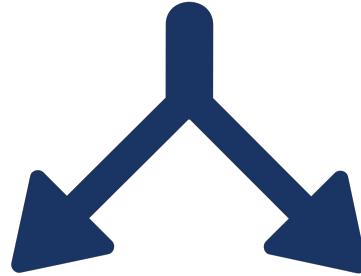

MINIMUM DISTANCING

6 feet

STILL IN DEVELOPMENT

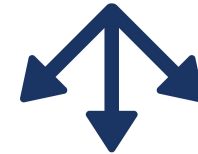


Potential Models: Elementary Full In-Person (Spring 2021)



Livestreaming for Remote-Only Students

Separate “Academy” for Remote-Only Students



Current BPS teachers?

Hiring new teachers?

Redeploying some staff?



Return to In-Person Learning Planning

Major Questions & Proto-Recommendations



Major Questions & Proto-Recommendations

<p>Group A Remote-Only Options</p>	<p>Group B Physical Distancing (Masked) & Classroom Capacity</p>
<p>Group C Lunch, Snack, & Physical Distancing (Unmasked)</p>	<p>Group D Specials & Specialized Instruction</p>
<p>Group E Transportation</p>	



Proto-Recommendations: Presentations & Feedback

- 5 min: Presentation
- 5 min: Silent, written feedback

Group A Remote-Only Options	Group B Physical Distancing (Masked) & Classroom Capacity
Group C Lunch, Snack, & Physical Distancing (Unmasked)	Group D Specials & Specialized Instruction
Group E Transportation	



Revisions to Proto-Recommendations

<p>Group A Remote-Only Options</p>	<p>Group B Physical Distancing (Masked) & Classroom Capacity</p>
<p>Group C Lunch, Snack, & Physical Distancing (Unmasked)</p>	<p>Group D Specials & Specialized Instruction</p>
<p>Group E Transportation</p>	



Return to In-Person Learning Planning

Remote-Only/In-Person Option Analysis



Current Enrollment Data: Remote-Only Students

Remote-Only Students	K	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Burbank	9	12	15	19	15	70
Butler	7	19	19	20	16	81
Wellington	11	23	23	20	14	91
Winn Brook	12	26	28	18	30	114
TOTAL	39	80	85	77	75	356

Based on enrollment data on 2/22/2021. For illustrative purposes only.



Current Enrollment Data: Hybrid In-Person Students

In-Person Students	K	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Burbank	47	63	70	55	67	302
Butler	48	47	45	45	64	249
Wellington	65	84	77	93	103	422
Winn Brook	55	64	58	74	58	309
TOTAL	215	258	250	267	292	1282

Based on enrollment data on 2/22/2021. For illustrative purposes only.



Remote-Only Option Analysis

- How will in-person and remote enrollments shift?
- Will we use a live-streaming *or* remote-only academy model?
- How would each model (live-streaming *or* remote-only academy) impact the remote *and* in-person experiences?
- How would we staff a remote-only academy? Current BPS teachers? Hiring? Support from other positions?



Assumptions & Margin of Error

- The analysis on the following slides **assumes** the current in-person/remote selections (as of 2/22/2021) will remain unchanged when the elementary schools move to a full in-person model. *We know this is incorrect.* We use these numbers for illustrative purposes only.
- Some families **will** change their in-person/remote selection once the elementary schools move to a full in-person model. The following models **do not** take these shifts into account. There is a **margin of error** for how these shifts will change the projected class sizes.



Potential Class Sizes: **Livestreaming**

Livestreaming Model	K	1	2	3	4
In-Person Students (avg.)	13.4	16.1	15.6	16.7	17.2
<i>Range of Class Sizes</i>	<i>11 - 18</i>	<i>14 - 19</i>	<i>9 - 20</i>	<i>13 - 21</i>	<i>10 - 22</i>
Livestreaming Remote-Only Students (avg.)	2.4	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.4
<i>Range of Class Sizes</i>	<i>0 - 4</i>	<i>2 - 7</i>	<i>1 - 13</i>	<i>1 - 8</i>	<i>1 - 11</i>

Based on enrollment data on 2/22/2021. For illustrative purposes only.



Potential Class Sizes: Remote-Only Academy

Remote-Only Students	K	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Burbank	9	12	15	19	15	70
Butler	7	19	19	20	16	81
Wellington	11	23	23	20	14	91
Winn Brook	12	26	28	18	30	114
TOTAL	39	80	85	77	75	356

Remote-Only Teachers Needed	K	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
	2	4	4	3	3	16
Remote-Only Class Sizes	19.5	20.0	21.3	25.7	25.0	

Based on enrollment data on 2/22/2021. For illustrative purposes only.



Potential Class Sizes: Remote-Only Academy

In-Person Students	K	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
Burbank	47	63	70	55	67	302
Butler	48	47	45	45	64	249
Wellington	65	84	77	93	103	422
Winn Brook	55	64	58	74	58	309
TOTAL	215	258	250	267	292	1282

In-Person Teachers Remaining	K	1	2	3	4	TOTAL
	14	12	12	13	14	65
In-Person Class Sizes	15.4	21.5	20.8	20.5	20.9	

Based on enrollment data on 2/22/2021. For illustrative purposes only.



Comparing In-Person Class Sizes Across Models

Livestreaming Model

	K	1	2	3	4
In-Person Students (avg.)	13.4	16.1	15.6	16.7	17.2
<i>Range of Class Sizes</i>	<i>11 - 18</i>	<i>14 - 19</i>	<i>9 - 20</i>	<i>13 - 21</i>	<i>10 - 22</i>
Livestreaming Remote-Only Students (avg.)	2.4	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.4
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Remote-Only Model

*

	K	1	2	3	4
In-Person Students (avg.)	15.4	21.5	20.8	20.5	20.9
<i>Projected Range of Class Sizes</i>	<i>15 - 18</i>	<i>20 - 21</i>	<i>20 - 21</i>	<i>20 - 21</i>	<i>20 - 22</i>

	K	1	2	3	4
Remote-Only Academy Class Sizes (avg.)	19.5	20.0	21.3	25.7	25.0

* Assumptions for these calculations:

- Current BPS elementary teachers teach in the Remote Academy (no redeployment of non-classroom teachers and no hiring of new teachers)
- Redeployment of non-classroom teachers and/or hiring of new teachers would reduce in-person class sizes in remote-only model.

Based on enrollment data on 2/22/2021. For illustrative purposes only.



Some Trade-Offs of Potential Models

Livestreaming for Remote-Only Students

- Students remain with same teacher and class
- Teachers teach in-person students and remote-only students simultaneously
- Some in-person opportunities may not be live-streamed for remote-only students (e.g., gym?)
- Lower in-person class sizes (than Remote Academy model)
- Quarantined “in-person” students can livestream in to their same class

Remote Academy for Remote-Only Students

- Many in-person and remote-only students would be reassigned to a new teacher (potentially 300+ students)
- In-person self-contained teachers only teach in-person students; remote-only self-contained teachers only teach remote-only students
- Larger in-person class sizes (assuming current BPS classroom teachers teach in the remote academy)
- Quarantined “in-person” students don’t have access to their in-person class
- Could require significant financial investment



Return to In-Person Learning Working Group

Subgroup Charge

DRAFT Timeline: Decision-making Today to April 1



Proto-recommendations	March 1 WG Meeting
Flesh out proto-recommendations with central office and school leaders	Between March 2-5
Final Review and discussion of K-4 recommendations with WG to be sent to Superintendent <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mitigation strategies (PPE)	March 8
Leverage learning from K-4 to discuss grade 5 proto-recommendations	March 8
School Committee Meeting: Superintendent Update and/or Recommendations	March 9
Flesh out grade 5 proto-recommendations with central office and school leaders	March 9-12
Final Review and discussion Grade 5 recommendations with WG to be sent to Superintendent <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mitigation strategies (PPE)	March 15

DRAFT Timeline: Decision-making Today to April 1



Discussion of Key Issues Related to Return to In-Person for grades 6-8	March 15
Design Proto-recommendations to Return to In-Person for grades 6-8	March 22
School Committee Meeting: Superintendent Update and/or Recommendations	March 23
Flesh out grade 6-8 proto-recommendations with central office and school leaders	March 23 - March 26
Final Review and discussion Grade 6-8 recommendations with WG to be sent to Superintendent <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mitigation strategies (PPE)	March 29
Looking ahead: Grades 9-12	April & onwards