



Town of Littleton School Committee

33 Shattuck St. * P.O. Box 1486 * Littleton, MA 01460-4486 *
Phone: (978) 540-2500 * Fax: (978) 486-9581 * Website: www.littletonps.org

MATTHEW HUNT, Vice Chair
BRAD AUSTIN, Member

MIKE FONTANELLA, Chair

TIMALYN RASSIAS, Secretary
JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Member

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 25, 2021

7:00 p.m.

NO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE, GIVEN BUILDING CLOSURES DUE TO COVID-19

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://littletonma.zoom.us/j/99665339665?pwd=aS9LOUhBb2JCNmcwOEJEdmFOYjFoZz09>

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US: +19292056099,,99665339665# or +13017158592,,99665339665#

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**** *A G E N D A* * ***

Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

7:00 I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order

2. Consent Agenda

Minutes - March 18, 2021

**-Oath to Bills -
and Payroll**

7:05 II. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:10 III. RECOGNITION

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Lyn Snow,, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, lsnow@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

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7:15 IV. PRESENTATION

1. **State/Local/Public Health Metrics:** *Chair, Mike Fontanella and Katrina Wilcox Hagberg will give an update on the State/Local/Public Health Metrics.*

7:20 V. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Draft Calendar 2021/2022 School Year:** *Request for School Committee to approve the 2021/2022 School Year Calendar as requested by the LEA.*
2. **Extension of the Pooled Testing:** *Continued discussion regarding the extension of the pooled testing to the end of the school year.*
3. **Pooled Testing Participation:** *Discussion regarding possible strategies designed to increase participation rates in the Pooled Testing Program.*
4. **K-8, 9-12 Full In-person return:** *School Principals will give an update on the K-8 Full In-person return on Monday, March 29, 2021.*
5. **COVID-19 Protocols:** *Superintendent Kelly Clenchy and Director of Pupil Personnel Services Lyn Snow will give an update on the COVID-19 Protocols.*
6. **Pool Testing for Students Engaging in Athletics/Extracurricular Activities:** *Chair Mike Fontanella will discuss Requiring Participation in Pool Testing for Students Engaging in Athletics and other Extracurricular Activities.*

7:40 VI. INTERESTED CITIZENS

7:50 VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **PMBC**
2. **Budget Subcommittee**
3. **Policy Subcommittee:** (see LPS website to view all policies)
Motion to accept 2nd reading of the following MODIFIED policies:
IC ICA – SCHOOL YEAR SCHOOL CALENDAR
ID – SCHOOL DAY
Motion to accept the 2nd reading of the following REVIEWED policy:
IGA – CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

<http://www.littletonps.org/school-committee/school-committee-polices>

7:55 VIII. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of contract negotiations with no intention to return to Open Session.

NEXT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
April 15, 2021

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES March 18, 2021 6:50PM

PRESENT: Mike Fontanella
Matthew Hunt
Timalyn Rassias
Brad Austin
Justin McCarthy

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Fontanella called the meeting to order at 6:55p.m.

On a motion by Matthew Hunt, and seconded by Timalyn Rassias, it was voted to approve the March 11, 2021 consent agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

None

NVTH INTERVIEW/APPOINTMENT

1. Joint appointment with BOS and Town Moderator for the Town of Littleton representation to the Nashoba Valley Technical High School. Mr. Charlie Ellis provided a letter of interest for a 3-year term. April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024.

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On a motion by Mike Fontanella, and seconded by Chuck DeCoste, it was voted to approve the appointment of Mr. Charlie Ellis as the Littleton Alternate District representative to Nashoba Valley Technical High School for the three-year (2021-2024) term. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

Roll Call Vote: Chuck DeCoste; AYE; Joe Knox; AYE, Paul Glavey; AYE; and Tim Goddard; AYE.

FY2022 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

FY2022 Budget presented by Superintendent Clenchy, who gave an overview of the district's accomplishments in all four schools and focused on the district's five strategic areas. He highlighted the priorities set forth for the 2021-2022 School year. Matthew Hunt gave a brief overview of FY2022. Original Budget increase request: Steps and Lanes, Out of District Tuition, Tuition Free Full Day Kindergarten - (*Year 4 of a 5 Year Phase-In Plan*), Student Transportation – OOD, Operational Costs. Total projected increases for level staffing and services is at 2.8% increase and comes to a total of \$620,238. With the proposed school department increase the FY2022 school requested budget is \$22,590,000.

School Choice Revolving funds. Estimated FY2021 ending balance is \$1,995,662.

Justin McCarthy – Thanked everyone for all of the work that has been done in previous years. I am excited to see that we will get to the tuition free full day Kindergarten.

Brad Austin – Thanks to everyone who worked on the budget. Is the concern about the school choice seats that we may not have any space left for school choice students? I am really happy that we are getting to the tuition free Kindergarten. Will parents still have the option for a half day in Kindergarten? If we approve the budget tonight would we be able to add in extra services if needed later?

Kelly Clenchy – Yes, we only have so much space in our classrooms so depending on how many Littleton students we have in district determines if we have any room for school choice students. If we as a district are offering full day Kindergarten, we will be offering a full day instruction. Half day for Kindergarten will no longer be an option.

Mike Fontanella – In regard to budget, yes, we can add in services after it has been approved if we find it necessary, but we have to remember we can not go back to the Town and ask for an increase in the appropriated budget after the budget cycle has ended. We would have to use funds from School Choice.

Brad Austin – Federal funds. Is there a chance we would get more than expected?

Kelly Clenchy – We are expecting some funds from the State which is related to the Covid relief. But next year is a new year. Finding candidates to fill specialty staff positions can be difficult.

Mike Fontanella – President Biden just signed the Covid relief package and from what I can see through the media, it seems there is significant funds going to education. This is an atypical budget year. The fact that we are not relying on school choice funds is important. We need to have as much flexibility as possible I believe. I think this is a good budget and I am in support of it. We can meet our current level.

Public Input:

Matthew Ridge – I have been reading the priorities for 2021-2022. What does the equity and equality mean? Can parents get a copy of this so we can be more involved?

Kelly Clenchy – Equity and Cultural diversity. We have had lots of training in these areas. I would ask you to contact your child's building principal for more specifics.

On a motion by Justin McCarthy, and seconded by Matthew Hunt, it was voted to approve the FY2022 budget for \$22,590,000 as presented.

Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.

The Chairman closed the Public Hearing on the FY22 Budget.

1. **State/Local/Public Health Metrics:** Katrina Wilcox Hagberg provided a presentation on the State/Local/Public Health Metrics. Her data presented was through March 17, 2021. Test positivity rate is now at 1,80% in Littleton. Littleton's rate is 16.1% per 100K. Littleton has 22 new cases. 4th week in yellow. All 9 pool testing days have come back negative, so that is very encouraging. Total to date Littleton Public Schools have had 39 cases which includes both hybrid and remote students.

****Jump in the Testing pool**** - Highly recommend you sign your child up for pool testing if you are signing your child up for five in-person school days.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Registration Form – In-person or Remote Learning for Grades K and 1-8:** Principals from Shaker Lane, Russell Street and Littleton Middle School gave an overview of the results of the registration forms for in-person or remote learning models sent to all families with a child in grades K-8.

Superintendent Clenchy thanked all the staff members who has been involved with this work and getting us ready to offer a full five-day on March 29, 2021 for students Grade K – Grade 8. At the High School they will be ready to welcome students back five days a week on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Principal Kane of Shaker Lane went through the grades on how many full remote students will switch to full in-person. They are anticipating that they will have 4' as a minimum between desks in the classrooms. The lunch schedule will continue with 6' between students and really no change to the snack or lunch schedule.

Principal Cheryl Temple of Russell Street School. All 6 remote classes will remain remote. They had 25 requests for fully remote students to come back in-person. Our lunch will take place in both the cafeteria and classroom with at least 6' space between students. Chairs and painted dots have been added outside and will be used on nice days.

Steve Mark – All canopies will have be set up at the elementary schools by March 29.

Jason Everhart – Currently 20% of the LMS students are fully remote – according to results we will have 17% who will stay fully remote. In some classrooms they have up to 25-28 students at once and some of the classes will be with 3' distance.

Currently lunch takes place in the cafeteria with individual desks all with 6' of distance. With all the students back, we would not be able to keep a 6' distance, so we will be using the gym and hopefully soon they can also go outside, now that the weather is getting nicer.

Brad Austin – Can you speak to the instructional space?

Jason Everhart – We had to look at the fire doors between the classrooms. We managed to allow full access to those doors. Teachers will still have room for their instructional space. There is room for their desks and monitors in each classroom.

Kelly Clenchy – With 118 new students riding the busses, we need to redesign the bus routes. We will be offering morning Tigers Den program. But it will not be at full capacity at this time.

135 Mike Fontanella – Are we anticipating adding in more busses for the students?

136 Steve Mark – We believe we can support the numbers of students with the current 8 busses we have.
137 Students will have assigned seats. We will try to have siblings sitting together if possible.
138

139 Mike Fontanella – Are we getting ready to register the high school students?

140 John Harrington – As far as the forms, they will be sent out tomorrow. It is really important to know what
141 the families are planning to do. 280 are currently hybrid. 135 are fully remote. For lunch we have added
142 additional space outside the auditorium. We will have to move some classrooms around where we might
143 have a larger number of students to keep the 3' of distance.
144

145 Justin McCarthy – I am thrilled that we can go back on March 29, 2021. I applaud the effort by everyone.
146 I believe that if you need to quarantine because of close contact, you will be able to live stream the
147 instruction. I am happy to hear that we are keeping the full remote classroom option for the families that
148 wanted to continue with the fully remote classroom.

149 I do have one question about the high school distance. Do you believe you can maintain the 3" in each
150 classroom? Lastly, just because we are getting the students back, we all still have to remember to do our
151 part to stay safe. Follow guidelines and protocols to keep the community safe.

152 John Harrington – Most classrooms would have 18 students in a classroom, and we will be able to
153 maintain the 3' of distance.
154

155 Timalyn Rassias – How are we going to “police” the kids, especially students in higher grades, that just
156 want to stay home one day?

157 Kelly Clenchy – We need everyone to get back into the routine and once you choose to be back full five
158 days, you are expected to be in school every day.
159

160 Brad Austin – I do like the “hybrid” model. The ability to keep cautious if you feel you are not feeling
161 well but still able to continue with your schoolwork. Kids will not miss instruction and be able to do
162 schoolwork from home.

163 I just want to acknowledge the fact that teachers spend so much time getting their classroom ready and
164 welcoming. Now we are asking them to move their classroom around while they are teaching. If you need
165 help with moving furniture into classrooms, please do not hesitate to reach out.
166

167 Michelle Kane – moving furniture is actually an easy task but I want to thank school committee and all the
168 families that have reached out to help us.
169

170 Mike Fontanella – Before we take a motion, I just want to remind everyone that we are ahead of the curve
171 in comparison to many other districts. We have had in-person instructions from the start of the school
172 year. We only took one week after the holiday to be fully remote. We have had in-person instruction the
173 whole time. Please keep in mind that our staff are working really hard to accommodate everyone.
174

175 On a motion by Justin McCarthy, and seconded by Matthew Hunt, it was voted to approve the March
176 29, 2021 start date for five full days for Grade K – 8 and April 12, 2021 for the High School.

177 (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin
178 McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Mike Fontanella, AYE.
179

180 **2. Extension of Pooled Testing:** Discussion on Pool Testing for extracurricular activity participation.
181

182 Timalyn Rassias – We have already had two sport seasons without the pool testing, so I am not sure what
183 the reason is behind this? Can the Board of Health mandate this? Is MIAA requiring this? I am not in
184 support of this.

Mike Fontanella – In a public sense of emergency, their public authority expands. MIAA is not requiring it at this point. Speaking with an attorney, she said it could fall under the same requirements as drug testing student athletes.

Matthew Hunt – We did not have the pool testing abilities when basketball season was taking place. I do think there are a couple of things that show support of this.

Brad Austin – Do I want this, yes! But I would like to hear from some experts on this subject. The word “extracurricular” is very broad. I am not comfortable to have every child in Littleton participate in this. I would not be able to vote on this tonight. I need some more information on this matter. Maybe we choose a specific sport and not all extracurricular activities.

John Harrington – I need to have a conversation with Mike Lynn. I do know that Wachusett’s league has had a conversation about it. I believe it would be better to encourage instead of mandate. I am strongly encouraging it instead of mandate.

Brad Austin – We haven’t even decided if we are extending pool testing beyond April 19th.

Justin McCarthy – At this point I have more questions than answers. I need to know how many athletes we have etc. I also agree that some of these students are closer to being young adults than young children. I think some of the captains need to have conversations with their teams to ensure they are encouraging their teammates to follow the rules to ensure a safe season. I am not suggesting that we mandate but maybe encourage it.

Mike Fontanella - I am not in favor of mandating this. I think we should be concentrating on pool testing within the schools. But I am hesitant to target one specific group. If we are not asking for this across the board, we should not be asking for this at all. I am all in for pool testing for everybody, but I want to encourage it, not mandate.

Mike Fontanella – Asked for a motion to participate in pool testing for extracurricular activities. Hearing none.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Amy Tesz – Pool testing and sports. I think it is important to remember that sports have more close contact. Do you plan to have the Board of Health present about this?

Mike Fontanella – This just got presented to us. I do believe we are not going to vote in favor of this tonight. We may choose to have Mike Lynn come to present before we vote on this. Generally, we need to have a discussion on how we can increase our pool testing.

John Krzewick – I participated in the Board of Health presentation as well. We need to stop treating our kids as bio threats. This is just more going in the wrong direction. Data shows that 99% of our pool testing are negative. It is frustrating that we keep harping on the kids. If you mandate this, make sure you mandate the staff as well.

Amy Tesz – I want to follow up on the letter I sent to everyone regarding the social and emotional toll. How are we going to support the community and our families that are struggling. I am hoping we can make this transition as smooth as possible and if there is anything I can do to help, I would be more than happy. I just want to hear what you are seeing or hearing as we move forward.

Kelly Clenchy – We are in close contact with most of our students. I do like the idea of bringing in some experts. We do have some people in the community that are experts that we can reach out to.

Lyn Snow – Love the idea of bringing a task force together. I think our clinical support staff have worked tirelessly with students and families. This is an all-hands-on deck type of effort. Anything we can do to support this effort. Any parent who has a student who is struggling. Please reach out to the principal, guidance or to Lyn Snow.

Brad Austin – We have heard this from other parents. We really must have an eye on all students and families to see how everyone is doing. We will need a coordinated response to support our kids.

Justin McCarthy – There is definitely a little bit of healing that needs to take place for both students and staff. It is vitally important that we support our students socially and emotionally.

Jen Gold – I just want to say thank you. This extra week is huge. Even that you can keep the fully remote classrooms, which was so important. I would fully support if you needed to use extra funds for any support to students and families.

Amy Tarlow-Lewis – The transition can be huge. There are families that are really struggling. I really want to make sure that you are aware of so many issues students are dealing with. You may have a child who is left alone at home because their sibling is admitted to a hospital. We just do not know what every student or family is going through.

I am the founder of Littleton Community farms and I want to offer my help with food to any family that is struggling or are on a free or reduced lunch. I am trying to find a way to partner with the schools to help any families who may be struggling.

Mike Fontanella – Please reach out to Dr. Clecny and he should be able to get you in contact with families in need.

Katrina Wilcox-Hagberg – Mental health and transition back is so important to discuss. But if we go back to speaking about pool testing. You need to reach out to the families who are not participating and finding out why they are not. This caring approach is the only way we are going to make things better.

Matthew Ridge – Kids will never get their childhood back. You are saying we are getting back to normal. We are not going back to normal. Kids need to be with other children. It weighs on our child. They do not know what normal is anymore. I need to remind my child it is going to be ok. It is mentally tough for the kids and adults. We need to get back to normal.

Mike Fontanella – We appreciate what you are saying. We are not pretending that this is good or healthy. It will take a long time and effort from our staff to help our children move along. We are only doing what is clearly directed and mandated by officials. When we are given the green light to have our children be closer together, we will do that. We are in a pandemic. It has been devastating for everyone on so many levels.

Brad Austin – Can we add in mental health on the agenda after students are back full time in schools?

Mike Fontanella – We have a clinical team in place. We can add in more resources if needed, but as Dr. Clenchy mentioned there is a limited number of resources to pull from as we are not the only district in need. Social and emotional health was on our minds before the pandemic, during the pandemic and will continue.

SEPAC – Basic rights workshop on Tuesday March 30th at 7PM - you need to pre-register for this. Emails will go out prior to the workshop.

284 **ADJOURNMENT**

285 On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Timalyn Rassias it was voted to adjourn at 10:10PM. Roll
286 Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and
287 Mike Fontanella, AYE.
288

289
290 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

291 **School Committee**

292 **March 25, 2021**

293 **7:00PM**

294 **Zoom Meeting**
295
296
297
298

299 **DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING**

300 NVTHS District representative

301 FY2022 Budget

302 Public Health Metrics for Covid-19
303

Littleton Public Schools

DRAFT

2021-2022 School Calendar

Approved by: SC 00/00/2021

SEPTEMBER (19)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
		*1	**2	3
6	***7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22A	23	24
27	28	29	30	

*Staff Start **K-12 Start of School ***Preschool Start

OCTOBER (20)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6A	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20A	21	22
25	26	27MSC	28MSC	29

NOVEMBER (18)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	*2	3	4MSC	5
8	9	10PK/EC	11	12
15	16PK/EC	17A	18EC	19
22	23	24A	25	26
29	30			

*Staff PD / Election Day

DECEMBER (17)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8A	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY (20)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12A	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26A	27	28
31				

FEBRUARY (15)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9A	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

MARCH (23)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2A	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16EC	17	18
21	22	23EC/MSC	24EC/MSC	25
28	29	30	31	

APRIL (15)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6A	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

MAY (21)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
2	3	4A	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19P/K	20
23	24K	25	26P/K	27A
30	31			

JUNE (12)				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	***16A	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

***Tentative Last Day of School

K-12 School Starts: Sept. 2, 2021 – Preschool Starts Sept. 7, 2021
Student Days Scheduled 185 days – **June 23, 2022** Any unused “snow days” will be used to adjust the School Calendar to the State requirement of 180 days. If no days are lost due to weather or for other reasons, students could be dismissed as early as **June 16, 2022**. When determined; the last day of school will be a 3-hr. Early Release.

KEY

A = All District PreK-12 – 3 hr. Early Release

P/K = Pre-School & Kindergarten Conf.

EC = K-5 Elementary Conferences/
3 hr. Early Release

MSC = MS Conferences 3 hr. Early Release

() = School Days Per Month

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHTS
AND/OR Evening Conferences

ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED

DRAFT**LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS****2021-2022 School Calendar****DRAFT****STARTING DATES**

September 1	Teachers return*
September 2	K-12 Start of School **
September 7	Preschool Start of School

**NO SCHOOL – HOLIDAYS/VACATION DAYS/
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

September 6	Labor Day
September 15	Yom Kippur
October 11	Columbus Day
November 2	PD Day/Election Day
November 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 25 – 26	Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 24 – Jan. 2	Holiday Break
January 17	Martin L. King Day
February 21 -25	Winter Break
April 15	Good Friday
April 18-22	Spring Break
May 30	Memorial Day

BACK TO SCHOOL CURRICULUM NIGHTS

Thursday, Sept. 9	HS Back to School Night
Monday, Sept. 13	MS Back to School Night
Thursday, Sept. 16	RS Back to School Night
Tuesday, Sept. 21	SL Grade 1, 2 Back to School Night
Thursday, Sept. 23	SL K, T & Unified Arts Back to School Night

EARLY RELEASE – ALL SCHOOLS (Wednesdays)

September 22	Professional Development
October 6	Professional Development
October 20	Professional Development
November 17	Professional Development
November 24	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	Professional Development
January 12	Professional Development
January 26	Professional Development
February 9	Professional Development
March 2	Professional Development
April 6	Professional Development
May 4	Professional Development
May 27 (Friday)	Professional Development
June 16 (Thursday)	Tentative Last Day of School

EARLY RELEASE – PARENT CONFERENCES

Wednesday, Oct. 27	Middle School Conference
Thursday, Oct. 28	Middle School Conference
Thursday, Nov. 4	Middle School Conference
Wednesday, Nov. 10	Pre-school-5 Elementary Conf.
Tuesday, Nov. 16	Pre-school-5 Elementary Conf.
Thursday, Nov. 18	K-5 Elementary Conference
Wednesday, March 16	K-5 Elementary Conference
Wednesday, March 23	K-5 Elementary Conference
Wednesday, March 23	Middle School Conference
Thursday, March 24	K-5 Elementary Conference
Thursday, March 24	Middle School Conference
Thursday, May 19	Pre-School & Kindergarten Conf.
Tuesday, May 24	Kindergarten Conference
Thursday, May 26	Pre-School & Kindergarten Conf

EVENING PARENT CONFERENCES

Thursday, Oct. 7	High School Evening Conference
Wednesday, Oct. 27	Middle School Evening Conference
Tuesday, Nov. 16	Pre-School - 2 Elementary Evening Conf.
Thursday, Nov. 18	3-5 Elementary Evening Conference
Thursday, March 10	High School Evening Conference
Wednesday, March 16	Middle School Evening Conference
Wednesday, March 23	T-2 Elementary Evening Conference
Thursday, March 24	3-5 Elementary Evening Conference
Thursday, May 26	Pre-School & Kindergarten Evening Conf.

STARTING & DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

School	Start	Dismissal	Early Dismissal
High School	7:25AM	1:56PM	10:55AM
Middle School	7:20AM	1:45PM	10:45AM
Russell Street	8:05AM	2:30PM	11:30AM
Shaker Lane	8:50AM	3:15PM	12:15PM
Full-Day PreK	9:00AM	2:45PM	11:30AM
AM PreK	9:00AM	11:30AM	
PM PreK	12:15PM	2:45PM	

SCHOOL CLOSING / DELAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Web: Littletonps.org **Radio:** WBZ (1030), WCAP (980), WRKO (680)
TV: WBZ (4), WCBV (5), WHDH (7), NBC 10 (10) and cable channel 3
Twitter: Kelly Clenchy @kbstcl

High School Graduation Date – June 3, 2022



Gr. 8 Promotion Ceremony – June TBD, 2022



Tigers' Den will close at 4:00pm on 11/24/21 and the last day of school.

MAJOR RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL HOLIDAYS & HOLY DAYS

Sept. 6 – Sept. 8	Rosh Hashanah
September 15	Yom Kippur
November 4	Diwali begins
Nov. 28 – Dec. 6	Chanukah
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanza
April 15	Passover
April 15	Good Friday
April 17	Easter Sunday
June 19	Juneteenth

MARKING PERIODS

Preschool/Kindergarten
 January 21, June 16

T-5 Marking Period Ends:
 December 10, March 18, June 16

Middle School Marking Period Ends:
 December 3, March 18, June 16

High School Marking Period Ends:
 November 12, January 28, April 8, June 16

The background of the slide is a blurred photograph of a classroom. Several children are visible, all wearing face masks. They are seated at desks, and the environment appears to be a typical school setting with educational materials on the walls.

COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocol Update

March 25th, 2021

Littleton Public Schools

General Overview

COVID-19 is still here

Littleton community is currently in the yellow zone for public health metrics

Must continue to follow mitigation strategies
wear well-fitted mask of at least 2 layers
frequent hand washing
physical distancing
avoid unnecessary travel

Most important
do not bring sickness into school community.

Coronavirus
COVID-19



Complete mandatory symptom checklist below prior to coming to school:

- Temperature 100.0°F or higher, chills or shaking chills
- New onset of cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Headache (with other symptoms)
- Fatigue (with other symptoms)
- Body or muscle aches
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (with other symptoms)
- New onset of loss of taste or smell

If yes to any of the above, stay home and get tested for COVID:

- If negative, may return to school if symptoms have improved AND remain fever-free for at least 24 hrs without the use of medications
- If positive, must isolate

REVIEW – Quarantine & Isolation Protocols

Isolation Protocol (For COVID+ Individuals)

- Remain home except to get medical care (isolate from others in the home who are not infected)
- Notify the school and personal close contacts
- Answer the call from local board of health or MA Community Tracing Collaborative
- May resume normal activities when 10 days of isolation is complete AND symptoms have improved AND remained fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of medications
- Submit Clearance from Isolation letter from board of health to school nurse

Quarantine Protocol (For Close Contacts)

- Remain home, notify school nurse, and actively monitor for COVID symptoms (incubation period for COVID is 2-14 days)
- If no symptoms, recommend to get tested on Day 5 from exposure (PCR or rapid antigen test)
- If experience symptoms (even mild ones) may test sooner and MUST quarantine for 14 days even if test is negative
- 14 day quarantine = gold standard, maximal risk reduction
- 10 day quarantine ~1% residual risk of disease development (no test necessary, must actively monitor for symptoms for full 14 days)
- 7 day quarantine ~5% residual risk of disease development
 - Requires negative test result on Day 5 or later
 - Remain symptom free
 - Must actively monitor for symptoms for full 14 days

Coronavirus
COVID-19



Student Attendance & Access to Learning

- Attendance is required on all scheduled school days. If a child is absent, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep the school informed each day of the absence. Parental communication is essential as well as appreciated.
- Students will be provided with access to an educational program in the event that the reason for absence is associated with a documented need to adhere to an established health and safety protocol (e.g. student is defined as a close contact, student is asymptomatic but required to quarantine, awaiting COVID-19 test results, etc...) but are otherwise healthy and able to engage in learning. Your child's school will work with you to coordinate a plan that aligns with the individual circumstances.
- Students who are ill and not able to engage in learning should remain home to recuperate from their illness.
- All relevant attendance policies remain in effect.

attendance
MATTERS



UPDATE – Close Contacts (CDC guidelines)

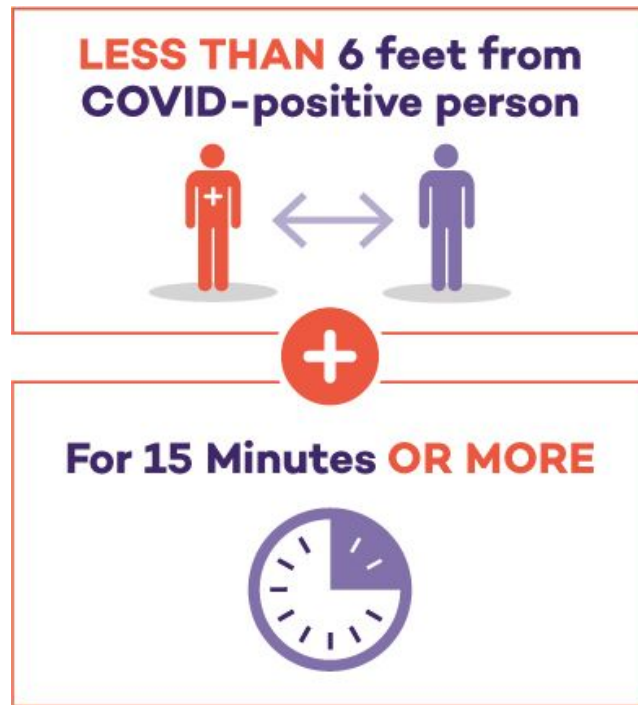
Definition:

someone within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, regardless of whether either person was wearing a mask.

- For schools that use less than 6 feet between students in classrooms, the definition of close contacts has not changed to date. Students sitting less than 6 feet next to another student or person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more should quarantine at home and be referred for testing.”

Exclusions to being identified as a close contact:

- People who tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered, *as long as they do not develop new symptoms*
- People who have been fully vaccinated* against COVID-19 and show no symptoms



Reference:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

Fully Vaccinated Individuals (CDC guidance)

DEFINITION

Fully vaccinated individual for COVID-19 A minimum of 2 weeks after a person received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or a minimum of 2 weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen)



Fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Wear well-fitted mask, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures:
 - In public
 - When visiting unvaccinated people who are increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease
 - When visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium- and large-sized gatherings
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Follow guidance issued by individual employers
- Follow CDC and health department travel requirements and recommendations

School Facilities and Operations

Previous Guidance (DESE):

- **Desks:** must be at least 3 feet apart, facing same direction if students together for longer than 20 min
- **Facemasks:** required for grades 2 and up unless a student receives a medical or behavior exemption
- **Bus Capacity:** 1 student per bench
- **Recess:** At least 3 feet distance between students unless unmasked, then at least 6 feet. Hand hygiene before and after using recess space. Cohorts maintained if possible. Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces made of plastic or metal at least daily or between cohort use



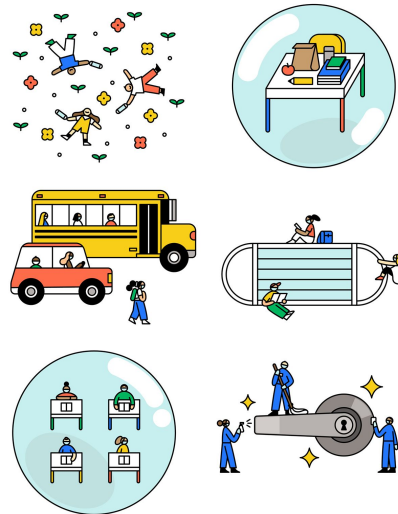
Updated Guidance (DESE): **Desks:** CDC agrees at least 3 feet distance between students in elementary grades; same in middle and high school as long as no high community spread of COVID

- **Facemasks:** required for all grade levels unless a student receives a medical or behavior exemption; required even for those fully vaccinated
- **Bus Capacity:** capacity limit lifted in elementary schools as long as all other safety protocols are followed (all must wear masks, windows open at least 2 inches, seat assignments); same in middle and high schools as long as no high community spread of COVID
- **Recess:** Same safety protocols except playgrounds do not require disinfection. High touch surfaces made of plastic or metal should be frequently cleaned. Shared items like balls or jump ropes may be used but should be cleaned between each use

School Facilities and Operations (continued)

Maintain safety protocols:

- **Signage:** Continue to use signage and markers to follow health and safety protocols, indicate direction of movement, to encourage physical distancing
- **Physical distancing:**
 - Teachers and staff should maintain 6 feet of distance from students and other staff when feasible (short distance ok for short periods of time if helping a student individually, walking between desks, etc)
 - consider use of different entrances and exits for arrival and dismissal, stagger transitions, no locker use or stagger locker use, prevent congregation in hallways - keep students moving
- **Visitors:** Continue to not host visitors to the extent possible
- **Bathroom Use:** limit the use of students in the bathroom at one time, for example using a bathroom sign-out system



Lunch Protocols (DESE guidelines)

Previous Guidance:

Distance: strict 6 feet distance between students unless plexiglass barriers are used

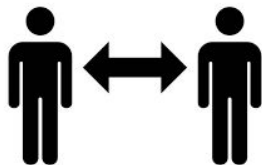
Preferred area:

Hand hygiene: required before and after eating

Cleaning: Desks and other surfaces used while eating should be cleaned between use

Meal distribution: Prepare meals as individually packaged, to-go style lunches and consider delivering meals to students/each classroom

Water fountain: cannot be used for direct consumption. Provide potable water using single-use cups that may be filled at touchless fountains (preferred) or other water fountains, water jugs, or coolers.



SOCIAL DISTANCING



Updated Guidance:

Distance: strict 6 feet distance between students. Plexiglass barriers are not recommended due to challenges in cleaning and disinfecting regularly, and may prevent optimal airflow.

Preferred area: May use multiple areas to increase physical space for meals, e.g. classrooms, cafeteria, outside eating areas, gym, rooms used for specials

Hand hygiene: no change

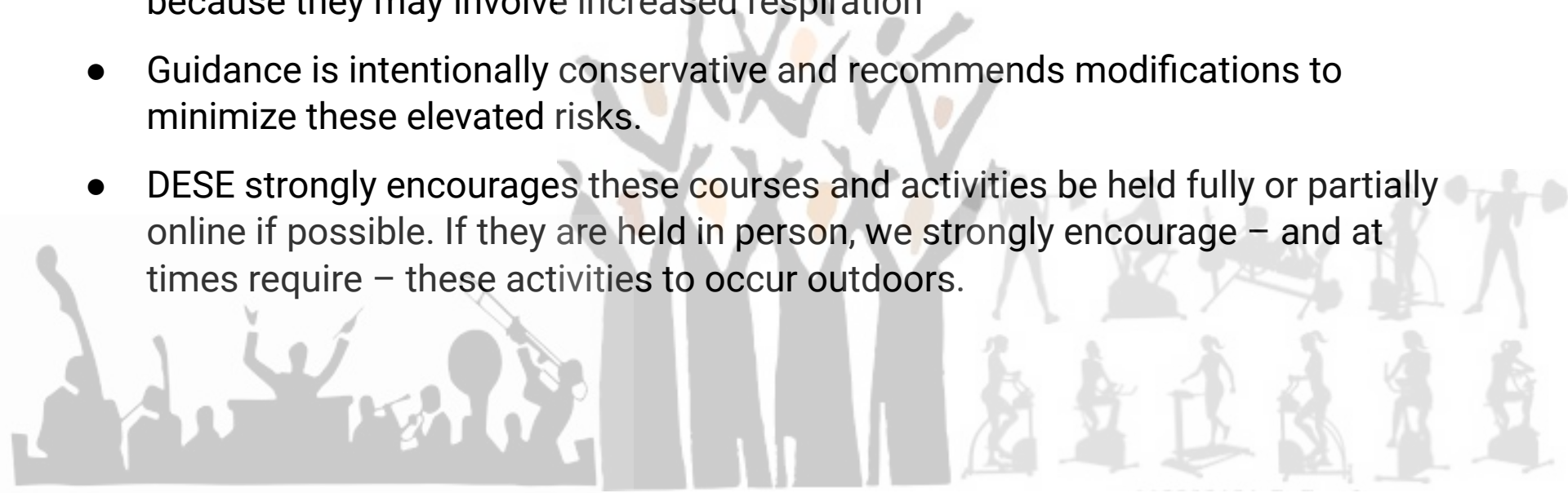
Cleaning: no change

Meal distribution: no change

Water fountain: no change

UPDATE – Chorus/Band/PE Protocols (DESE)

- Chorus, singing, brass or woodwind instrument use, physical education activities, dance, and theater require enhanced health and safety measures, because they may involve increased respiration
- Guidance is intentionally conservative and recommends modifications to minimize these elevated risks.
- DESE strongly encourages these courses and activities be held fully or partially online if possible. If they are held in person, we strongly encourage – and at times require – these activities to occur outdoors.



Physical Education

- No close physical contact.
- Physical education should prioritize activities that do not require shared equipment. .
- Prioritize outdoor activities, whenever possible.
- Students should wash or sanitize hands before and after physical education. Particular attention should be paid to washing and sanitizing hands before and after masks are removed and put on, if applicable.
- No sharing of water bottles, towels, mouth guards, helmets or other equipment that comes into contact with the nose or mouth is allowed.
- As part of the school cleaning/disinfecting protocols, frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces (e.g., any equipment used) between uses and at least daily.

Outdoors w/out masks - 10 feet of distance

Outdoors with masks - 6 feet of distance

Indoors with masks - 6 feet of distance



Chorus, Singing, Musical Theatre

- If outdoors, with masks encouraged if possible, these activities can occur with at least 10 feet of distance between individuals.
- If indoors, with masks required, these activities can occur with at least 10 feet of distance between individuals if in-person school is occurring.

Note:

Limited to 30 minutes at one time

These activities cannot occur indoors without a mask.

- Tight, well-fitting masks
- Large, well-ventilated spaces
- Lower volume
- Students facing one direction
- Avoid sharing materials



Band & the Use of Musical Instruments

- instruction for musical instruments that require air blowing (e.g., flute, oboe, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, trombone) can occur outdoors or indoors, if in-person school is occurring, when individuals are at least 10 feet apart. These instruments should never be shared.
- Instruction for musical instruments that do not involve air blowing (e.g., strings, percussion, piano) may continue indoors or outdoors as long as health and safety requirements are met. If needed, these instruments can be shared between students in accordance DESE guidance

DESE strongly encourages these courses and activities be held fully or partially online if possible. If they are held in person, DESE strongly encourages and at times require these activities to occur outdoors.



UPDATE – Travel Order > Travel Advisory

Effective Monday, March 22nd

the Massachusetts Travel Order was replaced with a Travel Advisory:

- all visitors entering Massachusetts, including returning residents, are urged to quarantine for 10 days upon their arrival.
- Travelers are encouraged to consult and follow the CDC's guidelines and requirements for travel.



Travel Advisory – Exemptions

Travelers are exempt from this advisory if:

- They obtained a negative COVID-19 test result, administered up to 72 hours prior to their arrival in MA. If not obtained before entry to MA, a test may be obtained after arrival, as long as travelers quarantine until a negative test result has been received
- They are fully vaccinated (i.e. who have received two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines OR who have received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, 14 days or more ago) AND who do not have symptoms
- They returned to MA after being out of state for fewer than 24 hours
- Children younger than 10 years old (our local board of health recommend that all travelers, including children follow the travel advisory)

COVID-19 hasn't left the building...

3/21/2021

- A Massachusetts high school has switched to remote learning after what officials are calling the largest coronavirus outbreak in the town since the start of the pandemic and as a result has closed to in-person learning until at least April 5
- the outbreak in the community followed an off-campus, non-school event town health and school officials became aware of last week.
- The outbreak has led an estimated 100 residents to become exposed to the virus,

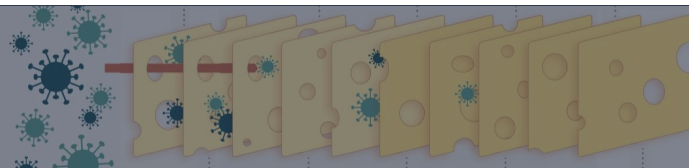
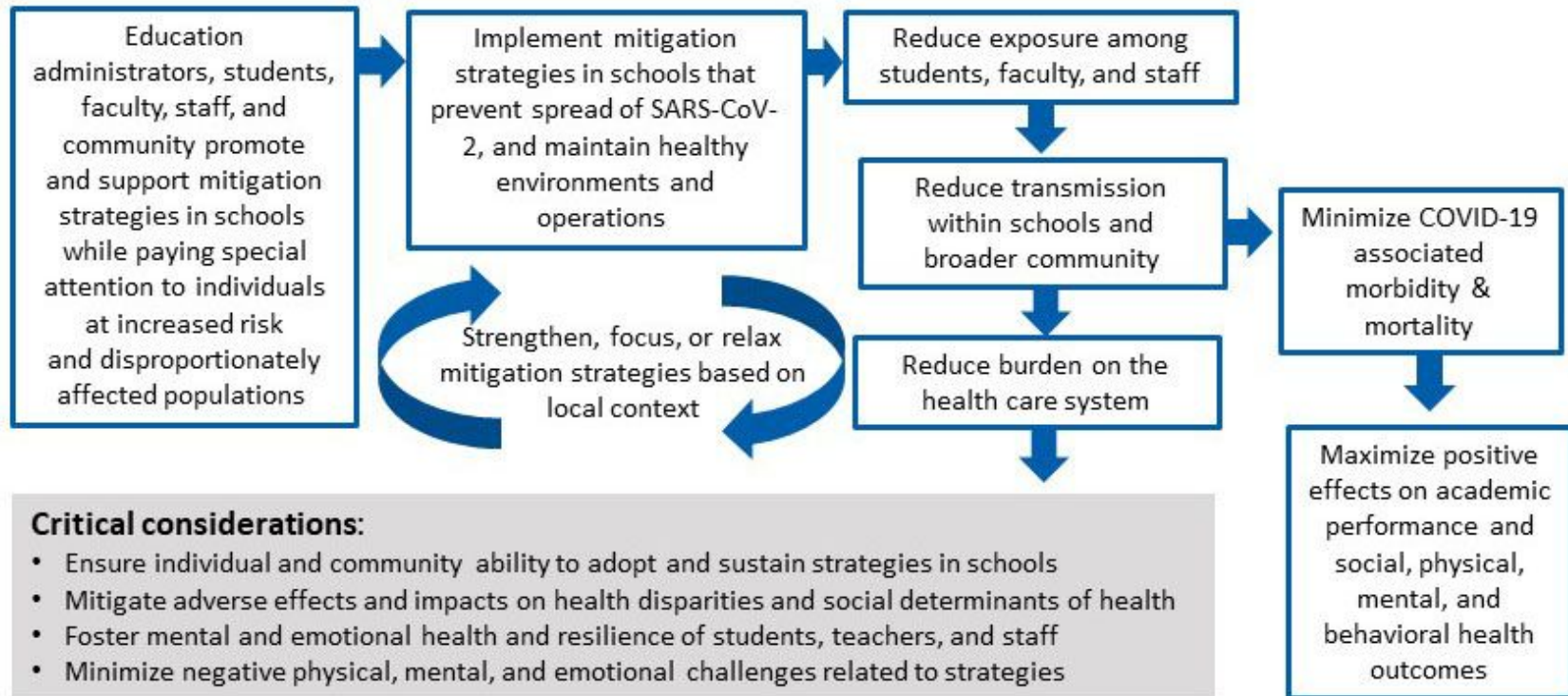


Clusters – In the news...

- Dozens of people have tested positive for COVID-19 in connection with a cluster at a youth cheerleading facility in Massachusetts.
- There have been 37 coronavirus cases across 14 cities and towns since Monday, tied to the training facility. That number does not include family members or close contacts of participants, according to officials.



COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies in K-12 Schools



References

<https://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/on-desktop.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/monitoring-evaluation-k-12.html>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-isolation-and-quarantine-information>

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-advisory>

<https://www.nbcboston.com/news/local/covid-cluster-tied-to-weymouth-cheerleading-facility/2333325/>

<https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2021/03/swampscott-high-school-moves-to-remote-learning-amid-largest-covid-outbreak-town-has-seen-during-the-pandemic.html>

IC/ICA

SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar for the ensuing year will be prepared by the Superintendent and submitted to the School Committee for approval by May 1st of each year. The number of days or instructional hours scheduled for the school year will be determined in accordance with the following standards set by the Massachusetts Board of Education:

1. The School Committee shall schedule a school year which includes at least 185 days for each school in the District.
2. Elementary school will operate for a minimum of 180 days. Schools shall ensure that every elementary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 900 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.
- 3 Secondary schools will operate for a minimum of 180 days. All schools shall ensure that every secondary school student is scheduled to receive a minimum of 990 hours per school year of structured learning time, as defined in 603 CMR 27.02. Time which a student spends at school breakfast and lunch, passing between classes, in homeroom, at recess, in non-directed study periods, receiving school services, and participating in optional school programs shall not count toward meeting the minimum structured learning time requirement for that student.

For the information of staff, students, and parents, the calendar will set forth the days schools will be in session; holidays and vacation periods; in service days; and parent conferences.

SOURCE: MASC Policy

LEGAL REFS

M.G.L. 4:7; 69:1G; 71:1; 71:4; 71:4A; 71:73; 136:12
603 CMR 27.00

Department of Secondary and Elementary Education:
"Student Learning Time" - Regulations Guide -- May 1995

Adopted: August 21, 2003
Revised: December 15, 2011
Revised: March 2021

ID

SCHOOL DAY

The length of the school day is **established in the collective bargaining agreements with the various school unions**. The specific opening and closing times of the schools, will be recommended by the Superintendent and set by the committee.

The Superintendent is authorized to make minor changes in opening and closing times to simplify transportation scheduling; however, major changes in schedules will be subject to committee approval.

Parents and guardians will be informed of the opening and closing times set by the committee. To help insure the safety of all children, parents will also be notified that students will be admitted into the school building not less than 15 minutes prior to the start of the official day unless bus schedules require earlier admittance.

SOURCE: MASC

LEGAL REFS

M.G.L. 15:1G; 69:1G;71:1

603 CMR 27.00

Department of Secondary and Elementary Education:

"Student Learning Time - Regulations Guide -- May 1995"

Adopted: August 21, 2003

Revised: December 15, 2011

Revised: March 2021

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Constant adaptation and development of the curriculum is necessary if the District is to meet the needs of the students in its schools. To be successful, curriculum development must be a collaborative enterprise involving staff and administrators utilizing their professional expertise.

The Committee expects the faculty and administration to regularly evaluate the education program and to recommend modifications of practice, changes in curriculum content, and the addition or deletion of courses to the instructional program.

SOURCE: MASC April 2019

LEGAL REF.: M.G.L. 69:1E
603 CMR 26:05

Review: March 2021