



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

JUSTIN MCCARTHY, Vice Chair
BRAD AUSTIN, Member

MATTHEW HUNT, Chair

TIMALYN RASSIAS, Secretary
JEN GOLD, Member

School Committee Meeting

September 9, 2021

7:00 PM

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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 - August 26, 2021
 - Oath to Bills and Payroll

7:05 II. INTERESTED CITIZENS

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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7:10 III. OLD BUSINESS

1. **COVID 19 Working Group:** Chair, Matt Hunt will give an update on the COVID 19 Working Group.

7:20 IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Student Representative(s) Update:** Student representative(s) will give an update on upcoming school activities and events.
2. **First Day Back, September 1, 2021:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy will give a brief update on our staff's first day back.
3. **Start of School Year Update:** Superintendent Kelly Clenchy and School Principals will give an update on the first week of school.
4. **Enrollment 2021-2022:** Superintendent will give a general overview of the Enrollment on the first day of school September 2, 2021.

7:30 V. PRESENTATION

1. **Public Health Metrics:** Chair Matt Hunt and Katrina Wilcox Hagberg will give an update on the Public Health Metrics.
2. **Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios:** Ms. Lyn Snow will give an update on the revised protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios that were provided by DESE/DPH.
3. **Summary of ESSER 3 Community and Staff Survey results and overview of grant proposal:** Mrs. Elizabeth Steele and Ms. Lyn Snow will summarize the survey results and provide an overview of the grant proposal.
4. **School Handbook Language for Masking Requirements:** Superintendent Clenchy will present draft language specific to masking requirements to be inserted in school handbooks.
5. **PPE:** Business Manager Steve Mark will give an update on the PPE that can be provided to all school buildings, staff, students and others.

7:45 VI. INTERESTED CITIZENS

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8:00 VII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1. PMBC**
- 2. Budget Subcommittee**
- 3. Policy Subcommittee: (see LPS website to view all policies)**
<http://www.littletonps.org/school-committee/school-committee-policies>

8:05 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
September 30, 2021
7:00 PM
Zoom Meeting**

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES August 11, 2021 7:00PM

PRESENT: Matthew Hunt
Brad Austin
Justin McCarthy
Timalyn Rassias
Jen Gold

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Matthew Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

On a motion by Timalyn Rassias and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to approve the June 17th, 2021, consent agenda as presented. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Mike Fontanella – When will the traffic light at the High School be installed? This is happening with a huge effort from both Daryl Baker and Chuck DeCoste.

Steve Mark – Should be installed by mid to end of August. But could be delayed until September.

FINCOM SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE INTERVIEW/APPOINTMENT

1. Fincom Appointment: The School Committee has received a letter of interest from Alvin Rasmus for the 3-year seat starting August 8, 2021 and ending May 2024.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Justin McCarthy it was voted to approve Alvin Rasmus for the FinCom School Representative seat for a 3-year term ending May 2024. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

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Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

HEALTH METRIC UPDATE

1. Katrina Wilcox Hagberg gave a brief overview of the Delta Variant. Vaccines remain the best way to protect yourself and those around you. Vaccines and masks are still the most effective according to CDC studies. 7-day average is around 800 cases in the state of MA as of Aug. 11, 2021. Littleton had 5 cases through July 31. Test positivity rate is still around 2.9. Less people are being tested at this point. 76% of 12–15-year-old and 74% of the 16–18-year-old have been fully vaccinated in Littleton. CDC came out with a new recommendation that any community that is in the orange category should be wearing a mask indoors regardless of the vaccine status. Following mitigations strategies: The benefit is higher when using them all together:
 - Vaccinate
 - Ventilate
 - Masks
 - Testing
 - Avoid indoor crowding

Masks – CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics recommend universal masking of all students, teachers, staff, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status

- Consistent and correct mask use is important in indoors and in crowded settings
 - Masks provide source control by reducing emission of virus laden droplets and aerosols (of Covid or other respiratory diseases)
 - Masks reduce inhalation of virus particles by the wearer (filtration protection)
 - The combination of these effects is key to prevention
- Community benefits increase with increasing numbers of people using masks

What we think we know about Covid and kids is changing. We are still learning about this disease:

- Most data collected during social restrictions and high mask use - exposure opportunity was limited
- Delta infections in children are on the rise
 - ~94,000 children infected with Covid in the US last week (up from 72,000 and 39,000 the prior two weeks)
 - 15% of all new cases were children this week
- With more infections, more likely to see serious outcomes
- Serious outcomes and death have been low
 - In Covid-Net through July 31, 2021, there were 3353 pediatric hospitalized cases versus 188,790 adults
 - For underlying medical condition data through June 30, 2021, 46.4% of hospitalized children had no known underlying condition (vs 8.1% of adults)
- More research on acute and long-term health impacts of infected children is needed
- Slowing spread will help prevent education and activity disruptions, quarantines, and protect mental health

Brad Austin – Is there any issue being close together if everyone is wearing masks?

Katrina Wilcox Hagberg – When we had all students back in the building in the spring, we were back to 3-feet and everyone was wearing masks and we did not see any in-school transmission.

Matt Hunt – We will not be discussing distance. We will be talking about masks and pool testing.

COVID UPDATE

- 1. Covid Update:** Superintendent Clenchy discussed mask wearing in the schools and other mitigation strategies that should be considered prior to the start of the new school year.

American Academy of Pediatrics:

Guidance updated on July 19, 2021 – Mask recommendation that everyone older than age 2 wear masks, regardless of vaccination status.

Guidance from CDC:

“Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.”

“Key Takeaways:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.”
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance when feasible between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing by people who are not fully vaccinated, to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as indoor masking.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing, and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

Statement from U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona

"Students are provided the best opportunity to learn and thrive when learning in person. We know the best way to safely do this is to get as many people age 12 and older vaccinated. Given the recent trends in COVID spread due to premature relaxation of prevention strategies by unvaccinated individuals and lagging vaccination rates in some parts of our country, we support the recommendation for masking in K-12 schools. We must do everything to ensure that our students do not have to compromise any more of their educational experiences due to increases in community spread. The Department stands ready to work with schools, families, and communities to implement these recommendations from the CDC and ensure all students in every corner of the country can return to school in-person, full time this fall."
(July 27, 2021)

134 **Guidance from DESE and DPH:**

135 On Friday, July 30th Governor Baker and Education Commissioner Jeff Riley released guidance that was
136 jointly developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department
137 of Public Health (DPH). The guidance provides information on mitigation strategies specifically with
138 regard to mask-wearing. The guidance states that DESE and DPH strongly recommend that all students in
139 kindergarten through grade 6 wear masks when indoors, except students who cannot do so due to medical
140 conditions or behavioral needs. The guidance does state that masks are not necessary outdoors and may be
141 removed while eating indoors. Further, DESE and DPH also strongly recommend that unvaccinated staff
142 in all grades, unvaccinated students in grades 7 and above, and unvaccinated visitors wear masks indoors,
143 in alignment with the statewide advisory on masking.

144
145 **MASC - Massachusetts Association of School Committees**

146 They recommend that all school districts adopt a universal indoor mask wearing policy at this time.

147
148 Matt Hunt – What do we need to do to continue with pool testing?

149 Kelly Clenchy – We have a few different options this school year. Pool testing has gotten great
150 improvements, and our school nurses and staff have gotten lots of experience and are very efficient.

151
152 Matt Hunt – If a student turns 12-years-old during the school year and after the two weeks of their 2nd
153 vaccine shot, can they come to school without wearing a mask? Can we require proof of vaccine?

154
155 Kelly Clenchy – We could ask for proof of vaccination from both students and staff.

156
157 **Public Input:**

158 Matthew Ridge – We have been going an entire summer without masks. We have been closer than 3-feet
159 apart. Younger students cannot get vaccinated. Social interaction took a toll last year. My son is
160 pronouncing words incorrectly because his teacher was wearing a mask when he was taught in school last
161 year.

162 Let the parents decide whether they want their child to wear a mask or not regardless of vaccine status. We
163 are never going to be a 5, 3 or 0%.

164 I cannot imagine what a full school year will look like for my son if he must wear a mask the whole time.

165
166 Shelley Harvey – We have all done our part. Gotten vaccinated. Why are we making our children wear a
167 mask? Children are not as affected by Covid as adults. I am very against mandating children wearing a
168 mask in school.

169
170 Jean Cleary – What happens about common sense? Basically, this is not a vaccine. Masks are not good for
171 kids.

172
173 Diane Prunier – My concern is the social distance piece. Can we bring back play tables, common areas in
174 the classroom so the children can socialize again and interact and play together.

175 Kelly Clenchy – Our intent is to bring as much normalcy back into the classroom as possible, but we
176 might have some restrictions if we go back unmasked.

177 Michelle Kane – we are planning to bring the play tables back and maybe have a glass barrier between the
178 tables. We should be able to share materials again.

179
180 Katie Woodward – Masking is going to keep the schools open. The kids social and emotional health
181 should be a priority. Schools should do as much as they can to keep the schools open for the kids.

182

John Krzewich – One area I think is reasonable, CDC and American Pediatric they are making recommendations. If it comes back as a mandate, then we can come back to discuss this, but for now it is a recommendation. Kids are at very low risk. The masks are not a 50% reduction The number one thing to do is to keep the sick kids out of the school. I think that masks should be voluntary.

Inna Landsman – We are asking that you make it mandatory for all students through grade 6 to wear a mask.

Jamie Kennedy – Do you have stats of the staff that have been vaccinated in all schools? What is your plan if we get a high infection rate? What are the options for parents who cannot choose a hybrid plan this school year if they do not feel safe getting their children back in school?

Kelly Clenchy – We do not have stats on our staff vaccine status. We do have the option to ask staff if we so choose.

Department of Education will be the one to decide if we need to offer other instruction models. If families do not feel safe to send their child back to the school, they can seek other online learning options.

Kelli Harte – I am a Kindergarten teacher at Shaker Lane. I was very pleasantly surprised how easy it was for the students to keep their masks on. The kids do really well. With more students back this fall, I do think it is important that we keep the masks on to keep everyone safe.

Greg Tesz – Thanked the School Committee Board and Administration and Mrs. Hagberg who has presented some very valuable data. I am for masks and since things are changing with the Delta variant, we cannot overlook this. If we are overly cautious, then the only thing is that our children wore a mask again but were able to be in school for a full year.

Jillian Shaw – I think mask wearing should be voluntary. If students choose not to wear a mask, they should be in pool testing.

Julie Baker – I am asking the board to use a preventative approach to have the best chance for the school to stay open. It will be important to keep the schools open. I really hope that we give all students an equal opportunity to be in school in person.

Ashley Jodka -What happens if a student gets Covid? Do we have a plan if a student needs to be quarantined?

Kelly Clenchy – We are still waiting for guidance from DESE on protocols for quarantined students, but we will continue to connect with the student during quarantine.

Katie – I am asking that we keep masks on to keep running noses and coughing out of school.

Christy Ellman – For children under 12 years old since they are not vaccinated it should be mandated to wear a mask in school.

Matt Hunt – Let's discuss pool testing first.

Jen Gold – I am for pool testing. There is only good to come from this data.

On a motion by Jen Gold and seconded by Timalyn Rassias it was voted to approve to continue pool testing in all the schools. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

Justin McCarthy – Protocol! If vaccinated and you are in close contact, you do not need to quarantine?
Kelly Clenchy – If you are asymptomatic, you do not need to quarantine if you are vaccinated.

Justin McCarthy – This is a pandemic largely amongst people who are not vaccinated. I am ok with it being a parent choice at this point.

Jen Gold – The national guidelines are national. We need to look at the guidelines and look at the numbers in our area. There really aren't any studies that show that masking works or does not work. I think we should start the school year with masks optimal.

Brad Austin – I certainly agree that we need to be flexible. It is a pandemic of the un-vaccinated. We have heard from people whose children got Covid. 15% of all cases are in children and that is the Delta variant. I believe we should require masks for all students.

Timalyn Rassias – We cannot compare our state to the states in the south. I feel that the students in 7th through 12 grade who have been vaccinated should have the option and it should not be mandated for them. I think it should be a parent's choice.

Matt Hunt – I think I would make it an option to wear a mask if you are vaccinated but a mandated mask policy for Shaker Lane and Russell Street school at this point. But Grade 6 are mostly 11-year-olds and they should probably be wearing a mask. Is there a lot of mixing of students in the middle school?

Kelly Clenchy – For a good part of the day, Grade 6 students are only with their own cohort but then they have specials they do go into other classrooms where 7 and 8th grade students will be. We will do our best to keep them separated as best we can.

Justin McCarthy – As a School Board we should probably recommend that any unvaccinated students and staff should be wearing a mask.

Matt Hunt – I would rather have students wearing masks and being able to be closer together from the start. It is a lot easier to pull back later if necessary.

Jen Gold – If masks are optional will that have an effect on the layout of the classrooms?

Timalyn Rassias – Can we hear from the principals what the classrooms will look like at both Elementary and High school with or without masks?

Kelly Clenchy – The teachers' comfort level affect how they teach. I would rather err on the side of caution. Teachers teach more efficiently when they are comfortable in their setting.

Brad Austin – I would be more hesitant to move around in my classroom if my students did not wear a mask. There would be certain things I would not be doing with my students if they are not wearing a mask in my classroom.

Public Input:

Matt Greany – Why are we not doing everything we can to keep the kids safe. The mask is helping, and kids should be wearing them to keep everyone safe. The most important thing is to have the kids in school. Being in quarantine at home is not good for anyone, especially not the children.

Matt – Why are we still talking about making this an option. The Delta variant is here, and people are still getting sick from it. Let's compare it to having a child with peanut butter allergy. You would not allow the

children to bring in a peanut butter sandwich to class that could stir up allergies. If you do not make this a mandate, you will lose ground and you can not count on people making the right decision on their own if you do not have a mandate in place.

Clifford Stevens – What’s nice about this community is that we are doing the right thing. You are coming back as a community to protect anyone whether students or staff are vaccinated or not. Let’s do the right thing and start the school year where everyone is wearing a mask.

Erica Podgorni – Peer pressure takes over in school. I am a Kindergarten teacher but if my students are not wearing a mask while I am teaching my teaching style will change. My main goal is to protect the students and I can only do that if they are wearing a mask while in class.

Danette Johnson – We need to be conservative. If it is optional it will not protect the ones wearing a mask.

Kerri LaVoie – I turned on this evening thinking we would be wearing a masked this coming school year. You are talking about not protecting 60% of our school community. I really hope that you put these last calls into your consideration before you vote.

Brandon Gustafson – These calls are turning the tide. I would vote for the vaccinated people it would be voluntary and it being a parents’ choice.

Shayna Garlisi – I will certainly teach differently if the students are masks or unmasked. Having the students masked would mean that students can socialize and be around each other.

Kevin Baker – As a resident we have the moral obligation to do the right thing.

On a motion by Timalyn Rassias and seconded by Justin McCarthy it was voted to mandate that all students at Shaker Lane and Russell Street School to be wearing a mask at the start of the school year. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted that students and staff at Middle School and High School to be exempt from wearing a mask if vaccinated. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Timalyn Rassias it was voted that staff at Shaker Lane School and Russell Street School to be exempt from wearing a mask if vaccinated. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

Steve Mark, Business Manager reminded everyone that all students regardless of vaccine status are required to wear a mask when riding the school bus.

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Timalyn Rassias it was voted to approve for administration to be able to ask staff and students for proof of vaccination. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

INTERESTED CITIZENS

Jamie Kennedy – Now that you gave the staff members the option to opt out of wearing a mask, can we as parents ask the teacher to wear it?

Kelly Clenchy – The motion gives the teacher the option. As a parent you can ask but it will be the teacher's decision.

Erica Podgorni – How will this motion be implemented? It is my understanding that as a teacher we cannot get that kind of information.

Kelly Clenchy – I will be checking with my legal team on the terms.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Justin McCarthy and seconded by Jen Gold it was voted to adjourn at 10:41PM. Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Jen Gold, AYE.

NEXT MEETING DATE
August 12nd and August 13rd, 2021
Summer Retreat

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

Fincom Representative

Covid Health update

Covid Update



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SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES August 26, 2021 7:00PM

PRESENT: Matthew Hunt
Brad Austin
Justin McCarthy
Timalyn Rassias
Jen Gold

ALSO PRESENT: Kelly Clenchy
Steve Mark
Dorothy Mulone
Bettina Corrow

NOT PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER

Matthew Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Deliberation on Current Covid-19 Data specific to indoor mask wearing:** The School Committee and the Superintendent discussed the current covid-19 data points as well as new information specific to indoor mask wearing.
 - The Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians released a joint statement calling for universal mask mandates in schools. Massachusetts Medical Society, Massachusetts Academy of Family Physicians, Massachusetts Chapter of the American College of Physicians urge governor to require masks in schools
 - On August 24th the Commissioner of Education mandated indoor universal masking in schools until at least October 1, 2021
 - Littleton had 14 cases reported from August 1 - 14, a 3-fold increase from the 5 cases that were reported for the prior two-week period (July 18-31). Most areas we track trended higher this week or were flat in both average daily case rates per 100k and test positivity. Note that Littleton's rates are now at the average daily case rate of 10 per 100k, which is the threshold epidemiologists want to stay under to prevent rapid spread

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- When we look at the total cases in the last 7 days (CDC Community Transmission rates), the State as a whole is now in high transmission (red), while the other areas we track are all in substantial transmission (orange-proactive decision making would occur in this range)
- Statewide cases among all age groups continue to trend higher in all age spans inclusive of school-aged students
- A number of clusters in the last month have been reported by DPH in child care, K-12 schools, organized athletics, camps, restaurants, social gatherings, and households
- Middlesex County has moved into the red category representing high transmission rates. Worcester County recently turned red as well indicating high transmission rates. Our entire State is now at substantial or high transmission rates
- Littleton's fully vaccinated rate improved 1% this week, now up to 73% fully vaccinated (a minimum of 80% seems to be the threshold) between staff and student at each school within the school district
- Center for disease control and the American Academy of Pediatrics continue to recommend indoor universal masking in schools
- The Delta variant is highly infectious- one case on average spreads to 5-9 people
- COVID vaccination efficacy is weakened over time. CDC is currently discussing the need for booster shots eight months after last vaccination. The number of identified breakthrough cases is continuing to rise in MA and throughout our nation

MA Board of Health Mask Mandate Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education held a special meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 24 to discuss and vote on Commissioner Riley's request that the Board grant him authority to mandate masks for all public K-12 students, educators, and staff through at least October 1st to ensure schools fully reopen safely and to provide time for more students and educators to get vaccinated. The vote in regard to this motion passed and as a result, indoor universal masking for the start of the school year has been mandated by the Commissioner of Education. MA Board of Health Mask Mandate. After October 1st the Commissioner's policy would allow middle and high schools to lift the mask mandate for vaccinated students and staff only if the school meets a certain vaccination rate – at least 80 percent of students and staff in a school building are vaccinated. I would imagine the Commissioner would also look at other benchmarks such as COVID numbers, transmission rates, etc that would weigh into his decision. Unvaccinated students and staff would still be required to wear masks.

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Jennifer Gold it was voted to rescind all motions made at the August 11, 2021 school committee meeting. (AYE: Unanimous). Motion carried.
Roll Call Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Jen Gold, AYE; and Timalyn Rassias, AYE.

Brad Austin asked to have the mandate verified, that the Oct. 1, 2021 threshold can only apply if staff and students at one school are at 80% vaccinated rate.

Jen Gold – Would we need to vote again after Oct. 1, 2021 if we have met the threshold at the two schools this would apply to?

Kelly Clenchy – We do not have an answer at this point whether that will be necessary or not.

Justin McCarthy – I would encourage the panelists and viewers to watch the DESE meeting that took place on Aug. 24. It is only 24 minutes but was very informative.

Kelly Clenchy – Any mitigations strategies we have in place will be beneficial.

84 Matt Hunt – I am hoping that we will continue to increase the vaccine rate within the school, town and our
85 community.

86
87 Justin McCarthy – What will our collection of data be to find out if our staff and students have been
88 vaccinated?

89 Kelly Clenchy – We will be sending home a letter to our families next week and give families a week to
90 get back to us on their vaccination status.

91
92 Matt Hunt – How are we going to handle lunch break in the schools?

93 Michelle Kane – We are striving to reach the 3-feet distance in the lunchroom with TV-trays that we will
94 use. Students will be seated in assigned seats for contact tracing. We will not be using the round tables at
95 this point.

96
97 Cheryl Temple – Our plan is similar to Shaker Lane’s set up. We will be outside as much as possible as
98 well.

99
100 Jason Everhart – It will be the same set up as last year. They will be sitting in straight rows with TV trays
101 and half of the students will be in the cafeteria and the other half in the gymnasium.

102
103 John Harrington – We will have our three lunch breaks. We will not be using the gym at this point. We
104 will have a tent outside where students can sit as well. We will continue to use the space outside as much
105 as possible weather permitting.

106 If students are seated in the cafeteria, they will be seated at the round tables but with clear dividers
107 between them.

108
109 Matt Hunt – Last thing, I am just encouraging all teachers to provide plenty of mask breaks for the
110 students, especially in September while it is still very hot out.

111
112 Justin McCarthy – Close contact? Exempt from quarantining if you are in close contact and you are
113 asymptomatic. You do not need to quarantine or get tested, correct?

114 Lyn Snow – That is correct.

115
116 **2. Update on pooled testing:** PPS Director, Ms. Lyn Snow gave a brief update on pooled testing.

117 Symptomatic testing with lab based follow up. Double nasal swab. Should we have a positive pool, the lab
118 will immediately test the participants of that pool right away. This is “Target testing”.

119 When you are consenting to pool testing, you are consenting to the whole program.

120
121 Brad Austin – Does this mean we will be able to free up some staff time that we had to provide last year?

122 Lyn Snow – Yes, we will be getting more outside support.

123
124 Justin McCarthy – When are you planning a start date?

125 Lyn Snow – We are hoping to start at week 2 or week 3 of the new school year.

126
127 Timalyn Rassias – If you do not consent, and a student does get in close contact, will the student be
128 allowed to video into the instruction happening at school from home?

129 Lyn Snow – No they will not. Those days will be treated as absences. Teachers can send work home to the
130 students but at this point we would not be live streaming any instruction.

131
132 Brad Austin – This seems like a really great mitigation strategy.

133

134 **INTERESTED CITIZENS**

135 Rebecca Lewis – The board will need to consider that this will continue throughout the school year. This is
136 continuing because people are not following the rules and not wearing masks in groups. We really need to
137 protect our children especially our younger students. Who will be reinforcing if a student is not wearing a
138 mask? Who will know who is vaccinated?

139 Kelly Clenchy – We will have that data noted for a teacher to look up to see the student's vaccination status.

141 Brad Austin – This is not something our teachers should be worried about their first four weeks of school.

143 Lyn Snow – We already have this information built into our health form in Aspen. This is like having a
144 student who has a peanut allergy. Teachers are alerted of that in our system, and they are used to looking at
145 this kind of information.

147 Justin McCarthy – I do not think that our clear divider will be hindering any of our air flow.

149 Matthew Ridge – If we have maximized air flow and a person sneezes the air has nowhere to go but around or
150 up from a divider. Where is this health information stored? If my son's health information is being reported, I
151 need to know where it is stored and how. How can you ensure that the child's mask doesn't hurt our children?
152 We cannot assume that the mask is protecting us. We need to come up with something else for the children.
153 We need to do something so our children can learn properly. We need better data, and we need to ensure that
154 our children are learning correctly. I want our schools to be a place of learning and not a place of fear.

156 Brad Austin – Matthew spoke about how important it is for the students to see the teachers' faces. Do teachers
157 have clear masks, or can we provide them?

158 Lyn Snow – Yes, we have provided clear masks to teachers and other supporting staff.

159 Michelle Kane – during mask breaks and snack time when outside, the students would see their teacher
160 without masks. Some of our teachers are using the clear masks during instruction.

162 Meera Gill – If the numbers continue, we will see a lot of kids being absent. I would like to see some plans
163 moving forward.

164 Lyn Snow – This is a fluid situation, but we are working on options.

165 Kelly Clenchy – We anticipate that we will get more guidance from DESE if the numbers continue to
166 increase.

168 Brad Austin – Maybe we start, not this year, to work on plans for students who will have longer time of
169 absence for any medical reason.

171 Eileen Wedegartner – Is the 80% reach even feasible to be reached at the Middle School?

172 Kelly Clenchy – At this point it is highly unlikely we would be able to reach 80% as most grade 6 students are
173 not currently eligible to be vaccinated.

175 Eileen Wedegartner – If an asymptomatic close contact student tests positive, do they need to quarantine?

176 Lyn Snow – If you are vaccinated but asymptomatic with close contact and you test positive in a pool testing,
177 you will need to quarantine until you have been retested.

179 Eileen Wedegartner – Could we give incentive to have more families join the pool testing?

180 Kelly Clenchy – we could entertain that idea, but we want to see how many families will sign up for pool
181 testing first.

Brad Austin – Security and safety of students record.

Lyn Snow – Teachers do not have access to students' health records. They will only have access to whether a student is vaccinated or not.

John Kerswick – Vaccination status. What happens with the people who had their 2nd shot more than 6 months ago? They are not considered vaccinated anymore.

Kelly Clenchy – We are relying on guidance from DESE and the experts from the scientific community.

Matt Hunt – This is certainly something we will consider when the time comes.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Brad Austin and seconded by Justin McCarthy it was voted to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Roll Call

Vote: Matthew Hunt, AYE; Brad Austin, AYE; Justin McCarthy, AYE; Timalyn Rassias, AYE; and Jen Gold, AYE.

NEXT MEETING DATE

September 9, 2021

7:00PM

DOCUMENTS AS PART OF MEETING

Covid update

LITTLETON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT AS OF September 8, 2021
Monthly ENROLLMENT

| | | # Students | #Students | #Students Enrolled | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|--|--|
| SCHOOL | GRADE | Littleton Residents | School Choice | as of 09.08.21 | | |
| SHAKER LANE | PreK | 53 | 0 | 53 | | |
| | K | 132 | 7 | 139 | | |
| | T | 13 | 0 | 13 | | |
| | 1 | 105 | 3 | 108 | | |
| | 2 | 115 | 4 | 119 | | |
| | SL Total | 418 | 14 | 432 | | |
| RUSSELL STREET | 3 | 114 | 7 | 121 | | |
| | 4 | 133 | 5 | 138 | | |
| | 5 | 117 | 4 | 121 | | |
| | RS Total | 364 | 16 | 380 | | |
| MIDDLE SCHOOL | 6 | 123 | 9 | 132 | | |
| | 7 | 124 | 11 | 135 | | |
| | 8 | 125 | 9 | 134 | | |
| | MS Total | 372 | 29 | 401 | | |
| HIGH SCHOOL | 9 | 110 | 11 | 121 | | |
| | 10 | 112 | 8 | 120 | | |
| | 11 | 103 | 7 | 110 | | |
| | 12 | 88 | 12 | 100 | | |
| | HS Total | 413 | 38 | 451 | | |
| | Total ALL | 1567 | 97 | 1664 | | |
| Total #Students Littleton Residents | | 1567 | | | | |
| Total #Students School Choice | | 97 | | | | |
| Total Students Enrolled | | 1664 | | | | |



Littleton Public Schools
Town of Littleton, MA

COVID-19 Testing Program

Program Overview

9/9/2021



Looking back...



During the 2020-21 school year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) introduced COVID-19 screening and diagnostic testing in the school setting as an additional mitigation strategy for COVID-19, the first program of its kind nationwide.

Moving forward



EOHHS and DESE made diagnostic and routine (weekly) COVID pooled testing services available at no cost to participating districts and schools through the end of the 2021-22 school year, under a single contract with the testing provider [CIC Health](#).

Pooled Testing or COVID Safety Checks?

**Is it called "routine covid pooled testing"
or "routine covid safety checks"?**

The testing strategy known as “Pooled Testing” is now referred to by DESE as “Routine COVID Pooled Testing” for districts and schools.

DESE conducted focus groups with representative groups of parents/guardians to identify barriers to participation. A key takeaway was that the phrase “pooled testing” did not engender trust – parents were led to believe that their students would be kept out of school. They equated the word “pooled” to “random” which sounded inaccurate and inefficient.

Using the phrase “Routine COVID Safety Checks” produced positive reactions from the focus group.



What is the value in COVID safety checks?



- **Keep Kids and Staff Safe:** catch cases before they spread to other students and staff
- **Keep our Schools Open:** prevent further time away from in-person learning and friends by knowing whether it's COVID, cold, or flu
- **Stop the Spread:** prevent infecting another member of your household or community

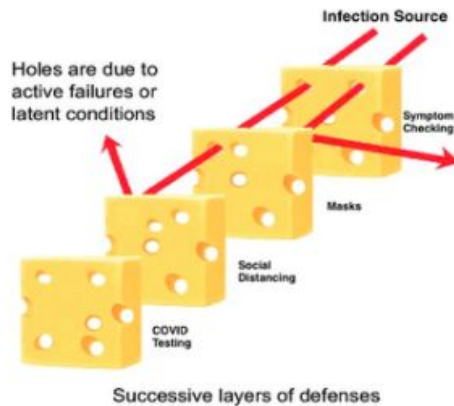
CDC ENDORSEMENT

[CDC's K12 School Operational Strategy](#) endorses the use of Routine COVID Safety Checks for students as an additional layer of safety for schools in Moderate, Substantial and High Transmission areas.

Do we still need to wear masks and distance?

Routine checks do not replace other mitigation measures, such as face masks. Rather, it should be a component of layered mitigation strategies to minimize in-school transmission.

The swiss cheese model shows how COVID testing is another layer of support that helps limit transmission in schools even further.



Source: CIC Health



Nose Swab

Used for: Routine COVID Safety Checks

Our new swab tests are painless, fast, and so easy even a kindergartener can do it. It is not the “brain swab.” It only goes in the lower nostril.

Results: in 24-48 hours

Overseen by: school nurse



BinaxNOW Swab

Used for: Contact Tracing/“Test and Stay”

This is a nose swab in the lower nostril, which is painless, fast, and easy. It is administered by a trained individual.

Results: in 15 minutes

Overseen by: school nurse

Routine COVID Safety Checks Parent Toolkit – Step by Step Process



1

Student Gives Sample
(Swab or Saliva)



2

Return to Class



3

Lab Tests Sample
(24-48 hours)



4

Outreach to any Positive COVID-19 Cases
(isolate and learn remotely)



5

Contact Tracing Starts
("Test and Stay": anyone without symptoms can do a rapid test for 5 days and stay in school to learn)



6

Routine COVID Safety Check Complete!

"TEST AND STAY" PROTOCOL



1

Close Contacts Notified

Anyone who considered "close contact" based on exposure.



2

"Test and Stay"

anyone without symptoms: rapid test daily for 5 days and stay in school to learn



3

Return to Routine COVID Safety Checks

After 5 days

Diagnostic Testing - SYMPTOMATIC

Symptomatic Testing:

(for when individuals present symptoms while at school;

individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home):

Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test



Diagnostic Testing - TEST & STAY



"Test and Stay"

(close contact testing):

Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test or another approved diagnostic test.

Tests are administered daily from the first day of exposure for at least five (5) days.

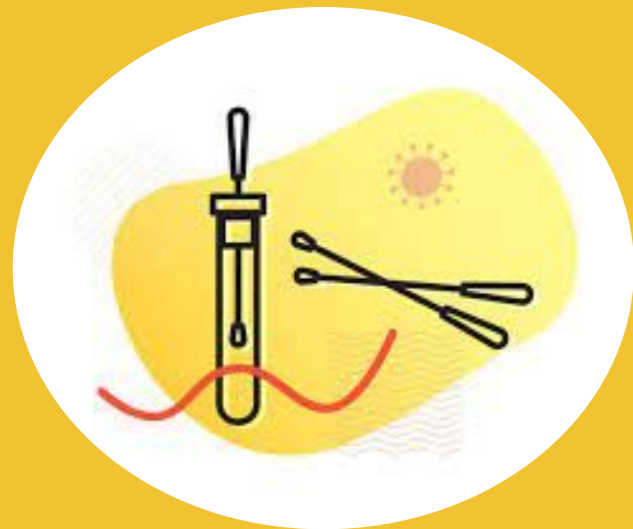
CIC Health staff will be able to assist in determining when an individual has completed the maximum number of testing days.

Routine COVID Pooled Testing (COVID Safety Checks)

Routine COVID Pooled Testing and Lab-Based Follow-Up Testing – *two sample collection:*

two samples are collected at school, after which both specimens are transported to the laboratory; If a pool is positive, individual Follow-Up testing occurs at the lab using the second sample originally collected.

- o Samples are collected through a nasal swab
- o Samples must be collected at school. Students may collect through observed self-collection
- o Samples are processed at the Broad Institute
- o A maximum of ten samples are included in each pool





Providing Consent

Q.

Are the consent forms for the SY21-22 DESE testing program the same as the ones used for SY20-21?

A.

No. The consent forms for SY21-22 are different, and all individuals will need to re-consent to testing for the upcoming school year. The new consent form allows for schools/districts to acquire consent for all three modes of testing – symptomatic, test and stay, and routine COVID pooled testing – through one form.



Providing Consent

Q.

Can consent be acquired at any time, or only at the beginning of the school year?

A.

Consent may be acquired at any point in the school year.



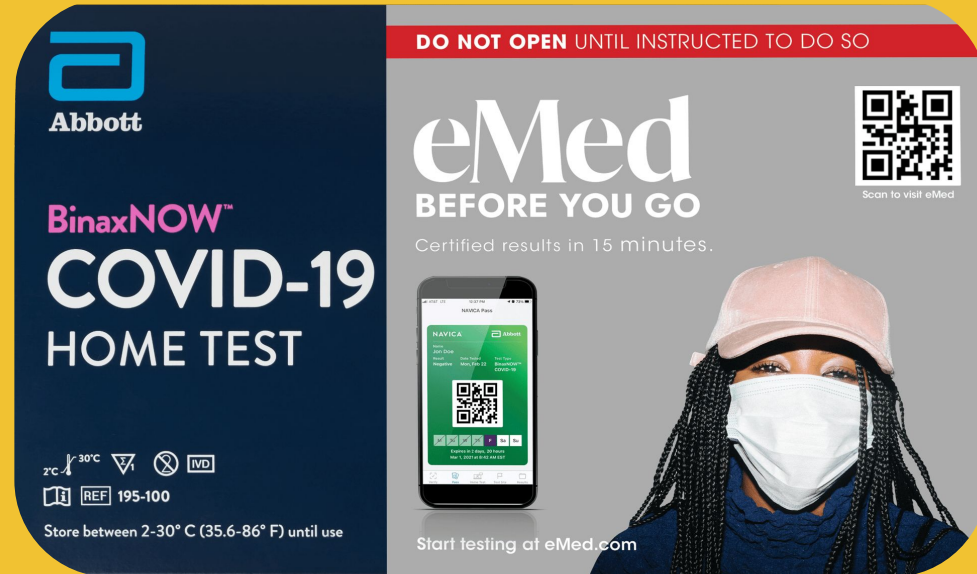
eMed

Q.

Can the eMed at-home BinaxNOW tests be used for Test and Stay?

A.

EMed tests may be utilized only if an individual who is currently in the Test and Stay protocol is participating in an athletic or extracurricular activity on a weekend or non-school day.



Additional FAQs

Q. Can schools/districts change testing modes during the school year?

A. Yes. A school/district may choose to add or subtract a testing mode at any point during the school year by coordinating with their program coordinator at CIC Health.

Q. Can public school districts mandate COVID-19 testing?

A. No, participation in testing is optional and parents/guardians must provide informed consent to participate in the program.

2021-2022

Protocols
for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios
DESE/DPH

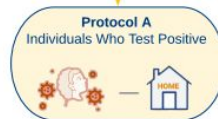


Protocol A

Protocol A: Individual Tests Positive for COVID-19



GO HOME



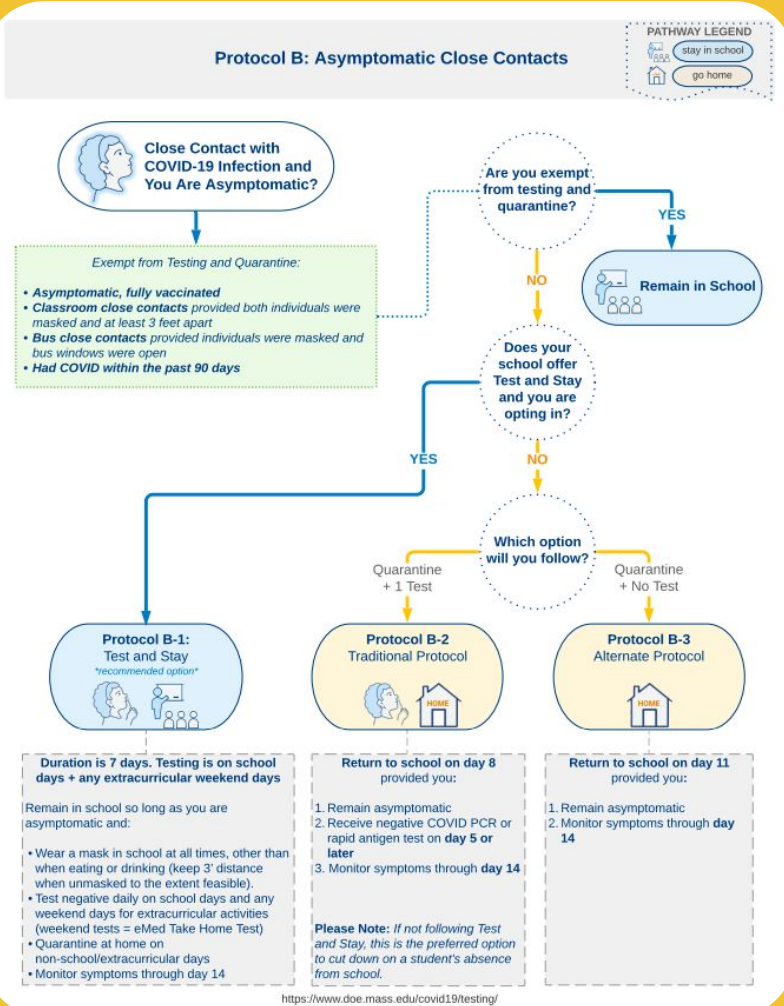
Return to school on day 11 and once:

1. Symptoms improve
2. Fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours

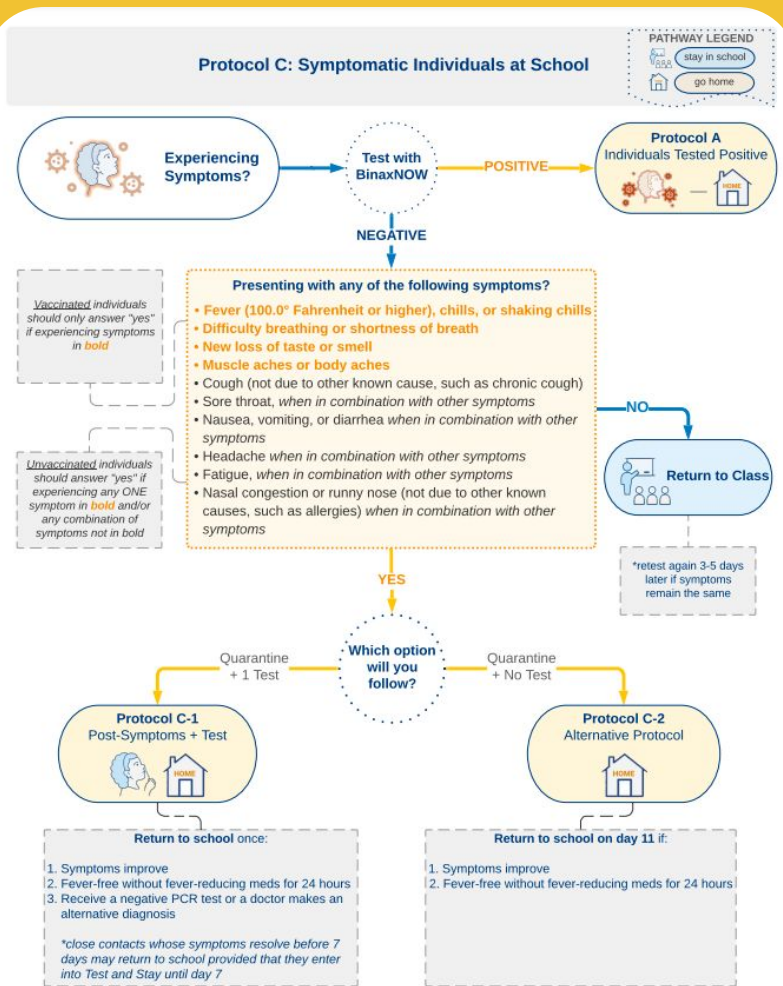
Please Note:

- The 10-day period starts with onset of symptoms or after positive PCR or antigen test if individual is asymptomatic.
 - If individual tests positive as part of a pooled test, the 10-day period begins the day the pooled test returned a positive result.
- Individuals who do not meet these criteria after 10 days should receive clearance from either public health authority contract tracers (the local board of health of Community Tracing Collaborative) or school health professionals before returning to school.
- Return to school should be based on time and symptoms resolution. It is not recommended that individuals take another COVID test prior to return.

Protocol B



Protocol C





Review and Plan for ESSER III Grant



September 9, 2021

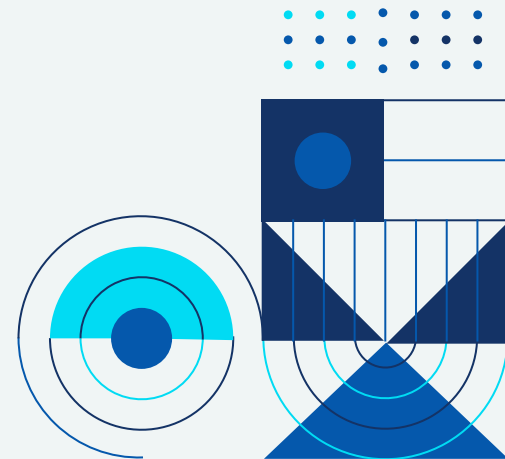
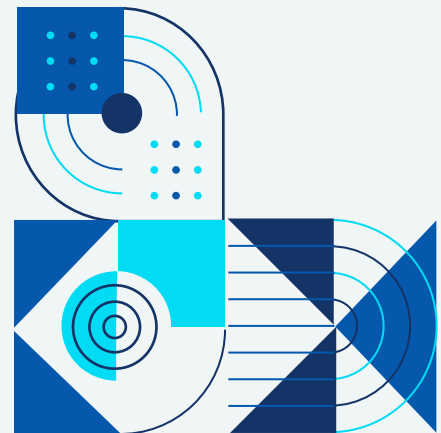
Tonight's Presentation:

1

Review of Survey Data

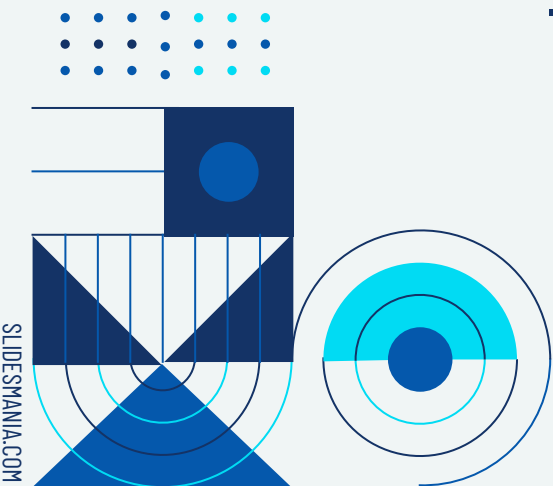
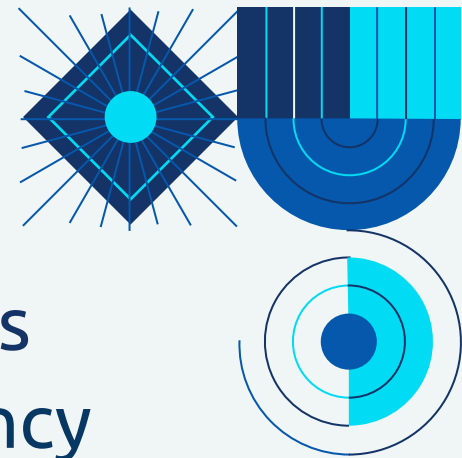
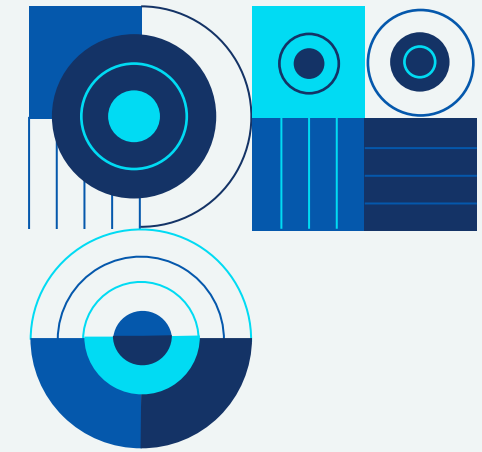
2

Overview of District
Plan

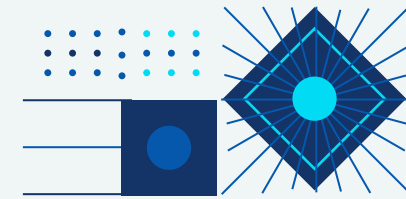


About the Survey

- Survey - July 20th - August 6th / 4 questions
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) to address learning recovery and the impact of COVID-19
- ESSER funds are designated for one-time, short-term expenditures to address the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
- Purpose of survey: seek feedback from district and community stakeholders to help determine how the district should best utilize these resources to address unfinished learning, ongoing COVID-19 recovery, and Federal Program grant funds.

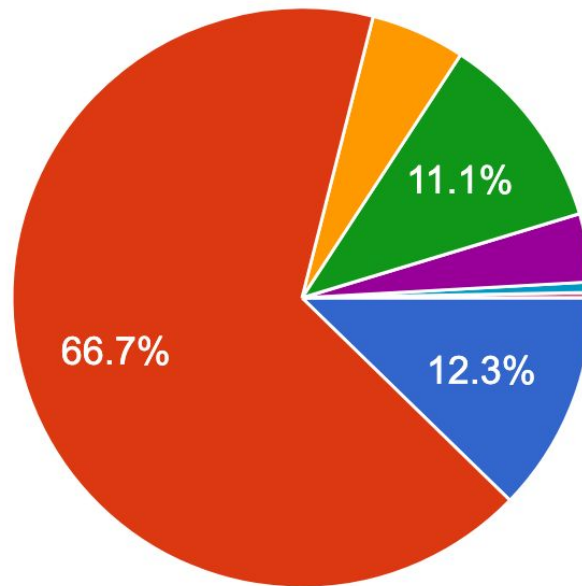


Survey Q#1:



1. Select all stakeholder categories that apply to you.

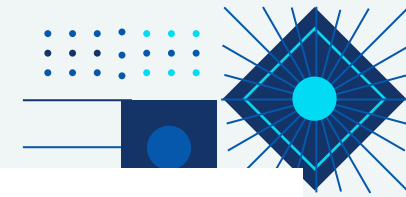
342 responses



- Student
- Caregiver/Family Member
- Stakeholders representing the interests of children with disabilities, English learner, children experiencing homele...
- Teacher
- School Personnel other than Teacher
- School or District Administrator
- Civil rights organization (including disability rights)

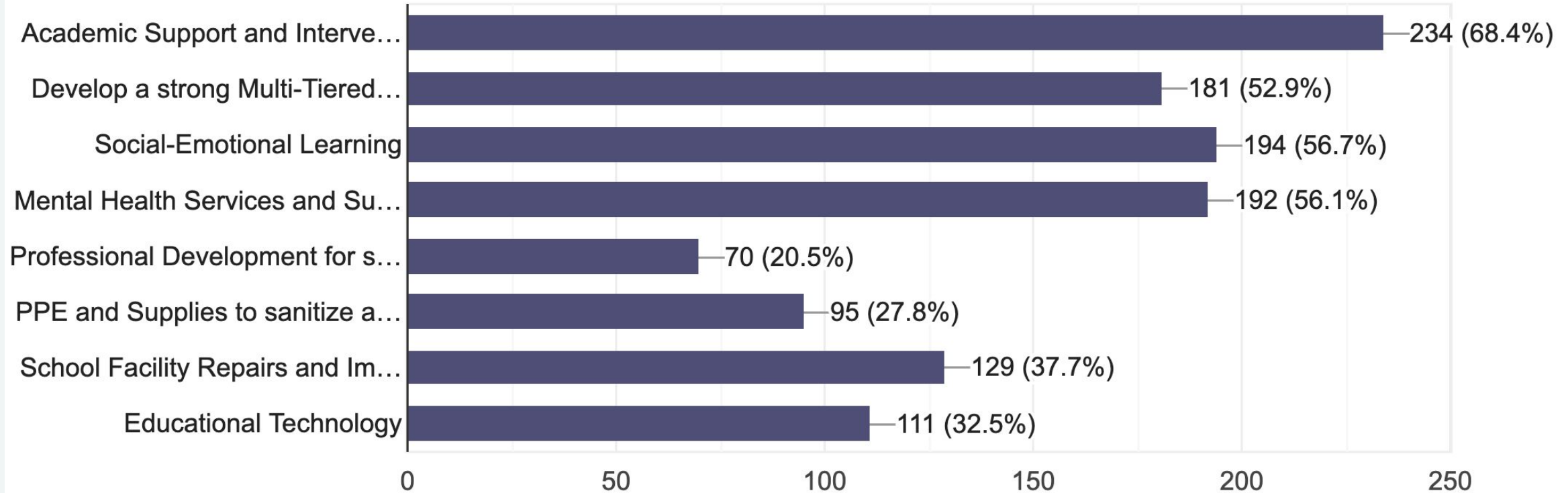


Survey Q#2:

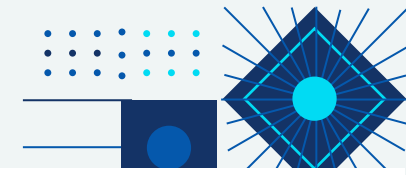


2. What do you believe are the highest priority needs for the 2021-2022 school year related to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic? Please select all that apply.

342 responses

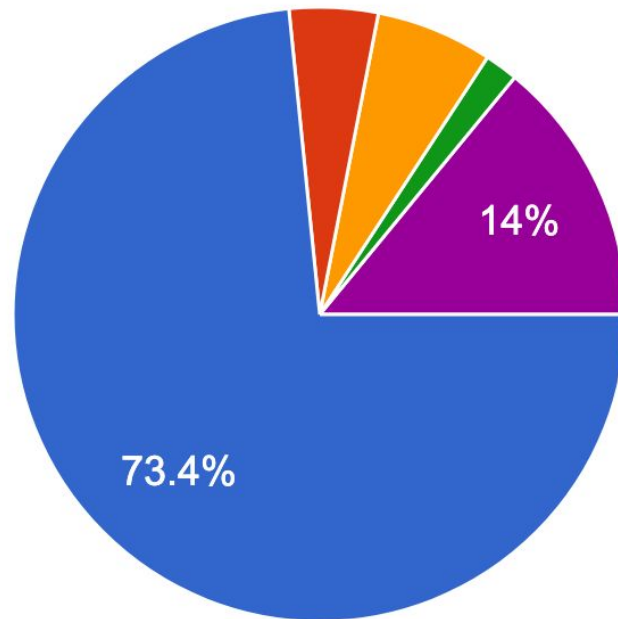


Survey Q#3:



3. When addressing the needs of students with disabilities resulting from the loss of services related to COVID-19, we recognize there are many p...at you would like to see LPS make a top priority.

342 responses



- Supports to help students make up for progress or skills they lost
- Direct supports to parents
- Training for teachers and staff
- Training for parents
- Not applicable/Prefer not to answer

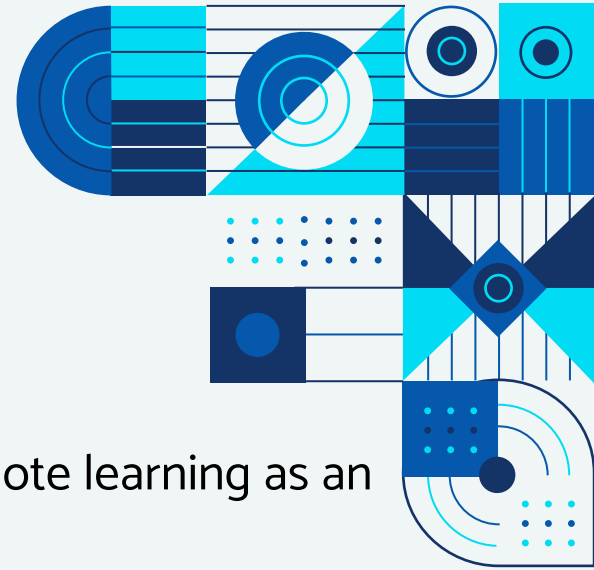


Survey Q#4:



Survey Q#4cont:

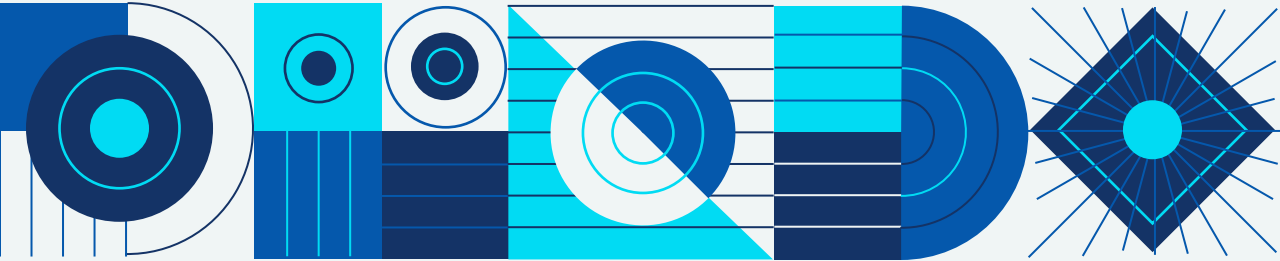
- Students first
- Support mental well-being of all students and staff
- Expanded mental health support/services
- Increase social-emotional support
- Social emotional support weaved into all parts of the day
- Continue/Increase use of outdoor spaces
- Increase opportunities for students to engage with each other
- Upgrade ventilation systems
- Increase air flow
- Air conditioning
- Promote deeper learning
- Assess and evaluate learning gaps
- Time for collaborative group work in school
- Time for social groups/interactions
- Maintain remote learning as an option
- Continue access to technology
- Reduction in technology overload
- Support students who thrived in remote or hybrid learning
- Small group interventions
- Support system for students and families
- Meet students where they are
- Patience and understanding as we all adjust to the new school year
- Continue pool testing
- Not rushing to make up for lost learning or time





A Few Updates:

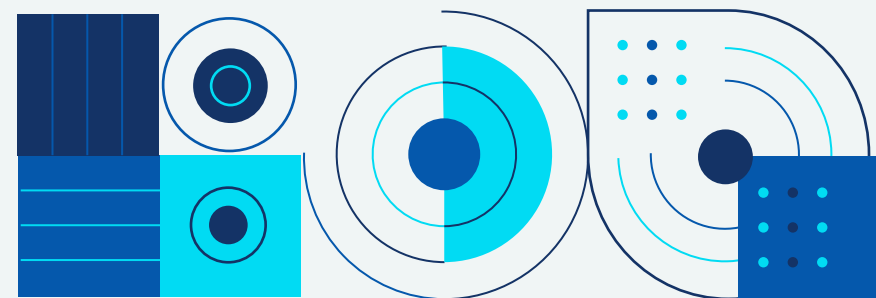
1. **Ventilation and Air Flow**
2. **Clubs/Activities**
3. **Reallocation of Resources**
4. **Student Learning Time Regulation**

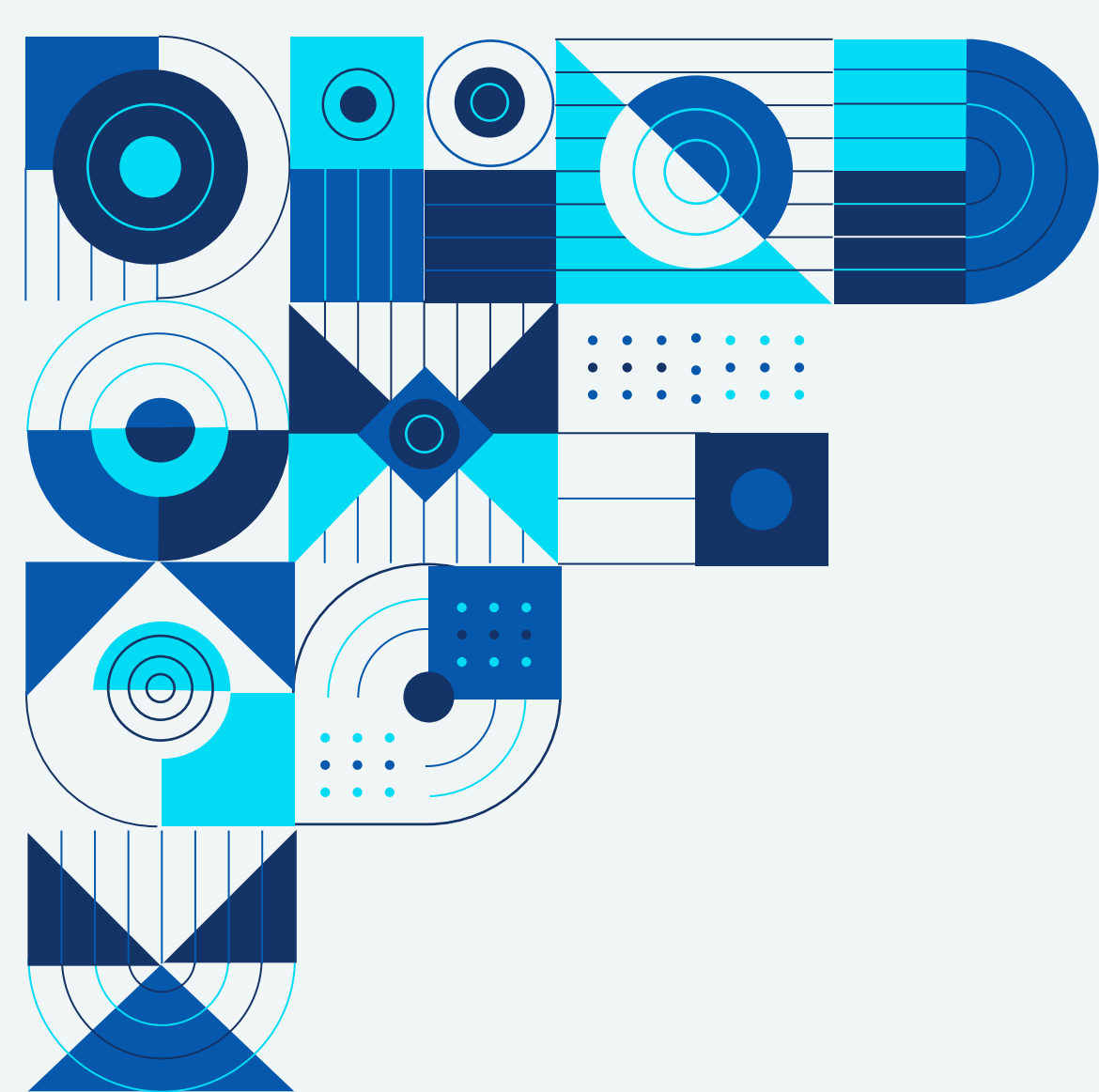


The ESSER Grant Plan

Total = \$357,219.00

1. 2.1% PPE Supplies
2. 9.8% Outdoor Classroom/Lunch Space
3. 5.6% Technology Support
4. 5.5% Mental Health Supports
5. 42% MTSS Support
6. 28% Reading & Literacy Intervention
7. 7% Special Education Language Based Program





Thank you!



Credits.

Presentation Template: [SlidesMania](#)

Images: [Unsplash](#)

Fonts used in this presentation: Ubuntu Condensed and Catamaran

“Endangering the health of other students (failure to follow Covid-19 protocols):

The Littleton Public Schools requires students in all grades to wear masks indoors in schools except when eating, drinking, or during mask breaks.

1. Students must wear a mask that covers the nose and mouth. Bandanas, gaiters, and masks with one-way valves are not permitted in school.
 - If a student arrives at the bus or to school without a mask, the student will be provided one and the family will be contacted.
 - If the student continues to be non-compliant with mask-wearing expectations the school will contact the student’s family to offer a parent meeting (in-person, by phone, or virtual) to discuss the matter.
2. Repeated violations of, and/or continued refusal to comply with the Mask Requirement, will be considered a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The Principal or designee may take appropriate corrective and remedial action to enforce this rule, including out-of-school suspension, in a manner consistent with the Littleton Public Schools’ discipline procedures and the particular facts of each case.

It is the intent of the Littleton Public Schools to adhere to all mandates related to face coverings in school buildings issued by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and/or the United States Federal Government and this rule will be in effect so long as any federal or state mandate regarding face coverings and public schools remains in effect. Upon receipt of sufficient documentation, students with medical conditions or behavioral needs may be exempted from the mask requirement. Additionally, parents, visitors, and third parties will be subject to the same requirements applicable to students and staff.”