

Informational Update: Increasing in-person learning K-12

Gregory Martineau Wed, Mar 10, 2021 at 8:11 PM

Notification from: **Public Schools of Northborough & Southborough**

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

On Friday, March 5, 2021, the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to adopt amendments to the Student Learning Time Regulation. As a result, **the Massachusetts Commissioner of Education for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has the authority to determine when hybrid and remote models will no longer count for student learning time hours.** The Board adopted the amendments on an emergency basis, which went into effect immediately following the Board's vote.

As a result, elementary schools across the Commonwealth must provide five-days of in-person learning by April 5, 2021. All middle schools must provide five-days of in-person learning by April 28, 2021. The Commissioner has not established a date for high schools to return to five-days of in-person learning. **Regardless, The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough were planning to return middle and high school students to a traditional five-day, in-person schedule on Monday, April 26, 2021.**

The District is on schedule for **increasing in-person learning at grades kindergarten through five, which will begin the week of March 21, 2021.** As a result of the Commissioner's announcement, **I am shifting the One Plus Four Learning model to a traditional five-day learning model. Therefore, Monday, March 22, 2021, will be the first day of in-person learning K-5.** Elementary school students enrolled in the Stand Alone Remote Program (SARP) may remain in the Program through the end of the school year.

Why did the District select April 26, 2021, at the middle and high school levels? Reopening our schools is not a simple task and requires careful consideration, planning, and coordination. Principal Bevan, Principal Karb, and Principal Hreschuk are in the process of ordering furniture, tents, adjusting master schedules, planning with the Food Services Department and custodial staff to ensure a seamless reopening.

Middle and high school students currently enrolled in the hybrid model will shift to a five-day in-person learning model. **Middle and high school students enrolled in the Stand Alone Remote Program (SARP) may remain in the Program.** Families with students enrolled in the SARP will have an opportunity to opt into a five-day in-person learning model. If a student shifts to the five-day in-person learning model, the student will remain in the model for the duration of the 2020-2021 school year.

The District is committed to partnering with families throughout this reopening process. The health and safety of students, faculty, and staff remain the highest priorities. The District will continue to make evidence-based decisions based on the most current research and data as the COVID-19 pandemic remains dynamic.

Respectfully,

Gregory L. Martineau
Superintendent of Schools

[Elementary Timeline of Increasing In-Person Learning \(K-5\)](#)
[Secondary Timeline of Increasing In-Person Learning \(6-12\)](#)

Key Information

- Provide weekly COVID-19 testing for students, faculty, and staff
- Maintain six-feet of social distancing during lunches
- Maintain social distancing of three to six feet in classrooms. The District will endeavor to maintain the greatest social distancing possible. Most classrooms would be closer to four to six feet
- Continue mask-wearing
- Continue hand-washing
- Continue screening of symptoms