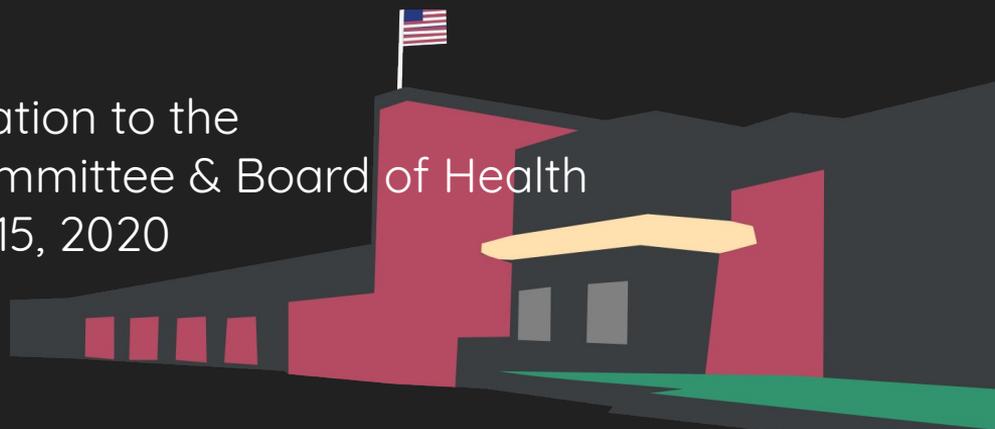


Framingham Public Schools

Back to School Plan

Work in Progress

Presentation to the
Framingham School Committee & Board of Health
July 15, 2020





Introduction

The health, safety, and well-being of our students, families, and staff is a primary concern for the Framingham Public Schools. As we prepare for the return to school for the 2020-2021 school year, we must focus our decision-making and planning on academic achievement and addressing the learning gaps that inevitably occurred as a result of the transition to remote (crisis) learning in the Spring of 2020 while maintaining a physically and emotionally safe environment.

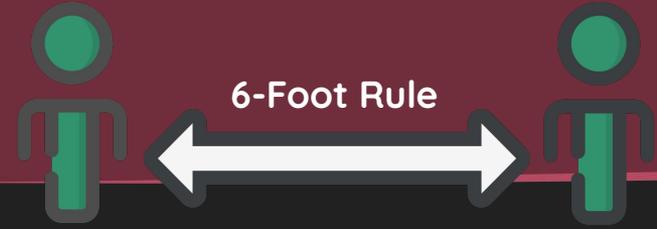
We are developing the Back-to-School Plan in collaboration with stakeholders from across the district to outline the many challenges we must address in order to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment in this COVID-19 era while also providing students with the high quality instruction they deserve.

This plan will continue to be revisited and revised as guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and Department of Public Health (DPH) dictates. At this time all districts are still waiting on specific DESE and DPH guidance on busing, extracurricular activities, athletics, public health rules around COVID-positive testing outcomes within a building, and state and federal education funding.

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

1. This is a Work in Progress - Please be patient with us! I will be hosting weekly webinars (twice each Wednesday) to provide ongoing updates on the six elements featured in this presentation.
2. While FPS will meet the DESE request and develop three separate plans, FPS is prioritizing the Hybrid Model as the preferred and most likely to work for Framingham's needs at this time. Returning all students and staff back to school in a business-as-usual model is not feasible after analyzing state requirements, FPS infrastructure, and budget. In our evolving plan, hybrid means a combination of in-school learning and remote (at home) learning, likely in a one-week "on" (in school) and one-week "off" (at home) model, though this remains as ongoing discussion. Families would also reserve the right to have their child continue with 100% remote learning.
3. FPS is committed to the "aspirational" six-foot distancing rule, not to the three-foot minimum standard, understanding that, at times, the distance may be necessarily reduced while students are passing. As such, we will be requiring face coverings for ALL students and staff, and we will continue to review and upgrade HVAC system operations.
4. Given COVID-related transportation restrictions, we are looking at a transportation model that will require major shifts from past practice around eligibility and scheduling due to physical distancing guidelines.

Physical Operations



School Meals

DESE prefers students eat in classrooms; Cafeterias can be used, but with six-foot social distancing.

Work in Progress



Transportation

DESE guidance is to plan on $\frac{1}{3}$ bus capacity based on three-foot social distancing. At this time FPS is considering bus transportation only for eligible students in grades K-6 that live over two miles from their assigned school. Ineligible students in grades K-6 that live under two miles from their assigned school and all students in grades 7-12 will be offered transportation IF there are open seats after eligible students are assigned a seat. We are still awaiting DESE direction on this matter. *Work in Progress*

Physical Layout of Furniture and Classrooms



Modern educational systems are designed around collaboration among students. Desks for every child, arranged in socially-distanced, forward-facing rows, is counter to educational best practices, but we are facing extraordinary times in our world and so we must adapt. We are looking to leverage all available district materials to make these accommodations and purchasing additional COVID-related furniture, as needed, to ensure student and staff safety at all times. *Work in Progress*

School Safety Operations



Public Health Accommodations

Tight collaboration with the Framingham Department of Public Health, Board of Health, and local pediatric healthcare providers.

Signage packages for each school promoting everyday protective measures; PPE for students and staff; Cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection protocols; Hand sanitizer stations in each classroom and strategically throughout the buildings, Isolation space identified in each building with appropriate PPE supplies and equipment.

Arrival/Dismissal/Passing Time Procedures

Work in Progress (pending schedule design)



Protocols for Recess

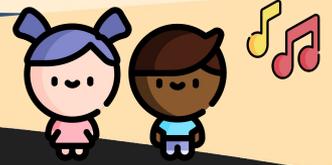
Playgrounds may be used by students; District has hired a vendor to clean playgrounds.

Procedures for Visitors and Meetings

Work in Progress



Whole Child



As we consider Social-Emotional Learning, Mental Health Supports, Transitioning Back-to-School, and Creating a Safe and Supportive Classroom and School among many other aspects of our focus on the Whole Child, we are paying close attention to:

- Physical and psychological safety of all students
- Staff well-being and professional development/training on trauma and behavioral health
- Family communication, connection, and supports
- Community-building in each school through the development of school-wide rituals and routines with primary focus on student mental health and well-being, continuation of social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum/lesson embedded throughout the school day
- Ongoing Code of Character, Conduct and Support work to foster more restorative and consistent practices related to student discipline (COVID considerations are a new and important topic)

School Personnel

Staff Responsibilities

- Mandatory Training for Staff and Supervisors
- FPS Guidelines and Protocols to Reduce Exposure
- Staff (and students) MUST stay home if experiencing any COVID symptoms!
- FPS staff remain as critical partners in the ongoing work to reconceptualize teaching and learning as we plan for our return to school

Accommodations for Those with Compromised Health

- Americans with Disabilities Act for underlying medical conditions
- FFCRA: Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (if employee/family gets COVID and loss of childcare due to COVID) and Emergency Family Medical Leave Act (no childcare due to COVID)
- Regional conversations about naming staff as “essential” employees
- Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Professional Development

Work in Progress



Academics

Curriculum & Specials

Curriculum and instruction will be evaluated to promote safety of all students and staff, particularly in courses in which students typically work in close proximity. This will impact some courses more than others. Physical Education, Science, Technology Education, Band, Drama, Chorus, and Art will review units of instruction to align with all COVID-19 safety measures and modify the curriculum in which such safety protocols cannot be followed. Regardless of the instructional model, learning time will be lost due to increased SEL and other COVID-related needs.

Schedules and Learning Time

To address the social distancing and other safety measures necessary due to COVID-19, the school day will be adjusted for the 2020-2021 academic year. Students will be placed into a cohort that will remain together for all or part of the day whenever possible. While this type of scheduling is less complex at the elementary level, creating student cohorts will also occur at the secondary level whenever feasible. To reduce class sizes and minimize student movement in the building, the middle schools and high school will modify their bell schedule.



Academics (continued)

Continuity of Learning in the Event of a School Closure

A formal remote learning model is also in development to ensure students and staff are prepared in the event of a school closure. This model will allow for direct instruction to continue through virtual means so as to minimize lost learning time. Students will be trained at the start of the year in how to access technology. Unlike the previous “crisis learning” through remote teaching and learning via resource calendars, this model is intended to drive content forward, in real-time, as much as possible.

Screening Students

Students at the elementary and middle school levels will be screened using iReady and Imagine Learning.

Addressing Learning Gaps

Interventions will be provided through direct support to students and the use of instructional software.

Students with Disabilities and English Learners

Students identified as “high needs” will receive priority placement for full in-person learning for delivery of services and supports.



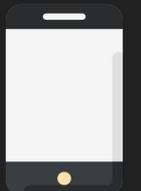
Communication

District Communication Plan

- **Live Weekly Updates from the Superintendent** on Wednesdays at 10:30am and 4:00pm (beginning July 22, 2020) - Sessions will be recorded and questions sent via email will be answered for those who are unable to participate in the live event
- **One Hour Session Structure:** 20 minute update with 40 minutes for Q&A through a moderated chat
- **Real-time interpretation in multiple languages with no lag**
- **School-specific communications from Principals (*coming soon*)**
- **Full Back-to-School Plan to be presented to the Framingham School Committee on July 29, 2020 prior to submission to the DESE on July 31, 2020**

Home-School-Teacher Connectivity During Remote Learning

- Conversations around live video streaming (**in progress**)
- Remote Learning (2020-2021) vs. Crisis Learning (March-June 2020)



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Questions & Answers

