



Transition to In-Person Learning



School Committee Meeting of the Whole

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

(slides updated 3/17/21 to reflect most current information)





Transition to In-Person Learning



Where we are now

Phase 2A

- Approximately 80 students and 60 staff in Phase 2A successfully transitioned to in-person learning at Somerville High School and the Capuano Early Childhood Center
- Phase 2A includes students and teachers in highest needs special education programs
- Students attending 4 days a week (M-Tu-Th-F) until anticipated transition to full-time 5 day a week in-person on 4/28.

Phase 2B

- Approximately 350 students and 45 staff in Phase 2B transitioning to in-person learning at SHS, Argenziano, Capuano, ESCS, and Healey
- Phase 2B includes additional high needs special education programs, English learners in SEI 1 (K-8), Multilingual Learning Lab students (9-12), some CTE students
- Teachers will teach remotely from their classrooms M/Tu; students return Th and will be attending 4 days a week (M-Tu-Th-F) until anticipated transition to full-time 5 day a week in-person on 4/28.

Wednesday remains a remote day until transition to full-time after April break.

Students and staff completed baseline Covid testing & are required to participate in routine Covid testing while in-person. 3

Preparing to welcome Phase 3A students and staff

Pre-K & K week 1: week of March 22

Half Day Phase-In Days: A short and intentional phase-in establishes routines that teachers can build upon while children are adapting and developing stamina for in-person learning. In the first week, Pre-K and Kindergarten students will come to school with their cohort for 1 day of shortened learning time.

- Cohort A - Thursday, March 25
 - 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - Grab and Go Lunch
- Cohort B - Friday, March 26
 - 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
 - Grab and Go Lunch

Phase 3A includes:

- Phase 3A returns week of March 22
- Includes pre-K and K, students in SEEK program, Redirect and House Learning Labs (9-12), Next Wave/Full Circle, Somerville Child Care Center
- Start of hybrid in-person model; students divided into two cohorts:
 - Cohort A attends in-person M/Tu and is remote Th/F beginning week of 3/29
 - Cohort B attends in-person Th/F and is remote M/Tu beginning week of 3/29
 - Cohort B in-person schedule will be adjusted week of 3/29 to reflect Good Friday holiday
- Wednesday remains a remote day until transition to full-time in-person on 4/28

Updated Building Assignments

Transition to In-Person Learning: Building Assignments



For students enrolled at....	In-person learning will be held at...	Exceptions
Argenziano	Argenziano	
Brown	Somerville High School (Modular Classrooms)	
Capuano	Capuano	
East Somerville	East Somerville	
Healey	Healey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Learners in SEI I (Grades K-2) will learn in-person at Argenziano. • Head Start Pre-K will remain remote. • Healey students previously learning in-person at Somerville High School will move to the Healey, effective March 18.
Kennedy	Kennedy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SKIP and LifeSkills K-8 will learn in-person at the high school.
Next Wave / Full Circle	Next Wave / Full Circle Location (at Somerville High School building)	
Somerville High School	Most general education students in grades 9-12 will remain in remote learning until further notice. A limited number of SHS students who are in SEI, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and special education programs who are returning to in-person learning will do so at the new high school.	
Winter Hill	Somerville High School	
West Somerville	West Somerville	

Waiver Process

Schools and districts that have been fully remote model all year can submit a waiver if they need additional time to return all students to full-time, in-person.

Districts must include a timeline and date in which all students within a phase would have access to full-time, in-person instruction this school year.

Waivers will not be granted due to space constraints or feasibility issues for those maintaining a physical distancing standard in classrooms of greater than 3 feet.

DESE does not anticipate granting waivers for reasons of high community prevalence of COVID-19.

Waivers are due March 22, 2021 and will be time limited.

Why the need for hybrid

The Hybrid In-Person Model allows ...

- ...for a safe and reasonable transition period to in-person learning given that we have been remote all year. The first couple of weeks of school are generally transition weeks during a normal school year and in many ways, this is the beginning of a full in-person school year.
- ...opportunity for teachers and students to reorient with school in a way they haven't since last March.
- ...opportunity for us to look at social-emotional needs of students and line up supports as students return and as we see how they are adjusting to in-person learning.
- ...staff and students to become familiar and comfortable with new norms related to changes in daily routines and Covid -19 protocols.
- ...us to establish a routine with required baseline Covid testing and subsequent routine Covid testing of students and staff, and to build our testing capacity to accommodate all returning students and staff.
- ...time for educators who are still moving buildings or setting up classrooms to do so as they begin receiving students in-person.

Survey Results by School

School	Hybrid*	5-Day**	Remain Remote
AFAS	85%	81%	19%
Brown	94%	94%	6%
Capuano	87%	87%	13%
ESCS	82%	84%	16%
Healey	87%	87%	13%
Kennedy	93%	92%	8%
Next Wave	50%	50%	50%
WSNS	90%	88%	12%
WHCIS	82%	78%	22%

*Would opt in to hybrid in-person learning.

**Would opt in to full in-person learning, 5 days a week.

Survey results as of 3/17/21 a.m.

Proposed new transition to full-time in-person

Transition to In-Person Learning: Schedule of Phases (proposed)



DRAFT to be submitted to DESE for Waiver

Phase	Teachers Return*	Students Return*	Eligible for In-Person Learning	Details*
I	February 1	February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected populations of students in high needs special education programs** (voluntary pilot program) 	Voluntary pilot program. Students attend school in-person four days per week for 2 hours each day, and learn remotely on Wednesdays.
2A	March 1	March 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Selected populations of students in high needs special education programs** 	Expansion of student groups in Phase I above. Students attend school in-person (half-day until specified date), four days per week, and learn remotely on Wednesdays.
2B	March 15	March 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional populations of students in high needs programs*** English Learners (K-8) in SEI I Multilingual Learning Lab students (9-12) Seniors in Career & Technical Ed. (CTE) 	Students attend school in-person four days per week (full-day), and learn remotely on Wednesdays.
3A	March 22	March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-K and Kindergarten (hybrid) Somerville Child Care Center students Next Wave / Full Circle students (6-12) Additional populations of high needs students**** 	Hybrid learning model begins. Students are organized into two cohorts that alternate between learning in-school and learning remotely: One cohort attends school in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays, the other on Thursdays and Fridays. All students learn remotely on Wednesdays.
3B	March 29	March 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 1 & 2 (hybrid) 	Same as Phase 3A above.
4A	April 5	April 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 3 – 6 (hybrid) 	Same as Phase 3A above.
4B	April 12	April 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 7 & 8 (hybrid) 	Same as Phase 3A above.
APRIL VACATION				
5	April 27	April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-K – Grade 8 (full in-person) 	Students from all phases above begin school in-person, five days per week.

* In the first week of each phase, teachers will work from their classrooms Monday and Tuesday, and all students in the group will learn remotely. Students will begin in-person learning on Thursday and Friday of that week. Wednesday is a full remote day for all students and staff district-wide.

** AIM (PK-8), SKIP, SHIP, Life Skills (1-2), Multi-graded (1-2)

*** ECIP, Multi-graded (3-8), Life Skills (3-12), Transition Classroom, RR & ASD Learning Labs (9-12), Multilingual Learning Labs (9-12)

**** SEEK, Redirect and House Learning Labs (9-12)

With the exception of some specialized programs, most high school students (9-12) will remain in remote learning until the district receives guidance from DESE.

For more information, visit somerville.k12.ma.us/transition

Updated 3/17/21

Illustration of transition to full-time in-person, by grades

Transition to In-Person Learning: Phases by Grade (proposed)

DRAFT to be submitted to DESE for Waiver



Key:

	Full Remote
	Hybrid
	Full In-Person

	Week of:											
	Feb. 1*	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29	April 5	April 12	April 26	May 3	May 10	May 17
Special Education**												
English Learners***												
Pre-K												
Kindergarten												
Grade 1												
Grade 2												
Grade 3												
Grade 4												
Grade 5												
Grade 6												
Grade 7												
Grade 8												
Grades 9-12										TBD based on DESE Guidance		

April Vacation (4/19-23)

* Voluntary pilot program for selected populations of students in highest needs special education programs.

** Selected populations of students in highest needs special education programs. Transition schedule varies slightly for each special education program.

*** English Learners in K – Grade 8 in SEI I.

Next Steps

- Finalize survey results (surveys due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 18)
- With School Committee approval, request for a waiver will be submitted to DESE reflecting the new proposed transition to full-time in-person schedule
- Prepare for return of Phase 3A next week (includes pre-K & K, SEEK, Resource Room and House Learning Labs, Next Wave / Full Circle, Somerville Child Care Center); teachers and administrators will be reaching out to students and parents this week about their return to classrooms next week
- Reminder that students and staff will need to be baseline tested for Covid prior to return to in-person, and will also be required to participate in routine Covid testing
- Parents must complete and submit an attestation form for their student prior to a students' return to in-person; all other Covid safety protocols will be in place including use of face masks, physical distancing, and frequent hand-washing/sanitizing
- Will survey 9-12 parents over the next few weeks once we receive guidance from DESE
- We will continue to look at space and continue to evaluate the Brown and Winter Hill buildings
- Will continue to update families and staff weekly on our transition to in-person learning

Health & Safety Protocols

- Reminder that students and staff will need to be baseline tested for Covid prior to return to in-person, and will also be required to participate in routine Covid testing
- Parents must complete and submit an attestation form for their student prior to a student's return to in-person
- All other Covid safety protocols will be in place, including use of face masks, physical distancing, and frequent hand-washing/sanitizing



Transition to In-Person Learning: Health & Safety Protocols



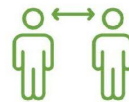
The Somerville Public Schools and the City of Somerville have instituted a comprehensive set of health and safety measures to minimize risks for all students and adults in schools.



DAILY HEALTH SCREENING
All students and adults screen for symptoms of illness every morning and stay home from school when sick.



FACE COVERING
Masks covering the mouth and nose are required at all times in schools and on buses, except during scheduled mask breaks and when eating or drinking.



PHYSICAL DISTANCING
All school spaces will be set up to enable recommended physical distancing, and students and staff will utilize outdoor space wherever possible.



HAND WASHING
Everyone in school washes their hands thoroughly with soap or sanitizer throughout the day.



COVID-19 TESTING
All students and staff receive a baseline test for coronavirus and are tested regularly to identify and isolate any positive cases.



AIR QUALITY
Prior to reopening, school buildings will have been upgraded with investments to improve ventilation and filtration, including centralized MERV-13 filters, portable HEPA filters, and Carbon Dioxide monitors.



PUBLIC HEALTH METRICS
The City and school district monitor transmission rates and other public health data to ensure it is safe to continue the transition to in-person learning.

For more information, visit [somerville.k12.ma.us/transition](https://www.somerville.k12.ma.us/transition)

Updated 3/16/21