



# Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Friday, February 26, 2021

Dear Families and Staff:

We will begin our transition to in-person learning next week. Staff in Phase 2A (our highest needs special education programs) will return to their temporary classrooms at the new Somerville High School building on Monday, March 1, and students who opt for in-person instruction will return on Thursday, March 4. Teachers will teach remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday as they prepare to welcome their students back later in the week. Phase 2A students will attend school in-person 4 days a week, initially half days until a specified date. Wednesday will continue to be a remote learning day for all students.

The next group of students and staff (Phase 2B) is scheduled to return the week of March 15. Again, teachers will teach remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday of that week, and students will return to in-person on Thursday, March 18. Phase 2B includes additional populations of students in high needs special education programs, English learners (K-8) in SEI 1, grade 9-12 students in Multilingual Learning Labs, and Next Wave/Full Circle students. Phase 2B students will attend in-person learning 4 days a week full-day, with Wednesday remote.

Assuming building readiness, we plan to continue transitioning groups of students to in-person learning weekly after Phase 2B, as outlined in the Transition to In-Person Learning Schedule of Phases fact sheet below. Our goal is to have all PreK-8 students and specific populations of high school students who opt for in-person learning in classrooms by the end of April. We understand how disappointing it is to not be able to bring back all of our high school students, who have spent the last few years living through the challenges of a construction project on top of the challenges of a pandemic, to the new SHS building. We are continuing to explore ways in which we might be able to return other SHS students, particularly our seniors, to in-person learning.

- [Transition to In-Person Learning: Schedule of Phases](#)
- [Building Assignments](#)
- [Health and Safety Protocols](#)

We will contact families as they become eligible to return. Any family may choose to have their child remain in remote learning.

Our comprehensive set of [health and safety measures](#) includes an extensive Covid-19 testing program for students and staff. Students and staff returning to in-person instruction in Phase 2A were baseline tested this week and will continue to be Covid-19 tested regularly on-site. Information about baseline testing for Phase 2B is [available here](#). Visit our new [Transition to In-Person Learning](#) website for more information and updates about our reopening.

We will keep you informed as we continue to move through our phase-in process. We continue to work with the SEU and are making good progress on the Hybrid Learning Plan, and will share that information as well as details are finalized. Thank you again for your continued patience and cooperation. We are excited to start welcoming students and staff back into our classrooms!

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools