



Somerville Public Schools

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Mary E. Skipper, Superintendent

8 Bonair Street · Somerville, MA 02145-3246

mskipper@k12.somerville.ma.us · www.somerville.k12.ma.us

T 617-629-5200, x6005 · F 617-629-5611



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Dear Families and Staff:

Our first group of students transitioned successfully to in-person learning this week! Approximately 80 students and 60 staff in our highest needs special education programs officially returned to in-person learning on Thursday at the new Somerville High School and at the Capuano Early Education Center. Teachers taught remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday as they prepared their classrooms for their students' return. Students and staff were excited to reconnect in person!

The next group of students and staff (Phase 2B) is scheduled to return the week of March 15. Following the same model as this initial group of students, teachers will teach remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday of that week, and students will return to in-person beginning on Thursday, March 18. Phase 2B includes additional groups of students in high needs special education programs, English learners (K-8) in SEI 1, grade 9-12 students in Multilingual Learning Labs, CTE seniors (pending safety evaluation of shops), and 50 SHS juniors who are in CTE programs to help teachers in shops. Phase 2B students will attend in-person learning 4 days a week full-days. Wednesdays remain an all-remote day across the district.

We are finalizing the plan for the hybrid model with the Somerville Educators Union and hope to bring it for ratification next week. Our transition to in-person learning will accelerate with new groups scheduled to come in weekly after the week of March 15. Phase 3A is set to return the week of March 22 and includes Pre-K and Kindergarten students, as well as Next Wave/Full Circle students. They will be the first group to transition into the hybrid in-person model, which has students divided into two cohorts: Cohort A attends in-person Monday/Tuesday and remote Thursday/Friday. Cohort B attends in-person Thursday/Friday and is remote Monday/Tuesday.

Pre-K and K teachers in Phase 3A will teach remotely from their classrooms on March 22 and 23 (Monday and Tuesday). Pre-K and K students will return according to the schedule below:

PreK - K

- Classroom Orientation Visits (30 minute student visits in groups of 2 or 3)
 - March 25 Cohort A
 - March 26 Cohort B
- Half Day Phase-In Days
 - 8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m.
 - Grab and Go Lunch
 - Cohort A March 29 & 30
 - Cohort B March 31 (since April 2 is Good Friday) & April 1
- Beginning the week of April 5th
 - 8:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.
 - Cohort A April 5 & 6
 - Cohort B April 8 & 9

We will provide additional details on the in-person Hybrid model as well as anticipated changes to the Community Schools schedule at Monday's (March 8) [School Committee meeting](#), which starts at 7 p.m. Details will also be shared in next week's update to families and staff.

As a reminder, we will contact families as they become eligible to return. Any family may choose to have their child remain in remote learning. School personnel will be sending out surveys and making phone calls to Phase 3A families next week about intent to return to in-person learning. We also want to remind families that as part of our comprehensive set of [health and safety measures](#), teachers and staff are required to go through baseline testing prior to returning to in-person instruction, and to subsequently participate in routine Covid-19 assurance testing. Families will be notified about baseline testing schedules as their scheduled return date approaches. Visit our new [Transition to In-Person Learning Website](#) for more information and updates about our reopening.

As you may be aware, late yesterday afternoon the Massachusetts Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to give Commissioner Jeff Riley authority to require that all elementary school children be in person 5 days a week starting in early April, with older students to follow. A waiver process would be available to districts, although details of that process are not yet finalized, and parents would be able to have their child remain at home learning remotely. As always, we will keep you informed as we receive additional information.

We are excited to have students and staff back in our classrooms and will keep you updated throughout our transition to in-person learning. Thank you for your continued patience as we return students to our schools safely.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools