



# Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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Dear Families and Staff:

We look forward to welcoming our second group of students and staff back to in-person learning next week. Teachers in Phase 2B will begin teaching remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday, as they prepare for the return of their students on Thursday. Students in Phase 2B will attend in-person learning 4 days a week full-days. Wednesdays remain an all-remote day across the district. Phase 2B includes additional groups of students in high needs programs, English learners (K-8) in SEI 1, grade 9-12 students in Multilingual Learning Labs, CTE seniors, and 50 SHS juniors who are in CTE programs to help teachers in shops.

**Here are a few one-page fact sheets to help families understand some of the most important information about the transition to in-person learning:**

- When is my student eligible for in-person learning? ([Phase-In Schedule](#))
- Where will in-person learning be held for my child's school? ([Building Assignments](#))
- What health and safety measures are in place to minimize risks? ([Health & Safety Protocols](#))

Thursday night, the Somerville Educators Union approved the MOA with the School Committee regarding the hybrid in-person learning model, details of which were presented at [Monday's School Committee meeting](#). Additionally, at Friday's Special Meeting of the Whole, the School Committee voted to approve the hybrid in-person learning model.

We will continue to bring students back to in-person learning according to our phased schedule. The next wave of students and educators (Phase 3A) returns the week of March 22 and marks the start of our hybrid in-person model, which has students divided into two cohorts: cohort A attends in-person Monday/Tuesday and is remote Thursday/Friday; cohort B attends in-person Thursday/Friday and is remote Monday/Tuesday. Phase 3A includes pre-kindergarten and kindergarten classes, the Somerville Child Care Center, Next Wave / Full Circle, and additional populations of students in high needs programs. Pre-k and kindergarten teachers in Phase 3A will teach remotely from their classrooms on March 22 and 23 (Monday and Tuesday). **We adjusted the first week's schedule for pre-k and kindergarten students to half days as opposed to small group 30-minute Classroom Orientation visits as noted in last week's update.**

**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. Pre-k and kindergarten students will come to school with their cohort for 1 day of shortened learning time.

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

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. We also want to remind families that as part of our comprehensive set of [health and safety measures](#), students 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 [Transition to In-Person Learning Website](#) for more information and updates about our reopening.

We have scheduled a School Committee Special Meeting of the Whole for 6:00pm Tuesday, March 16 to discuss the changes in DESE guidelines and possible changes to our plan and timeline based on those new guidelines. **Grade 1-8 families should expect to receive a short survey in the next few days regarding their decision about having their student(s) return to in-person learning 5 days a week at a future date. Grades Pre-K and K will receive a shortened version of the survey asking only about intent to return students 5 days a week at a future date. We will also follow up with a survey for students in grades 9-12 once we receive additional guidance from DESE on the return of High School students.** SHS will continue to explore and expand ways to bring high school students into the new SHS building throughout March and April, with a particular focus on the Class of 2021.

We are excited to have students and staff back in our classrooms, and to be welcoming more students and staff back to our schools in the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued patience and support as we safely return students back to our school communities.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools