



Somerville Public Schools

Education • Inspiration • Excellence

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March 26, 2021

Dear Families and Staff:

We are continuing to make significant progress in phasing students back to school for in-person learning, including about 414 PK and kindergarten students this week!

On Monday afternoon, we were notified by Commissioner Riley that our request for a waiver from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has been approved. Our waiver requested a slightly extended timeline for transitioning K-5 students to a five-day in-person model, given that our district has been remote for the entire year. DESE's approval allows us to continue phasing groups of students into a hybrid model first before transitioning to full in-person five days a week, as shown in the Schedule of Phases below. This will allow students and staff an opportunity to get reoriented to in-person instruction. All PK-8 students will be back in-person five days a week starting April 28.

- Transition to Full-Time In-Person, [Schedule of Phases \(Final\)](#)
- Transition to Full-Time In-Person, [by Grades \(Final\)](#)

Last week, we welcomed students in Phase 2B, which included additional high needs programs, K-8 English learners in SEI 1, students in Multilingual Learning Labs (9-12), and some CTE students. This week, we entered Phase 3A, which includes all pre-k 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 taught remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday; students returned on Thursday and Friday for one day of shortened learning time based on their cohort assignment. Pre-k and kindergarten students transition to a regular hybrid schedule (half days) next week. Cohort B will attend in-person Wednesday and Thursday of next week because of the school holiday on Friday. This week also marks the start of our hybrid in-person model with students organized into two cohorts that alternate between learning in-school and learning remotely.

Next week, students in grades 1 and 2 will begin returning to in-person learning. Grade 1 and 2 teachers will teach remotely from their classrooms on Monday and Tuesday. Because of the school holiday on Friday, students will begin in-person learning on Wednesday and Thursday next week, based on their cohort assignment. Starting the following week, Cohort A will attend school in-person Mondays and Tuesdays and will be remote the rest of the week. Cohort B will attend school in-person Thursdays and Fridays and will be remote the rest of the week. With the exception of next week, Wednesdays will continue to be a remote day for all students and staff in the district until the return to full in-person learning five days a week starting April 28. We will continue to explore ways to bring more Somerville High School students into the new SHS building, particularly our Class of 2021, as we await further guidance from DESE for high school grades.

We 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. [Baseline testing](#) will be available at the Kennedy and the East Somerville each Wednesday during designated times. 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.

It's wonderful to have students and staff back in our classrooms! We look forward to continuing to welcome new groups of students and staff back over the next few weeks.

Respectfully,

Mary Skipper, Superintendent of Schools