



# 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
<b>Argenziano</b>	<b>Argenziano</b>	
<b>Brown</b>	<b>Somerville High School</b> (Modular Classrooms)	
<b>Capuano</b>	<b>Capuano</b>	
<b>East Somerville</b>	<b>East Somerville</b>	
<b>Healey</b>	<b>Healey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English Learners in SEI I (Grades K-2) will learn in-person at Argenziano.</li> <li>• Head Start Pre-K will remain remote.</li> <li>• Healey students previously learning in-person at Somerville High School will move to the Healey, effective March 18.</li> </ul>
<b>Kennedy</b>	<b>Kennedy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKIP and LifeSkills K-8 will learn in-person at the high school.</li> </ul>
<b>Next Wave / Full Circle</b>	<b>Next Wave / Full Circle Location</b> (at Somerville High School building)	
<b>Somerville High School</b>	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.	
<b>Winter Hill</b>	<b>Somerville High School</b>	
<b>West Somerville</b>	<b>West Somerville</b>	

# 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*
<b>I</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected populations of students in high needs special education programs** (voluntary pilot program)</li> </ul>	Voluntary pilot program. Students attend school in-person four days per week for 2 hours each day, and learn remotely on Wednesdays.
<b>2A</b>	<b>March 1</b>	<b>March 4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selected populations of students in high needs special education programs**</li> </ul>	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.
<b>2B</b>	<b>March 15</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional populations of students in high needs programs***</li> <li>English Learners (K-8) in SEI I</li> <li>Multilingual Learning Lab students (9-12)</li> <li>Seniors in Career &amp; Technical Ed. (CTE)</li> </ul>	Students attend school in-person four days per week (full-day), and learn remotely on Wednesdays.
<b>3A</b>	<b>March 22</b>	<b>March 25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-K and Kindergarten (hybrid)</li> <li>Somerville Child Care Center students</li> <li>Next Wave / Full Circle students (6-12)</li> <li>Additional populations of high needs students****</li> </ul>	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.
<b>3B</b>	<b>March 29</b>	<b>March 31</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grades 1 &amp; 2 (hybrid)</li> </ul>	Same as Phase 3A above.
<b>4A</b>	<b>April 5</b>	<b>April 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grades 3 – 6 (hybrid)</li> </ul>	Same as Phase 3A above.
<b>4B</b>	<b>April 12</b>	<b>April 15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grades 7 &amp; 8 (hybrid)</li> </ul>	Same as Phase 3A above.
<b>APRIL VACATION</b>				
<b>5</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>April 28</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre-K – Grade 8 (full in-person)</li> </ul>	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](http://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