

A background image of two young children, a girl and a boy, hugging each other in a classroom. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The girl is on the left, looking towards the boy. The boy is on the right, smiling broadly at the camera. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with a crest that says "GARDNER PLAZA GROUP".

Returning Boston Strong **BPS Reopening Update**

**Boston Public Schools
School Committee
September 16, 2020**

Boston COVID Updates

- For the week ending September 7, the 7-day average positive test rate was 1.6%, and it continues to move in the right direction.
- As of September 7 in East Boston, the 7-day positive test rate was 6.4%, and continues to go down from 11.4% three weeks ago.
- Also as of September 7, the combined 02121 and 02125 zip codes in Dorchester and Roxbury had a slightly elevated rate of 4.1%.
- The City is monitoring these numbers and the COVID-19 Health Inequities Task Force is discussing potential responses.

2020 Safe Responsible Phase In

GETTING
READY

September 8 - 18

Teachers Prepare + Family Engagement
Student Tech CheckUp / Log On Test

Phase

01

September 21

Remote Learning - all students

Phase

02

No sooner than

October 1

Prioritized students start in hybrid

Phase

03

No sooner than

October 15 & 19 B/A

Grades K0, K1, K2

No sooner than

October 22 & 26 B/A

Grades 1 - 3

Phase

04

No sooner than

November 5 & 9 B/A

Grades 4 - 8 (Secondary schools begin 6-8)

No sooner than

November 16 & 19 A/B

Grades 9 - 12 High Schools

In-Person Priority Students Schedule



Phase

01

September 21

Remote Learning - All BPS students

Phase

02

No sooner than

October 1 & 5

Prioritized students Group B/A

Hybrid Group B starts in person on October 1 & 2

Hybrid Group A starts in person on October 5 & 6

Hybrid Group B remains in person on October 8 & 9

Phase

03

No sooner than

October 12

Group A & B increase to 4 days of in-person learning (based on choice & availability)

In-Person Priority Students

Phase

03

No sooner than

October 12

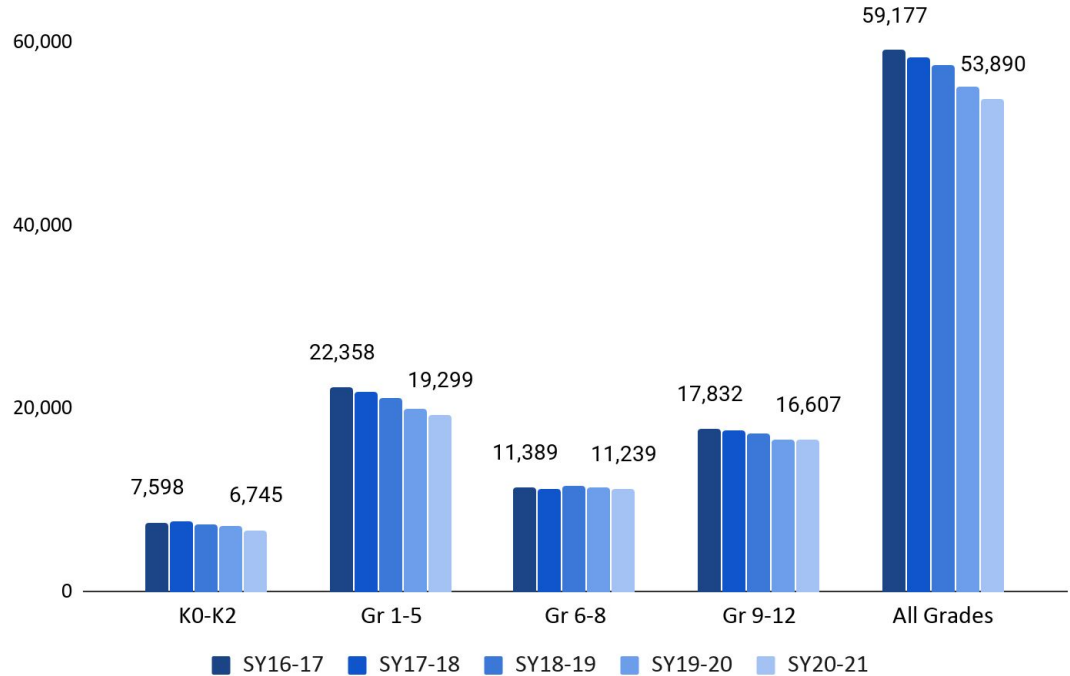
Groups A & B increase to 4 days of in-person learning (based on choice & availability)

Students with in-person priority who are eligible for up to four days of learning in school buildings:

- Students with disabilities in public day schools
- Students with disabilities in substantially separate classrooms
- Students with disabilities in inclusion classrooms with complex needs, as defined by the student's Individualized Education Plan
- Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE)
- English Learners on language development levels 1 and 2
- English Learners with Disabilities with high needs as defined by the student's Individualized Education Plan
- Students Experiencing Homelessness
- Students in the care of the Department of Children and Families

BPS Ready - Enrollment

- Outreach and registration efforts
 - In-person and remote phone services covering all family languages
 - Continued outreach using ethnic radio, television and newspapers, CBO's, traditional media and newer mechanisms like iheart radio
 - Trained family liaisons will support with continued outreach and support for their school and district-wide
- **53,890** students enrolled for SY20-21 (as of September 1)



Note: data reflects enrollment as of 9/1 of each year, prior to the school year starting.

BPS Ready - Cohorts & Family Outreach

- Families received A/B assignments - **September 14**
- All students identified for in-person priority received a form to request four days a week of school-based learning - **September 14**
- All families received access to form to request changes between Groups A and B and between Hybrid and Remote - **September 15**

All communications above were sent in preferred home language

- Deadline for in-person priority students to request four days a week of school-based learning is **September 25**
- Change Requests will be reviewed weekly and approved on a rolling deadline
- Approved changes will be implemented based on transportation capacity and scheduling, as well as classroom capacity
- Hybrid to remote will be implemented upon request, in partnership with the school

BPS Ready - Family Outreach

FAQ posted online and shared with families - Sample Questions

Can I switch from hybrid to remote or remote to hybrid?

For families who selected hybrid, they can switch to remote learning at any time. Families can request this change via this request [form](#).

For families who selected remote, they can request a switch to hybrid through this form. Changes will be approved based on space available during the current marking term to ensure safe distancing. Families can request this change via this request [form](#).

When will I receive my school bus assignment?

The Transportation Department will send school bus assignments by the end of September. This will provide time to answer questions and for you to familiarize yourself with the schedule and stops.

Are the buildings clean?

Yes, all buildings were cleaned over the summer. Custodians have been reporting to work and buildings are ready for students and staff to return. You can watch a video of one of our custodians walking through daily cleaning protocols [here](#).

BPS Ready - Health and Safety

- Students and staff will complete home health check daily and stay home if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19 and/or had a known exposure to an infected person.
- Access information on testing and other resources at bphc.org/coronavirus
- New state requirement that all students receive the flu vaccine by December 31st. To obtain a flu vaccine contact your primary care physician, visit a community health center, or call the Mayor's Health Line for support 617-534-5050.
- The current district-wide immunization compliance rate is 92%
- School nurses will continue their work on outreach to parent/guardians and medical providers to obtain student immunization records.
- Welcome Center staff will be provided with written materials specific to the new updates regarding required vaccinations for school entry. Welcome center staff will continue to scan vaccination records into the Student Information System.

BPS Ready - Academics

- **At Home Learning Materials**
 - K0-12 kits and/or gift cards supported by Staples, CoB, Boston Opportunity Agenda, BPS
- **SSO [Clever](#) Enabled Instructional Technology**
 - [SeeSaw](#), [NearPod](#), [Explain Everything](#) (digital whiteboards)
 - Digital curriculum and e-texts focused on priority standards and content
 - Remote Focus, Expeditionary Learning [FLEX](#), [Investigations](#), CMP, [Study Sync](#), [Sora](#), [Lexia](#), [Imagine Learning](#)
 - [TalkingPoints](#): 2-Way multilingual family communication tool
- **Reopening Professional Learning**
 - 40,000+ individual sessions completed: health & safety, anti-racism, Teaching and Learning, Adult and Student SEL/Wellness, Behavioral Health
- **Ethnic Studies: partnership between BPS, BTU, UMass Boston**
 - [Ethnic Studies 101 Course](#) in Aspen SIS, Training for 20+ educators; 101 Course will be piloted in 5 schools by 5 educators in Fall 2020; [website](#) up; [CANALA](#) developing 4 additional identity specific courses (i.e. Black Studies, Latinx Studies)

BPS Ready - Athletics

Rationale

- Adhere to all [EEA](#)/[DESE](#)/[MIAA](#) Guidelines
- Follow City of Boston's State of Emergency guidance that currently prohibits soccer/football
- Recognize limited access to school buildings for sports purposes
- Maximize non-contact/ physically distant skill development and physical activity allowed under EEA and DESE guidance

DESE/MIAA Guidance - August 18, 2020

- Districts designated as yellow, green, or unshaded according to DPH metrics and which have their high school students learning remotely at the start of a season may delay their seasons. These districts' participation in the regularly scheduled sports season must be approved by the local school committee.

Recommendation

- Advance Cross Country and Golf Competitive Seasons beginning September 21
- Organize weekly (non contact/physically distant) fall sport activities in September, October, November.
- Postpone Soccer, Volleyball, Swimming competitions until spring 2021 (February 2021)
- Postpone Football and Cheerleading until Spring 2021 (February 2021)

BPS Ready - Facilities

- **Media walkthrough at Mildred Avenue and Mather**
- **BTU walkthrough at Snowden, BLA, Mather, BTU, Higginson-Lewis & Jackson Mann**
- **Facilities Preparation**
 - **Sanitation & Signage**
 - **Fans & Windows**
- **PPE Procurement and Distribution**
 - **Disposable Masks:** 600,000 on hand/1.5 million ordered
 - **Reusable Masks:** Two per student and staff member ordered and set for delivered September 24th.
- **Air Quality Testing:** Base air quality test for each school, independent contractor hired and testing has begun. All testing will be complete by October 1, 2020.

BPS Ready - Technology

- **Family Readiness**

- New BPS families received an email with instructions to login to their BPS account as well as an invitation to pick up a Chromebook from 9/7 to 9/18

- **Chromebooks**

- Each school is receiving a delivery this week of Chromebooks to assist new BPS families and students without a device
- Additional Chromebooks are being delivered to BPS over the next few weeks and schools will receive additional devices.

- **Internet Access**

- Families in need of Internet support should sign up for Comcast Internet Essentials to receive 60 days free. BPS will follow up with families who need financial support after the 60 day promotion

- **Classroom Cameras**

- 650 cameras delivered this week
- 2,850 additional scheduled for September 14/15

BPS Ready - Transportation

- **Routing**
 - Routing for October 1 is on track
 - Drivers and Monitor bids September 23-26
 - Scheduling 1-2 weeks for dry runs for October/November phase-in
 - minimum 3 days for dry runs for routes with October 1 start
 - Routing underway for in-person priority student groups scheduled to start 4-days a week on October 12
- **Labor**
 - Impact bargaining ongoing with Drivers and Monitor units
- **Transdev**
 - 2/3 yards are on track
 - Readville is behind: We are working with Transdev and the City to get it completed ASAP
 - Bus inspections and driver hiring completed
 - PPE purchasing and delivery on track
- **MBTA M7 Pass Distribution**
 - Distribution to BPS schools on October 1
- **Family Communications**
 - All families will receive transportation assignments by mail and email (if on file) before in-person start

BPS Ready - Food & Nutrition

- Meal Service for **Remote Learning**
 - Meals available at 21 school sites citywide
 - Students can pick up meal pack (5 breakfasts/5 lunches) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 am to 6 pm
 - Collaborating with City for additional sites and provide groceries for families
- Meal Service for **Hybrid Learning**
 - All 492 staff onsite by September 28th to prepare for students returning
 - Breakfast and lunch available in schools
 - Students can take home packs of 3 breakfasts/3 lunches for remote learning days or access the 21 pick-up sites
- **P-EBT**
 - Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) will administer additional P-EBT funds to cover the days that schools have delayed the opening of the first day of school
 - For BPS - this is additional funds for 17 days totalling \$96.90 for each student (tentative)
 - Enrollment information is due by Friday, September 18th
 - If families need to access their P-EBT cards, contact Project Bread (a partner of DTA) at 1-800-645-8333

BPS Ready - Staffing

Staffing:

- 963 teaching and guidance vacancies:
- 91% have been filled,
- 3% are in queue,
- 6% remain active

*54% of hires identify as people of color (57% in queue identify as people of color)

Nurses (District Nurses):

- 6 Positions added, 2 hired

Substitute Pool:

- 714 substitute teachers listed on the current roster

Leaves:

- 264 employees on leave:
 - 118 parental
 - Mix of personal/other

Ethnic Studies: Update

Building a robust ethnic studies offering in BPS requires: 1) articulation of the field of ethnic studies and its role in BPS; 2) teacher capacity development/coaching; and 3) course development.

- Partnership with internationally renowned scholars in the field: UMass Boston Collaborative of Asian American, Native American, Latino and African American Institutes ([CANALA](#)).
- Hiring of a teacher leader to coordinate the Ethnic Studies Now work this past summer.
- Stipending of three teacher leaders of the BTU Ethnic Studies Now committee to compensate them for curriculum development.
- The [Introductory Course](#) in Ethnic Studies will be taught in the fall by 5 teachers in 5 schools. It is available in Aspen SIS.
- PD for this course (Boston Through a Wider Lens) was facilitated through the [Returning Boston Strong: Educator Summit](#) for nearly 20 participants and included direct learning in the morning and experiential learning in the afternoon. Co-taught by CANALA and BPS teachers. Units 1, 2 and 3 of the BPS Ethnic Studies course are now [online](#).
- A small set of identity-specific courses (i.e. Black Studies, Latinx Studies) will be available in the spring; CANALA is currently building out these courses which will be MassCore aligned.