

January 11, 2021

Dear BPS Families,

It has been our priority over the past year to put our student and staff safety first as we've balanced these very difficult and complex decisions regarding reopening school buildings for in-person learning. We know this has been difficult for you, and we appreciate your patience. Today we are writing to inform you of our updated timeline for reopening and phasing additional students into in-person learning.

We have worked closely throughout this pandemic with Boston's Chief of Health and Human Services Marty Martinez and the team at the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) to review the latest science and ensure we are doing everything possible to ensure the safety of our Boston Public Schools (BPS) community.

Through the work of the High In-Person Priority Task Force (which includes BPS staff, Boston Teachers Union members, parents, and students) and through creative solutions identified by School Leaders and teachers, we are prepared to announce the next phase of the return to in-person learning, as well as the longer-term schedule.

Pending acceptable public health metrics, BPS is planning to welcome the remainder of our High In-Person Priority students for in-person learning starting **Monday, February 1**. The students returning are those who have been identified for high in-person priority, including:

- High needs/Level 4 students with disabilities
- English Learners who are EL levels 1 and 2
- Students who are in the care of of the Department of Children and Families
- Students who are experiencing homelessness
- Students with limited or interrupted formal education
- Students identified by their school's Student Support Team (SST) as requiring additional in-person schooling

This will bring an additional 4,900 students into school buildings. **You will be contacted directly by your school if your child is eligible to return.**

The next phase in reopening school buildings will be returning students who have opted into hybrid learning, in phases by grade levels throughout March.

We are planning to follow this tentative schedule:

- **Monday, March 1 & Thursday, March 4:** Students in K0 - Grade 3 (Group A & B)
- **Monday, March 15 & Thursday, March 18:** Students in Grades 4 - 8 (Group A & B)
- **Monday, March 29 & Thursday, April 1:** Students in Grades 9 - 12 (Group A & B)

Students who do not qualify for high in-person priority will be eligible for two days of instruction each week, with students in Group A in school on Mondays and Tuesdays and those assigned to Group B in school on Thursdays and Fridays. All buildings will be fully cleaned and sanitized on Wednesdays, with remote learning for all students.

You will be contacted by your school to learn details of the planned return to in-person learning. In the coming days, you will receive a reminder of your child's cohort and learning model assignment and [receive instructions for updating your learning model preference if desired.](#)

Our opportunity to return to in-person learning has been closely reviewed by the BPHC, the City of Boston's public health officials. They have reviewed our plans and approved our approach to maximizing the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff.

Visit bostonpublicschools.org/reopening to learn more about the additional health and safety protocols and the work completed throughout this school year.

As we prepare for our students' return, you can help us by abiding by all public health guidance. Please continue to wear your mask any time you leave your home, wash your hands frequently, stay home if you are not feeling well, and get tested regularly for COVID-19 at any free City of Boston testing site. To find a testing site and for additional COVID-19 information and resources, visit boston.gov/covid.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school soon!



Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Superintendent