



# **Updates: Return to School Proposal 2020-2021**

School Committee Presentation  
August 12, 2020



## **Presentation overview**

### **GOALS:**

- 1. Discuss process leading up to Westborough submission of completed Plan to DESE.**
- 2. Provide overview of updates from DRAFT to COMPLETED PLAN**

### **PROCESS:**

- 1. Daniel and Amber Present**
- 2. Committee discussion throughout presentation**
- 3. Additions or changes added from SC discussion, or follow up upon review of completed document.**

**Thank you to the extensive faculty committees and engaged families who have provided feedback and support to the development of a complete Westborough proposal**



# Goal: Relationship Based Decision Making

## Early Plan: July 22nd

- ◆ June survey of families & faculty
- ◆ DESE Guidelines
- ◆ 10 working meetings with faculty planning groups giving early feedback on models.
  - ◆ Decide to not move forward with full in-person planning

## Complete Plan

- ◆ 11 working meetings with faculty to continue refinements and feedback
- ◆ Additional DESE guidelines
- ◆ Three open faculty discussions
- ◆ Parent feedback & Q&A on 8/3
- ◆ Board of Health Discussion on 8/11
  - ◆ 3-0 approval of proposal planning



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*If you want to go fast, go  
alone. If you want to go  
far, go together.*

*-African Proverb*



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## Updates to Draft

Shared in no particular order...  
Discussion and rationale for changes



## Important Calendar Changes for ALL Models

- ◆ **September 15th:** First Day for Students
  - ◆ DESE added 10 preparation days for faculty. August 31 - September 14th will be staff training and planning.
- ◆ Hybrid Plan: Fridays will be a REMOTE ½ day for all students  
Benefits:
  - ◆ Whole class time
  - ◆ Maskless interaction
  - ◆ Practice remote learning routines
  - ◆ In January: will review how remote Fridays are working
- ◆ Hybrid Plan: For Monday holidays, Monday cohort will attend school on Friday. No remote learning on those Fridays.



# Hybrid Implementation

Maintain a hybrid in-person model to open with readiness  
for responsive shifts to remote.

Implement Stand Alone Remote





## Phased Entry to the Hybrid Model

### **Collaborative Decision-Making with Colleagues**

A phased entry for faculty and families.

- ◆ Provides time for personal attention
- ◆ Practice health and safety routines
- ◆ Develops confidence
- ◆ Allows for early focus on students with complex needs





## Phased Entry for Hybrid Students

- ◆ **September 15 - 18**
  - ◆ Remote learning for most to build community and set expectations for the next several weeks.
  - ◆ Complex learners begin in-person.
- ◆ **September 21 - October 2**
  - ◆ On alternating days, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of hybrid students return to school buildings, while others work remotely.
  - ◆ Allows for training on safety protocols, community building, and social-emotional learning
- ◆ **October 5**
  - ◆ Full hybrid model implementation begins.



## Supporting Complex Learners

- ◆ Early attention and support
  - ◆ A range of students with complex needs will begin in-person instruction week of September 15th
  - ◆ Communication to IEP and 504 families prior to the start of school
- ◆ WPS is deeply committed to meeting students' IEPs
- ◆ Innovation and current best practice continues for all WPS students inclusive of those with unique needs



## **Stand Alone Remote Model: Starts September 15**

### **K-8:**

- ◆ Taught by WPS teachers
- ◆ Students can switch between models one time, at appropriate opportunities
- ◆ IEP services will be met

### **High School:**

- ◆ Taught by VHS teachers, and where possible, WHS teachers.
- ◆ Students can switch between models one time, at appropriate opportunities
- ◆ IEP services will be met





## DESE Updates & Westborough Plan

### Lunches:

- ◆ Additional lunch shifts to reduce numbers
- ◆ Mask break and 6 ft minimum distancing
- ◆ Flexible use of cafeteria, outdoors, and other building spaces
- ◆ Maintain breakfast and lunch for qualified students on remote days

### Transportation:

- ◆ Cleaning & sanitizing before/after routes
- ◆ Masks required & provided if needed
- ◆ Hand sanitation when boarding
- ◆ Windows open unless extreme weather
- ◆ One student per bench (assigned seat) unless from same family
- ◆ Use of alternating rows to maintain at least 3-6 foot distance

### Recess & Mask Breaks:

- ◆ Hand sanitization before/after
- ◆ Small cohort play groups
- ◆ Outdoor distance 10 ft+, masks may be removed
- ◆ If outdoor play is within 6ft, masks required
- ◆ Playground structures will NOT be used
- ◆ No shared materials
- ◆ Sanitize single use items
- ◆ Designated mask break spaces

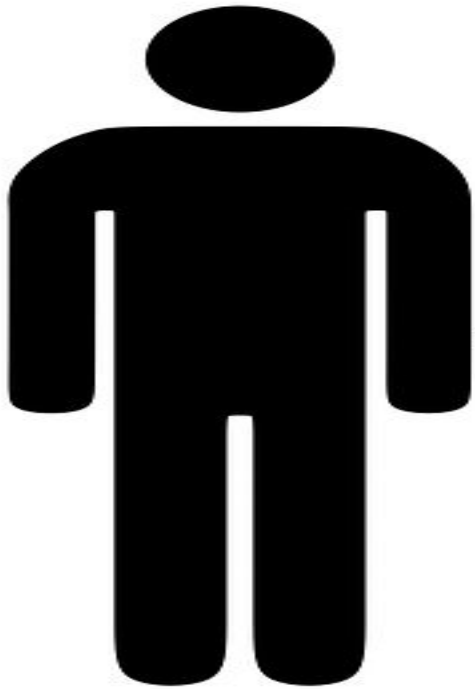


## Building based planning holds nitty gritty details:

The overall proposal provides a framework and key process details.

Implementation of specifics is mapped out at each building.





Health and Safety  
Updates





# Active and Continual Effort

Working with the School Committee,  
the Health & Safety Committee, and the Board of Health



## Health & Safety Committee: Ongoing Safety Planning

- ◆ The Health and Safety Planning document will be continuously revised in response to changing/new scientific, health, and educational information.
- ◆ The Committee will continue to meet weekly during school year to assess implementation, revise protocols where needed, and respond to questions from staff and families.
- ◆ A staff member from each school will serve as a representative to the Committee in order to continue to bring building-based questions and suggestions to the planning.



## Health & Safety Committee: Ongoing Communication

- ◆ In consultation with the Board of Health, the Health and Safety Committee has drafted a set of daily metrics that will be tracked at each school, synthesized for district data, and reported to the Director of the Board of Health.
- ◆ Students and staff who become symptomatic, who are diagnosed with COVID-19, who are in isolation or quarantine, or who are close contacts, will all be anonymously tabulated in a spreadsheet that allows for daily/weekly review as a school or district, so that the district and Board of Health can spot trends and rapidly respond to increases in cases.
- ◆ Families of close contacts will be notified by the schools.





## Key Revisions to Health & Safety Planning Document

- ◆ Revised protocols for “Key Actions” in response to COVID-19 related events such as exposure to an infected person or symptom development at home and at school.
- ◆ “Appropriate Face Coverings” explained:
  - ◆ SHOULD fit snugly
    - ◆ Recommended they be made of at least three layers
  - ◆ CAN be disposable or washable
  - ◆ Does NOT include bandanas, gaiters, or cloth masks made from fleece.



## Key Revisions to Health & Safety Planning Document

- ◆ Cleaning and Sanitizing
  - ◆ Custodial staff added to each school as needed
  - ◆ Shifting some custodians to day shifts to support lunch clean up and more rotational cleaning of buildings while in session.
  - ◆ Bathrooms, high touch points, etc., will be sanitized 3-5 times per day
- ◆ HVAC systems inspected and reviewed by consultant
  - ◆ Systems have been cleaned and set for optimal functioning to balance ventilation and filtration with temperature and humidity control.
  - ◆ HVAC will run longer than usual, with a minimum of two hours after school in the evening and two hours before school in the morning.
  - ◆ Bathroom exhausting inspected and working as designed



## Key Revisions to Health & Safety Planning Document

### ◆ Wellness/Physical Education:

- ◆ Outdoor physical distancing of 10 feet with masks off
- ◆ Masks worn indoors during all activities
- ◆ Shared equipment will be wiped down before and after each use
- ◆ Hand washing / sanitizing before and after P.E. class

### ◆ Fine and Performing Arts

- ◆ K-6 staff will travel to classrooms. Students will have individual art/music “kits” for home/school use.
- ◆ All concerts/plays/performances have been cancelled until at least January. A complete performance schedule will be provided once public assembly is permitted.
- ◆ Singing and playing brass or woodwind instruments will not occur indoors

### Fine and Performing Arts, Wellness, and ESL

- ◆ Staff travel between buildings in a single day is reduced/eliminated



## *Next Steps:*

- Review Completed Proposal
  - Clean copy to SC
- SC Meeting 8/17: Vote final proposal
- Submit Plan to DESE after meeting 8/17
- Ongoing Implementation
  - Release Cohorts
  - Bus Routes
  - Schedules & Class Lists





# Questions?