

School Reopening Updates

Volume 1--June 12, 2020

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Superintendent's Message

As we approach the final week of the 2019-2020 school year, I wanted to first and foremost thank each and every member of our community who helped our district weather the challenging months of school closure. In the following newsletter, we will apprise you of the extensive and proactive planning that is underway as we anticipate school reopening. Today's communication will outline the roles of the Recovery Response Advisory Committee (RRAC) and briefly address forthcoming guidance from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) with regard to reopening.

Recovery Response Advisory Committee

- The Recovery Response Advisory Committee (RRAC) is a team of more than 100 community members, including Central Office administration, members of our district administrative leadership team, school committee members, educators, parents, and representatives of various municipal organizations including the Board of Health, police and fire departments, and town management.
- The purpose of the RRAC is to serve in an advisory capacity to the Superintendent on all matters related to the reopening of Hingham Public Schools and to obtain input from key stakeholders.
- The RRAC is comprised of five subcommittees, each of which will begin to problem solve different focus areas of reopening logistics.
- Please click [here](#) for a complete list of RRAC members. Many thanks to the parents and educators who volunteered to support this important work.



Recovery Response Advisory Committee

Steering Committee

Chair-Dr. Paul Austin,
Superintendent

Instruction/Social Emotional Learning Subcommittee

Chair-Dr. James LaBillois, Assistant
Superintendent

Special Education Subcommittee

Chair-Dr. Suzanne Vinnes, Director
of Student Services

Facilities, Operations & Finance Subcommittee

Chair-John Ferris, Director of
Business and Support Services

Communications Subcommittee & Parent Ambassadors

Chair-Katie Roberts, K-12 Science
Director



RRAC Subcommittees

Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supervise all aspects of school reopening.
Instruction & Social Emotional Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Determine instructional best practices for various reopening scenarios, including in-person, hybrid, and remote learning.• Ensure appropriate programming and structures to support social emotional health and wellness of students.
Facilities, Operations & Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and plan for all aspects of facilities and operations, including classroom layout, cleaning protocols, PPE, transportation, fields, technology, and HR/personnel.• Assess budget implications of COVID-19 related expenses.
Student Services & Special Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide continuity of Special Education and related services, and plan for remediation necessitated by school closure.
Communications & Parent Ambassadors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide timely and comprehensive communication to the HPS community through regular updates and social media posts.

Anticipated DESE Guidance

- While preliminary communications from DESE and CDC have allowed us to anticipate needs with regard to facilities, cleaning protocols, and other health related considerations, we eagerly await forthcoming guidance from the DESE with regards to the prescribed instructional model for school reopening.
- During a recent video conference call with school superintendents, Commissioner Riley indicated that DESE will be issuing detailed, prescriptive reopening guidance that all school districts will be required to follow. The specific date of release is still unknown but we will share that guidance as soon as it is published.
- We are confident that the RRAC will be able to progress quickly in plan development once the DESE guidance has been issued. We will keep the community apprised via regular updates throughout the planning process and look forward to welcoming our students back in the fall.



Helpful Links

[MA DESE: COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)

[MA DESE: COVID 19 On the Desktop Messages](#)

[MA DESE: Return-to-School Working Group](#)

[MA DESE: COVID-19 Information and Resources for Special Educators](#)

[CDC Guidance for Schools](#)

[CDC Interim Guidance for Administrators of US K-12 Schools and Child Care Programs](#)

[MA EEC \(Early Education and Care\)](#)

[Reopening Massachusetts](#)

