



# HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Good afternoon HPS Community,

I hope this first communication of the summer finds you well and enjoying the incredible weather. It has been a long and difficult few months and although we are still in a period of uncertainty, I do hope you are able to take some time to enjoy your families and the sunshine. The purpose of my communication today is to provide a few brief updates with regard to ongoing planning for school reopening.

Before I discuss the fall, I want to again thank each and every member of our community who helped our district weather this unprecedented school closure. Administrators, educators, support staff, municipal employees, school committee members, and families all pulled together to provide a safe and supportive virtual learning environment for Hingham students during the unsettling and uncertain times brought on by COVID-19. I am grateful for your patience, your empathy, and your partnership as we weathered this storm together. Despite the challenges, we made it to the end of an extraordinary school year, and that is reason to celebrate.

As we shared in last week's school reopening [newsletter](#), the Recovery Response Advisory Committee ([RRAC](#)), composed of more than 100 community members, is actively engaged in planning for school reopening. RRAC subcommittees, under the guidance of the Steering Committee, are exploring focus areas including Instruction and Social Emotional Learning; Special Education and Student Services; Facilities, Operations and Finance; and Communications. While there are many details that we have been able to tackle preemptively, such as purchase of PPE and cleaning supplies, many school reopening decisions hinge on forthcoming guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). As mentioned in last week's newsletter, DESE will be issuing detailed, prescriptive reopening guidance that all school districts will be required to follow. The specific release date of this information is still unknown, but we are well positioned to act on the guidance once issued.

The HPS administrators and members of the RRAC are prepared to work throughout the summer to ensure that we greet our students on August 31<sup>st</sup> with a plan that best supports the safety, health, social-emotional, and academic needs of all students. We will provide frequent communications to keep you informed and will provide multiple opportunities for families to provide input and ask questions.

Thank you for your continued support of Hingham Public Schools and I wish you all a wonderful summer.

Until next time,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Hingham Public Schools