



HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Good afternoon HPS Community,

As another July weekend approaches, I hope you are all finding special ways to enjoy the beautiful summer weather. This letter is your weekly update of district progress and planning for the reopening of schools at the end of August. This past week has been a busy one for the Recovery Response working groups as they continued to review information and plan for a much anticipated safe return to school in the fall.

During a conference call with superintendents this week, Commissioner Riley shared that the initial draft of the district reopening plans need to be submitted to DESE by July 31st. Through the dedicated efforts of RRAC members, HPS is well positioned to meet that deadline. Planning templates and additional DESE guidance on key areas such as transportation is expected to arrive soon and will allow us to provide increased specificity with regard to building schedules and reopening plans.

Highlights of the RRAC working committees this week:

- The Facilities subcommittee completed a comprehensive assessment of existing classroom space and non-traditional spaces in light of the 3-6 foot physical distance guidelines.
- Facilities data is now being analyzed by the Education & Social Emotional Committee to inform instructional models and schedules. We continue to think creatively about space and scheduling, understanding that academic and social emotional priorities will differ for students in K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.
- The RRAC parent and educator representatives have provided valuable perspective on school reopening priorities, and have been valued partners in the work. Our team will also solicit feedback from the broader community through family and staff surveys to be issued next Friday, July 17th.

Thank you for your continued support of Hingham Public Schools and please be on the lookout for the survey next Friday. Your input will be a critical part of the planning process.

Until next time,

Paul Austin, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Hingham Public Schools