



## **Reopening Update**

**School Committee Meeting – September 9, 2020**

# Agenda

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- Timeline of Events
- Progress – Learning Plan
- Progress – Memorandum of Agreement
- Reopening of Schools
- Key Updates
  - Transportation
  - PPE
  - Building Maintenance
  - Financial Data
  - Health Metrics
- Enrollment Projections
- Final Thoughts

# Timeline

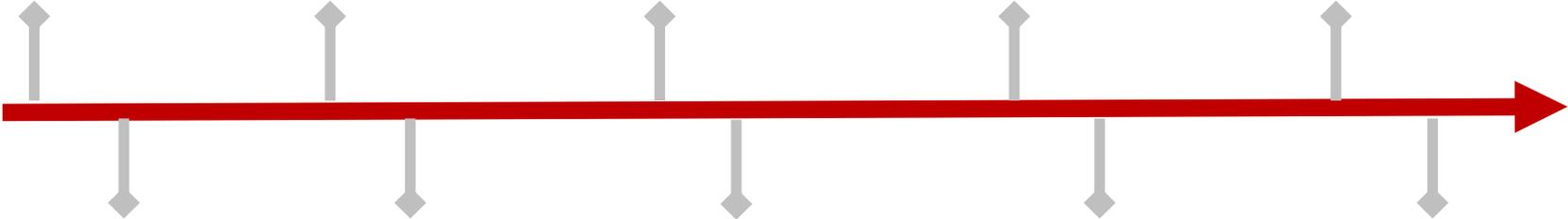
**May 2020:** Recovery Response Advisory Committees formed

**June 25 2020:** Initial guidance received from DESE

**July 2020:** RRAC committees continue to meet

**August 6 2020:** School Committee approved Reopening Plan

**August 24, 2020:** New Teacher Orientation



9/16

**June 2020:** Initial meetings of RRAC committees

**July 2020:** Negotiations with HEA begin

**August 5 2020:** 3 Community Forums held

**August 2020:** Schools begin to operationalize approved plan

**August 26, 2020:** Teacher Professional Development begins

## Recovery Response Advisory Committees:

**Steering Committee**  
Chair: Dr. Austin

**Education/ Social Emotional**  
Chair: Dr. LaBillois

**Facilities & Operations**  
Chair: John Ferris

**Student Services**  
Chair: Dr. Vinnes

**Communications/ Public Relations**  
Chair: Katie Roberts

# Learning Plan Progress

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- The School Committee approved the District Learning Plan that was submitted on August 6, 2020.
- The approved plan is a Phased-In Hybrid plan, with school starting on September 16 for all students.
- Teachers and staff have been engaged in professional development since August 26 and this will continue through September 15.
- Professional development has been carefully crafted to provide teachers with the skills and resources needed to fully implement remote, hybrid, and in-person instruction that will begin on September 16.
- First 8 days of the school year (September 16 – 25) will be remote for most. During this time, small groups of students (particularly at the elementary level) may be engaged in orientation, teacher meetings, student assessment, and/or teacher meet and greets.
- In-person instruction for all students will begin on September 28 based upon the schedule of the 4 cohort model developed.

# Progress on the Memorandum of Agreement

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- The district is working with the Hingham Education Association to develop the Memorandum of Agreement for the reopening of our schools.
- We have been meeting regularly since the end of July 2020. We are meeting 3 times this week to hopefully finish the MOA.
- The Learning Plan adopted by the School Committee on August 6 was intended to provide the overview of expectations (30,000 foot view), while the MOA is intended to provide the “nuts and bolts” in regard to expectations for both the district and its teachers.
- Substantial progress has been made, but details on the expectations for Remote and Hybrid learning are still in discussion.
- We understand the need for additional information and we will continue to work hard to get that to all of you as soon as possible.
- I remain both hopeful and confident that we will come to agreement on some of the most important aspects of the plan in the very near future. We have scheduled meetings for Thursday and Friday evening.

# Re-Opening Schools: 9-16-20

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- **Opening Phase**
  - Wednesdays are Remote Learning for all – Begins 9/16
- **Four Cohorts**
  - “A” and “B” = Approximately one-half of each grade/school
    - Each student will attend 2 days in person; 3 days remote
  - “A/B” = Students with high level needs and support services – Begins 9/17
    - Each student will attend 4 days in person – Select students will attend 5 (9/16)
  - “R” = Students who are fully remote will receive 5 days per week remote instruction (9/16)
  - Note: Cohorts A, B, and R will be remote only 9/16 – 9/25.
  - Note: In-Person Instruction for A and B will begin on 9/28.
- **Establishment of Cohorts**
  - Elementary – by neighborhood
    - Enabled students to stay with children with whom they were familiar
    - More efficient to transport by neighborhood
  - Middle School - Alphabetical
  - High School – Alphabetical
  - Due to the complexity of the schedule, we needed to develop cohorts by alphabet
  - We know this created some family issues that we are trying to adjust to the best of our ability.
  - One move creates a domino effect.

# Transportation

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- Per DESE regulations, our capacity has been cut by 68% - From 77 to 25 students per bus.
- We operate 20 buses to transport students in Hingham.
- Massachusetts law requires districts to guarantee transportation for all students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- While we had hoped to transport students through 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we will not be able to meet that expectation.
- We will only be able to guarantee transportation for students through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Parents have offered to help in many ways - transportation is an area in which we can utilize help.
- Capacity will become even be more stressed when we move to a full in-person opening.

# Personal Protective Equipment - PPE

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- The Facilities Department has developed cleaning protocols and procedures for each school.
- To date, the District has expended more than \$350,000 in PPE for staff and student safety:
  - 250,000+ disposable face masks
  - 1,700+ boxes of gloves
  - 750 N95-masks
  - Each staff member has been provided 3 cloth masks
  - 500 face shields
  - 2,000 disposable gowns
  - 120 gallons of hand sanitizer
  - Hand Sanitizing Stations throughout each building and at all entrances
  - Plexiglass dividers
  - School Safety Signage and Hall/Flow Markers

# Building Maintenance and Preventative Measures

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- Major Preventative Maintenance (PM) has been performed on HVAC systems and completed for both roof and classroom units.
- HVAC and ducts in schools (excluding HMS because it was not needed due to age) have been completely cleaned throughout. All HVAC inspected and working as expected.
- HVAC filtration has been increased from MERV 8 to MERV 11 (maximum for our equipment.)
- Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) testing has been completed by Industrial Hygienist. All buildings are performing well within limits. Comments from hygienist: *"I do more than 20 districts and Hingham would be in the top 3."*
- Building Management System operating schedules have been adjusted to start up 2 hours prior to the school day and shut down 2 hours following the close of the school each day (regardless of the time).
- Maintenance electrician to perform monthly electrical inspections of all critical electrical HVAC system components.
- Germ barriers installed for staff located in frequently populated locations (e.g., offices).
- 6' spacing signage markers in all halls and entrances.
- Classroom floors have been marked to ensure 6' distancing of students.
- Cleaning and sanitization protocols and tracking in all bathrooms at all schools.
- Signage on protocols and expectations in all schools.
- Cleaning protocols for sanitizing buildings and buses.
- Isolation rooms or waiting areas have been created in all schools.
- Building flushing (domestic water) is being done regularly to ensure no impurities are in the plumbing and reported to the Hingham Board of Health.

# Key Financial Data

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- COVID-19 has substantially impacted the HPS financial situation.
- To date, we have submitted for more than \$700,000 in reimbursement from Plymouth County CARES – Covid Relief Funds.
- Covid Related Substantial Expenditures
  - Technology for staff and students of over \$1.2 Million. Laptops, Chrome Books and I-Pads. We do not have enough for full one-to-one for all students, but any student in need of technology will get what they need.
  - PPE – The District has spent more than \$350,000 in PPE for staff and students. As the Pandemic continues, this number is going to grow higher.
- Loss of Revenue
  - Full Day Kindergarten revenue of approximately \$980,000 that was included in expected revenue in the FY' 21 budget (current year).
  - Kids in Action revenue from the before and after school program is a loss of more than \$200,000 in anticipated revenue needed to offset the cost of the staff and program. Some staff being redeployed to other district needs to reopen.
  - Potential loss of State Aid from Chapter 70. First quarter is being “level funded” from FY' 20. The picture for the remaining 3 quarters is uncertain, but we anticipate reductions.

# Health Metrics and Moving through Phases

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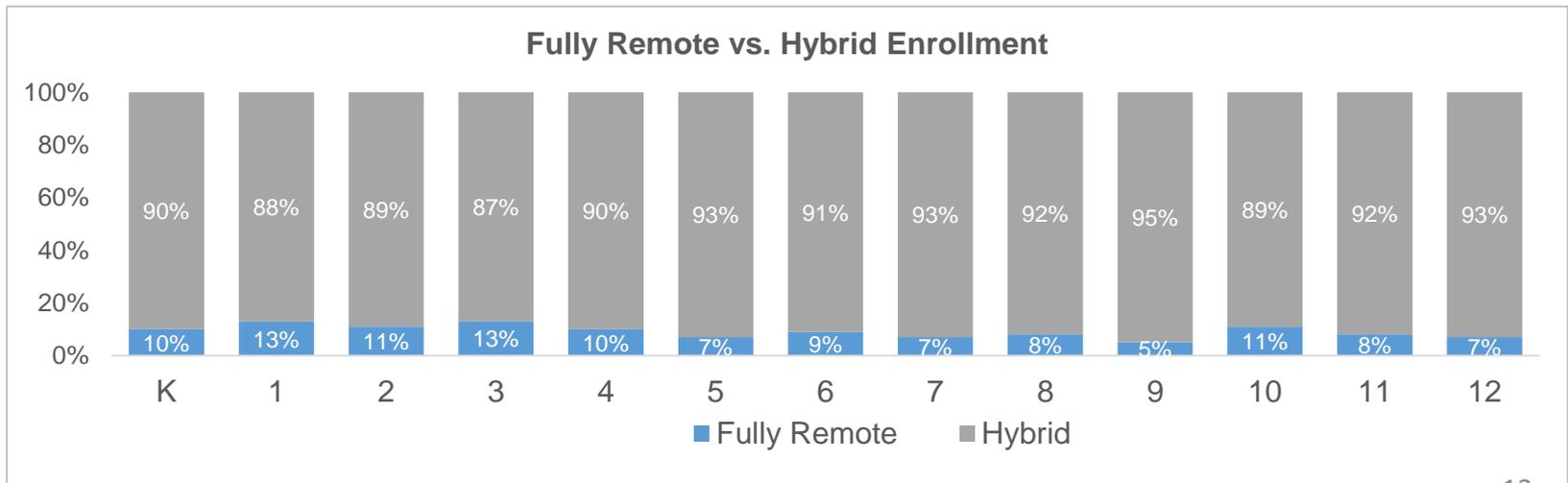
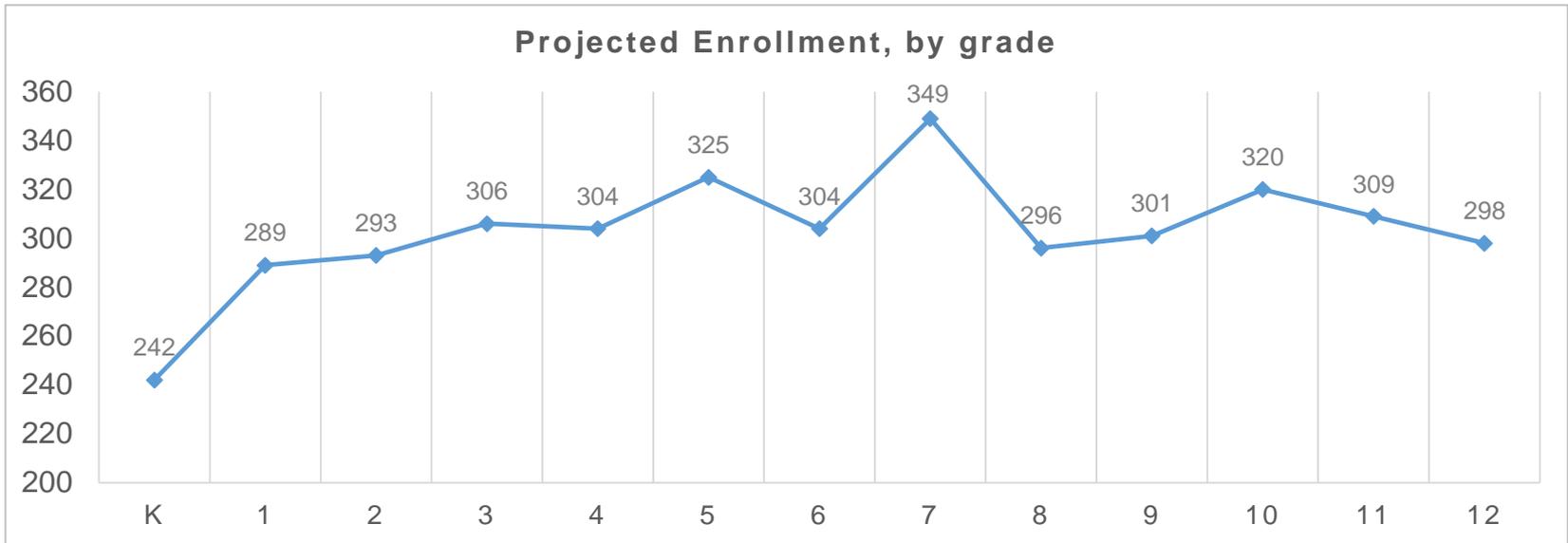
- HPS has established a Covid Response Team (CRT), consisting of the following representatives:
  - Superintendent
  - Six Building Principals
  - Hingham Education Association President
  - School Nurse Representative
  - School Physician (Dr. Stanley)
  - Hingham Board of Health (Susan Sarni)
- The CRT meets weekly to review Hingham Health Metrics.
  - All metrics are looking good at this point and have for the past month.
- HPS Nursing staff is developing protocols related to Contact Tracing and Communication.
- Plan to review metrics at the October 19 School Committee meeting and discuss any potential move to Phase III (3 foot spacing and all students – 5 days per week).
- Phase 3 challenges include:
  - Space issues, particularly at Foster Elementary where inside classrooms are not being used
  - Space issues at all schools for providing intervention services to children with higher needs
  - Transportation will be a major issue if the transportation guidance from DESE does not change. We will not be able to transport all of our students without a substantial change to the guidance.

# Projected Enrollment 2020-2021

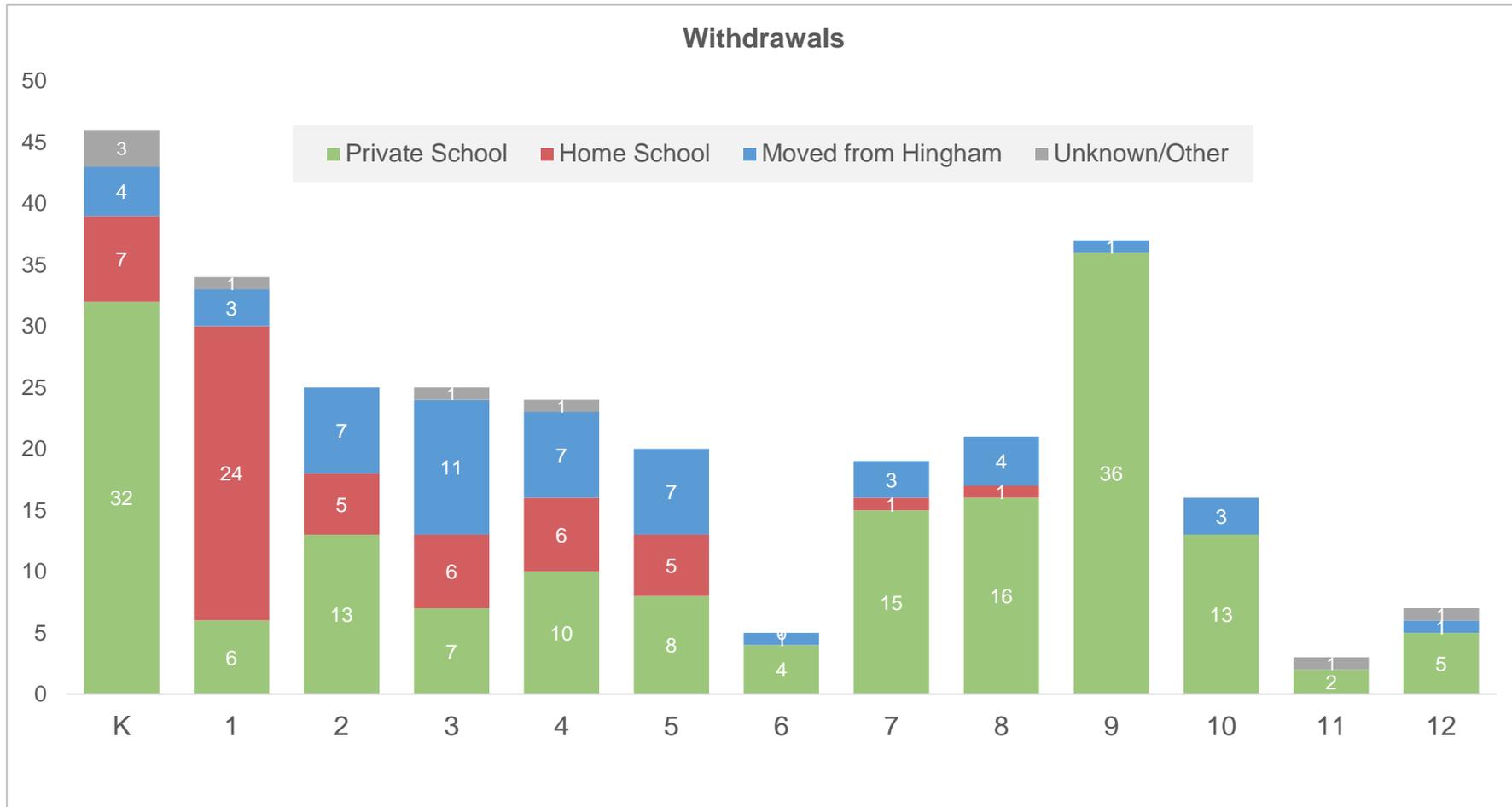
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- Please understand these numbers are still very fluid and may not reflect final enrollment.
- Estimated Enrollment 2020-2021 = 4,018 (not counting any new enrollments).
  - This represents a loss of 282 students.
  - 167 Students K-12 have withdrawn and enrolled in private schools.
  - 55 Students K-12 Home School applications received; have withdrawn or anticipated.
  - 52 student K-12 have moved out of Hingham.
  - 8 Students K-12 have withdrawn for other/unknown reasons.
- Total number of students withdrawn for 2020-2021 = 282 students or 6.5% of our total population.
  - 174 Students- Grades K-5
  - 45 Students-Grades 6-8
  - 63 Students-Grades 9-12
- Approximately 9.15% (average overall) of students enrolled in Remote Learning only
  - Approximately 368 students in remote only program K-12.
- This represents an “in-person” reduction of 650 students (withdrawn and remote only)
- Approximately a 15% overall reduction for in-person instruction across the district.

# Enrollment Projections



# Enrollment Projections



These are initial projections – numbers will continue to change  
 Home School #s are based on applications received; not approvals

# Final Thoughts

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- We all know that this has been a difficult period for the students, parents, staff, teachers, administrators and all the supporters of Hingham Public Schools.
- We are moving forward and while we understand that you want details. We are getting those to you as quickly as possible.
- We appreciate your feedback, your questions, your constructive criticism, and your suggestions. They are all an important part of the learning process as we take on this difficult task.
- We appreciate your continued support of Hingham Public Schools.