

ABINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FULL RE-OPENING PLAN

MARCH 11, 2021

SAFETY CONTINUES TO PARAMOUNT

- Schools have not been the source of COVID-19 spread in Abington or elsewhere
- The infection rate is down
- The vaccination rate continues to rise

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Classrooms will be organized to provide six feet of distancing for teachers at their workstations/desks. Student desks (and all procedures for moving students around each school) will be arranged at “maximum distance” available but not less than three feet. Maximum distance available applies to all classrooms in the District. The majority of classrooms spaces will have three feet between students all facing in the same direction.

Lunch, snack and mask breaks will be at six feet.

PROPOSED DATES FOR A FULL RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

- Students in Grades PreK-8: **APRIL 5, 2021**
- Students in Grades 9-12: **APRIL 12, 2021**

Staggering allows for some of the logistical challenges to be better addressed:

- Traffic (especially around the AEEP, Middle and High School)
- New bus routes
- Food service and increased cleaning between lunches



WHAT HAS CHANGED

- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has revised the School Bus Transportation guidance to allow additional students on each bus.
- In many rooms, the classroom layout has been revised to remove one of two six-foot designated teacher spaces, allowing additional desks to be added to classrooms.
- Additional furnishings have been removed from classrooms.
- Federal ESSER II grant and the State Coronavirus Relief Grant has made additional money available to add staff, purchase additional furniture and rent tents.
- At the secondary level, larger classes have been reassigned to larger classroom spaces to accommodate the class sizes.



POSITIONS RECENTLY POSTED FOR A FULL RETURN

- Part-time custodians
- Lunch/recess Paraprofessionals
- Instructional Paraprofessionals
- Multi-grade classroom teacher(s)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- All Social Distancing standards will be in place
- Masks will be required
- Hygiene practices will continue
- Everyone should stay home when not feeling well
- Quarantine procedures will continue to be followed

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- K-4 students will no longer have Live Streaming.
- 5-12 Live Streaming will continue on a limited basis for medically fragile households and students designated by the Administration.
- Classes held in smaller classroom may be relocated to larger classrooms to accommodate appropriate distancing.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Arrival and dismissal at school buildings will be slow and vehicular traffic will be congested. This will be accounted for when establishing students specified as late to school
- New bus routes will be established, and new bus tags will be distributed.
 - Bus stops, bus numbers and times may change based on the new routes.
 - There will be a waiting list for students not already assigned to a bus. Students will be accommodated based on the availability of seats.
- Larger and flexible spaces including tents will be used to accommodate student needs at all buildings

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Virtual Academy:

Families will continue to be allowed to select the Virtual Academy (Grades K-6) or TECCA (Grades 7-12) for their children. The Grades K-6 Virtual Academy will now run 5 full days per week.

If a student wishes to return from the VA or to in-person instruction, depending on the number and grades of students, additional, multi-grade sections may need to be created, and additional staffing hired.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Lunch Schedules and Areas:

- Abington Middle and High School: Lunch schedules will be changed to accommodate the increase number of students. Lunches will be eaten in the cafeterias, seminar room, main hallways and middle school gym. Students will continue to be assigned seats and seats will remain at six feet of distance.
- Woodsdale School: Students will be assigned to eat lunch in the cafeteria, gymnasium or the tent. Students will be assigned seats and seats will remain at six feet of distance.
- Beaver Brook Elementary School: Students will be assigned to eat in the cafeteria or one of the two gymnasiums. Students will be assigned seats and seats will remain at six feet of distance.

QUESTIONS, INPUT, SURVEYS AND CHANGES

- We have been and always will be available for questions, input and to consider changes
- Without knowing the specifics of what the student day could or would be, it is unfair to survey families. It only creates misconceptions for families and gathers flawed information
- Additional information on the full in-person return and how to request changes for individual students will be provided by each building principal.