REOPENING SCHOOLS: Planning for Three Models

Agawam Public Schools
What the Medical Community Says

- Schools do not appear to have played a major role in COVID-19 transmission.
- In general, rates of COVID-19 infection are lower for children than for adults.
- If exposed, children may be less likely to become infected with COVID-19.
- If infected, it appears children may be less likely to infect others with COVID-19.
Health and Safety Practices Reflect the Most Updated Knowledge

Masks/face coverings:

- Students in grade 2 and above are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth.
- Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.
- Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face masks should be made available by the school for students who need them.
Health and Safety Practices Reflect the Most Updated Knowledge

Physical Distancing:

- Schools should aim for a physical distance of six feet when feasible, and three feet is the minimum distance allowed.
- Classroom and facility configuration: To the extent possible, chairs should be spaced six feet apart (no no fewer than three feet apart) and facing the same direction.
Health and Safety Practices Reflect the Most Updated Knowledge

In School Protocols:

- Students and staff are required to exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and before dismissal.
- Hand sanitizing: Hand sanitizer will be placed at key locations (building entrances, cafeteria, classrooms, shared spaces).
- COVID-19 related isolation space; schools must ensure they have an isolated space.
Doctors on Back to School in MA
FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS
In the fall of 2020, will you send your child(ren) to school if the district is able to reopen under federal, state, and local guidelines? Currently, th... and up and is recommended for younger students.

1,357 responses
If the district is able to offer a remote learning plan in the fall of 2020, would you opt to have your child(ren) participate remotely rather than be back into buildings?

1,353 responses
Will you be willing to transport your child(ren) to and from school either by car or walking?
1,357 responses

- Yes: 65.6%
- No: 19%
- I am unable to transport my child. They will need public transportation, if eligible.
- My child can drive or walk on his/her own.
Do you have internet access at home?
1,357 responses

99% Yes
1% No
If schools can only provide "grab and go" breakfasts and lunches, would your child(ren) purchase/eat these meals?

1,357 responses
How would you describe the ease of learning and coping for your child(ren) during distance learning?

1,352 responses

- 45.5% better than expected
- 42.1% about what was expected
- 12.4% not as good as expected
In which areas would school support be most valuable to your family?

- 47.1%: Academic support activities (extra help in reading or math)
- 33.1%: Helping your child manage/organize school work
- 11.7%: Managing emotions or behaviors
- 8.1%: How to use technology as it relates to your child's schoolwork

1,357 responses
Teacher Survey Results
(from AEA)
Face Coverings:

81% would like masks to be mandatory

Distancing:

69% prefer a min 6 ft distancing vs. 31% who are OK with min 3 ft distancing

Preferred start of the school year:

35% Remote Only Model, 32% Hybrid Model, 32% Full In-Person Model
What We’ve Already Done

- Ordered PPE: masks, gowns, face shields, sanitation stations
- Planned for 1:1 devices preK-8; HS BYOD
- Surveyed Families
- Conducted the feasibility study
- Planned professional development with an added day upfront
- Planned for additional SEL supports/strategies/resources for reopening
- Added plexiglass to all offices
- Service to ventilation systems; upgrades at AHS
- In the process of ordering online assessment and learning software; ONE K-8
- Improved communication system purchased with translation built-in
- Held listening session for staff
- Researched possible hybrid models
Preparing Buildings

Signage

Offices

Common areas

Hallways

Ventilation
What We are Still Working On

- Details of all three plans
- Changes that affect collective bargaining agreements and policies
- COVID room setup and staffing
- Answering questions from teachers and parents
- Collecting Information from teachers
Preparing Teachers

Staff Self-Care Support/Workshops

Professional Development: 3 Days Before Students with the possibility for more throughout the year.

Day 1: Teacher choice: 2 content sessions/1 SEL

Day 2: School based planning; Grade level/department planning

Day 3: Convocation; grade level/department planning; school-based work

Devices for teachers: School laptops and portable document cameras.
Preparing Teachers: Professional Development

- Nearpod
- Google Slides (creating interactive activities for students, inserting video, audio, and images, creating links, etc.)
- Creating videos (using Google or Screencastify or...)
- Google Classroom & Google Meet (different settings, options for assigning / grading / tracking, tips and tricks, presenting)
- Other Google Suite tools: Jamboard, Contacts, Keep, Earth, etc.
- Docs / Forms / Sheets (inserting images, creating hyperlinks, self-grading options)
Preparing Families

- What to Expect Videos
- Community Listening Sessions
- Family Partnership Guide to Reopening Schools
- Schools will provide a checklist for families to identify possible COVID symptoms.
Planning for Three Models

**Continuum of fall reopening models**

1. **In-person learning with new safety requirements**
   - All students return in person; classrooms, schedules, protocols modified to meet health requirements

2. **Hybrid learning**
   - Students learn both in-person and remotely

3. **Remote learning**
   - Learning takes place remotely

**Return without restrictions**

- Students return in person and restrictions are lifted
Full-In Person with Precautions

- Changes to the daily school schedules; minimize mixing of students and adults as much as possible; lower class sizes to provide for greater distancing (class size max at 20 students)
- Desks can be at least 3 ft apart, some more than 3 ft, but not 6 ft for full in
- Largest challenges: transportation, arrival, dismissal, lunch, and mask breaks (especially grades 5-12 where our enrollments are larger)
- Staggered Arrivals and Dismissals
- May need to purchase additional furniture
- 6 feet teacher/instructional space
Agawam High School Classroom with 3ft+ distancing
Elementary Classroom with 3ft+ distancing - Granger
Hybrid Model

- 2 Cohort of students; some in person, some remote

  - Opportunities for increased planning/collaboration time for teachers
  - Allows for 6 ft of distancing between students in classrooms
  - Childcare could be a challenge for families/teachers
  - Students would have synchronous (live) sessions with teachers on Wednesdays.
  - Blended learning approach
Classrooms with 6 ft. Distancing (15 desks) Phelps, AHS
Hybrid Split of Students-Alphabetical-Families Have the Same Schedule

Phelps: 352 students

60 Kindergarteners - split (A-K) 29 & (L-Z) 31

71 first graders - split (A-K) 34 & (L-Z) 37

64 second graders - split (A-K) 33 & (L-Z) 31

73 third graders - split (A-K) 35 & (L-Z) 38

84 fourth graders - split (A-K) 45 & (L-Z) 39
Our new remote learning plan will NOT be the same as in the spring.

It will include:

- Signal sign-on to all district sites
- District sites/software have been streamlined for more consistency
- Siblings will not have to share devices
- Synchronous (live) instructional sessions will be scheduled
- More structure to teachers and students days
Transportation

- Capacity of busses with social distancing guidelines is approx. $\frac{1}{3}$ of regular capacity.
- All students wear masks/face-coverings on busses.
- Not more than one student per bench (unless families members)
- Keep windows open when possible
- Partner with families to get students to school
- More information to follow
Latest Updates

- DESE will soon issue a “stop and start playbook”. This guidance has been developed by a team of medical personnel.
- The two key factors are the unknown financial picture and the future trajectory of the virus.
- Part of the rationale by the medical professionals is that children are safer in schools and less prone to social-emotional issues.
- The August 10th date for the submission of the final Fall Reopening Plan was set with the hope that more information would be available about the funding and the status of the virus.
Timeline

- **July 28th**: School Committee Workshop: Reopening Progress
- **July 30th**: Community Listening Session
- **July 31st**: Initial Plan Submission to DESE (non-binding)
- **August 4th**: School Committee Meeting and Vote
- **August 10th**: Final Plan Submission to DESE
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, FEEDBACK, AND PATIENCE