



March 16, 2021

Dear Lawrence Public Schools families,

One year after the pandemic changed life and school for all of us, Massachusetts schools are preparing to return to full in-person learning. Today, I am very pleased to share what lies ahead for Lawrence Public Schools.

Last week the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced that schools must return in person, five days per week, starting with elementary grades by April 5 and middle school grades by April 28. Families will still have the option of staying in full remote learning for the remainder of the year.

Based on that timeline, here is our current plan -- for all students, grades and schools -- for this spring's return:

- A questionnaire was shared last week with all families asking whether your child will return in person or continue remotely for the remainder of this school year. If you did not complete this questionnaire, your child's school will be reaching out to you this week for this information.
- The following students will return Monday, April 5:
  - Grades PreK-5
  - All district Special Education programs PreK-12 (ILP, PA, MSS, PG), including School for Exceptional Studies and SES Annex
- The following students will return Wednesday, April 28:
  - Grades 6-8
  - ENLACE, International High School, High School Learning Center, RISE
- All other Lawrence High School students will return to campus the week of May 3 (please note this date could change)
- School day hours will remain the same for all students, whether learning in person or remotely:
  - Pre-kindergarten - kindergarten: AM session 8:00 - 10:30 or PM session 12:00 - 2:30
  - Grades 1-8: 8:00am - 1:30pm
  - Grades 9-12: 8:30am - 2:30pm
- Grab 'n Go meals will continue to be available at the current times, days and locations for all students learning remotely.
- Schools will host back-to-school virtual meetings with important information about what to expect, including transportation, safety protocols, meals, uniforms, and changes students will see in their school buildings, such as signs, distanced seating, and other safety measures. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions.
- The latest information, including a Frequently Asked Questions guide to our in-person return, can be found at [www.LawrencePublicSchools.org](http://www.LawrencePublicSchools.org).

We know the school day will look different than in the past, with necessary changes to learning spaces and routines, and health and safety protocols -- including masks for everyone -- in place across the district. We also know, based on school data from across Massachusetts, that in-person learning can be conducted safely when everyone commits to these practices. Here in LPS we have already enjoyed a successful, safe return of high needs students five days per week in every school.

Thank you all for your support and patience as we continue to plan and adapt based on the newest guidance. We cannot wait to see so many of our students back in the classroom, and will do everything we can to keep you informed as our return to in-person learning approaches.

Thank you,

Cynthia Paris  
Superintendent of Schools