



School Reopening Update

July 29, 2020



Key Messages

- 1) The health & well-being of students, families, & staff is priority #1.
- 2) Our focus for the coming year is to develop a safe school environment for our students and staff that prioritizes everyone's well-being and enables high levels of learning for all.
- 3) We are planning based on guidance from the MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education while closely monitoring the latest information from medical experts and the evolving data regarding the pandemic both in Massachusetts and in Shrewsbury.



Important to Note

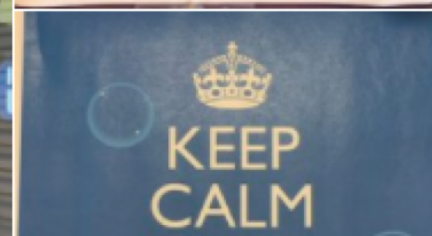
- Tonight's presentation is NOT the proposed reopening plan. A recommended plan will be presented next week (August 5)
- Our staff is working extremely hard to create the best plan possible given the information and guidance we have
- This is an extraordinary situation that will require ongoing iteration to respond to changing circumstances



Meg Belsito @SPS_SPEDandPPS · Jul 15

Are we ready? In a couple days, we will welcome back some summer staff and students—in person! 🤗🌞 We can do this!

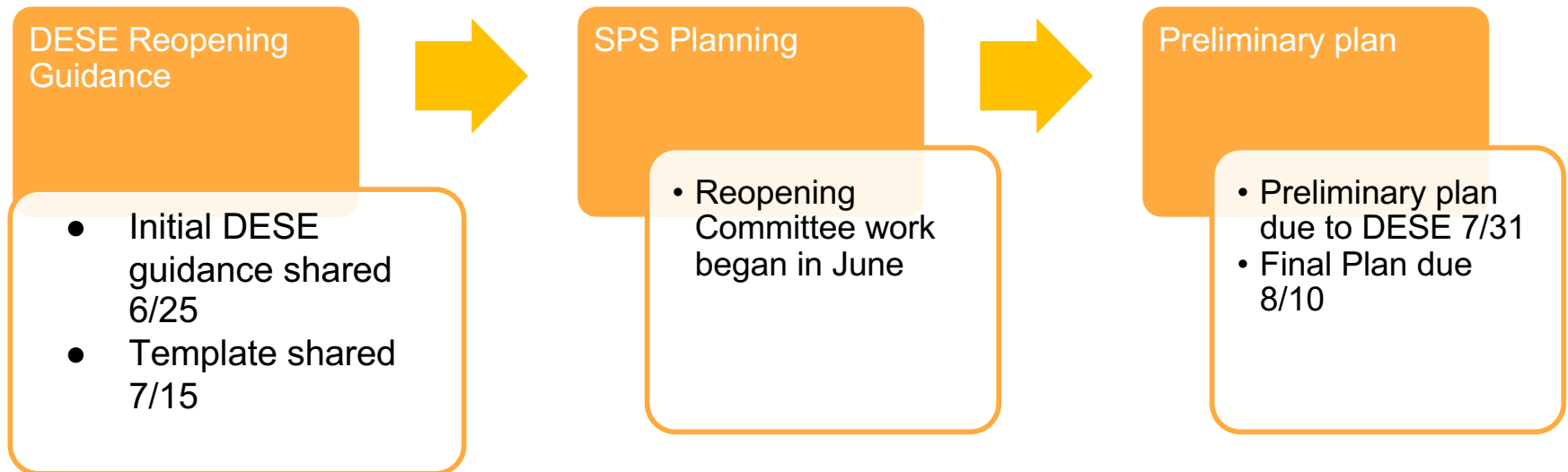
#ShrewsburyLearns @SPS_AsstSpedPPS @SPS_SpecialProg
@SPSNursing @SPS_SpEdElem @SMSOMS_SpecEd @SHS_speced
@ShrewsburyPS



Thanks.



DESE Reopening Timeline



3 Questions All Districts Must Answer

- What would in-person learning with new safety requirements look like, if you could bring everyone back?
- What would a hybrid of in-person and remote learning look like with new safety requirements in place? , and
- If the district had to continue remote learning, what would a revised plan that includes additional requirements entail?

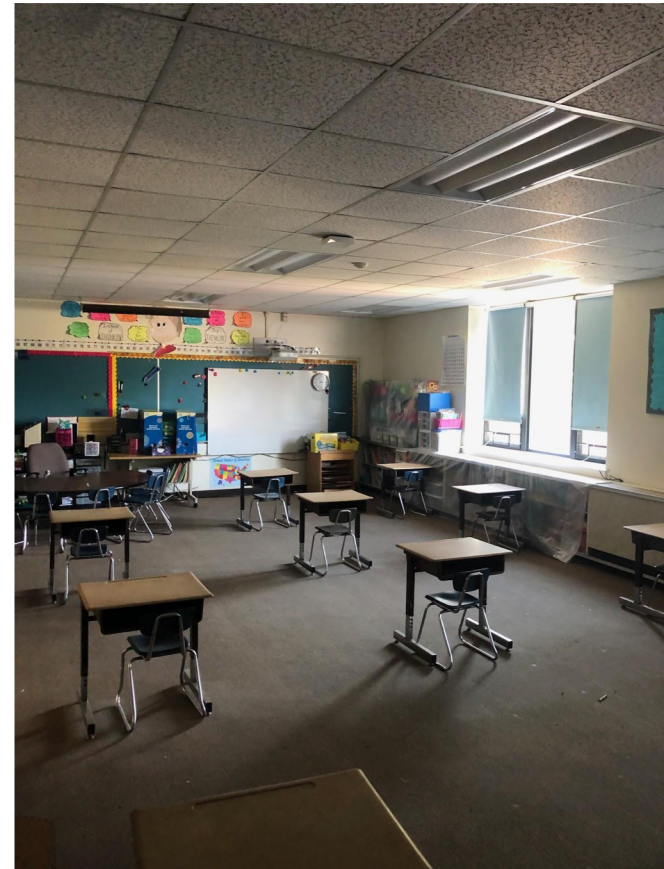
NOTE: In all models, schools must also develop a focused plan for special student populations as well as students whose parent opt for a continuation of remote learning.

First, Feasibility

3 feet

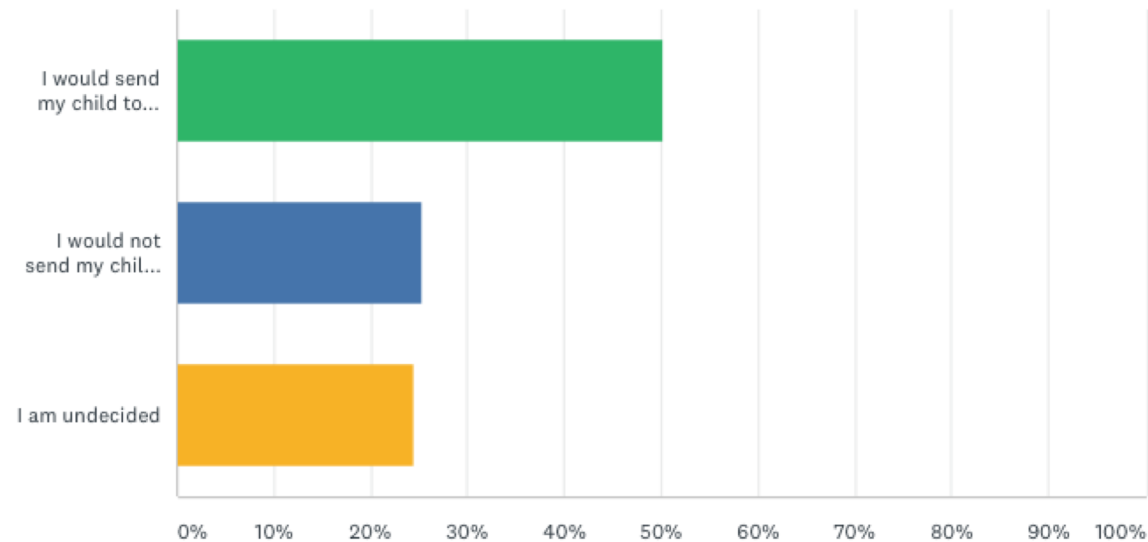


6 feet



If our school district implements an in-person learning model for all students based upon the state guidance (3 foot physical distancing):

Answered: 3,669 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I would send my child to school for in-person learning with all students	50.31%	1,846
I would not send my child to school for in-person learning with all students	25.29%	928
I am undecided	24.39%	895
TOTAL		3,669

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NOTE: In all models, schools must also develop a focused plan for special student populations as well as students whose parent opt for a continuation of remote learning.

Remote Learning 2.0

- Both educators and families want instructional plans to include more “live” time with students, and so remote learning guidelines will be adjusted to reflect much more time on learning.
- It’s expected that students will fully participate in Zoom sessions. Attendance will be taken and expectations for student responsibilities will be communicated proactively.
- Student work will be collected regularly, assignments will be graded, and educators will revert back to the same grading systems that were in place before school closure.
- We have software tools to help differentiate learning at all levels.

Why consider a hybrid model?

- A SAFE return to in-person learning in any capacity is better educationally than a continuation of remote learning, assuming that a safe return is possible.
- An alternating in person / remote plan will allow educators to more consistently connect with and effectively engage ALL students.
- Skillful teaching is informed by assessment, and assessment is best done in person.



What MIGHT this look like ?

- This will mean dividing students into cohorts:

Cohort A: High needs students attend every day

Cohorts B/C: These students will alternate days (plan is to have cohorts by last name to ensure children from the same family are on the same schedule)

Cohort D: Students opting for continuing to learn remotely will be taught by a separate group of educators, possibly through a third-party platform.

- This will also mean adjusting the academic day (during in-person days to allow for safety measures and on remote days to raise expectations for student work)
- This will mean building time for planning as well as teaching.

Example of Alternating In-Person Model

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday*	Thursday	Friday
A Cohort- High needs students	In-person	In-person	In-person ½ Day Early Release	In-person	In-person
B Cohort	In-Person	In-Person	Combined B/C Cohorts ½ Day Remote in AM	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>
C Cohort	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>		In-Person	In-Person
D Cohort- Fully remote students	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>		Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>	Remote <i>(Students work on assignments independently)</i>

Key Data Points: Willingness To Return to School

- 67% of students would return for an alternating hybrid schedule with fewer students, with 17% not returning and 16% undecided
- Slightly higher for high school (74%), slightly lower for elementary (59%)

Hybrid Schedule Preference

	STRONGLY DO NOT PREFER	DO NOT PREFER	NEUTRAL	PREFER	STRONGLY PREFER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Alternating in-person learning by WEEK (e.g., one week at school, next week at home, repeat)	20.12% 712	18.59% 658	21.98% 778	21.64% 766	17.66% 625	3,539	2.98
Alternating in-person learning by DAYS (e.g., 3 consecutive school days in-school, next 3 school days at home, repeat)	23.28% 833	18.59% 665	23.03% 824	19.87% 711	15.23% 545	3,578	2.85

Continued Planning for Reopening

- Analysis of 3 options due to Department of Education by July 31; decision for SPS due by August 10; School Committee meeting August 5 to vote on plan
- Reopening Task Force Subcommittees are working to resolve details for the recommendation to School Committee next Wednesday

Continued Planning for Reopening

- New information from DESE regarding delaying the start of school for students by 10 days to enable thorough training and orientation
- An updated school calendar will be brought forward for School Committee approval as part of the reopening plan

Continued Planning for Reopening

- Specific family choices for each student for either participating in the hybrid model or fully remote learning will be requested through PowerSchool Parent Portal once a plan is approved
- Email questions or feedback to 2020reopen@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us

Thanks.

