

Canton Public Schools



COVID 19 Appendix 2020-2021

Dear Canton Parents/Guardians and Students,

This is a start to school like no other. The CPS staff have been working tirelessly to prepare for the reopening of school for all students on September 16, 2020. The School Committee and Canton Teachers Association believe that a phase-in hybrid approach is the better way to start school in such an uncertain time. To best support all students and staff during remote learning, hybrid or all-in, with all safety precautions in place regardless of the model of teaching and learning at that time, the School Handbooks provide information outlining important expectations and common practices across the school system.

Regardless of the unique nature of this school year, our Strategic Framework stands strong. The Long-Term Strategic Objectives are the overarching goals with the more specific Strategic Areas of Focus and the individual School Improvement Plans serving as areas for more detailed planning and action.

Also, in the planning and development of the [Comprehensive School Reopening Plan](#) approved by the School Committee on August 6, 2020, we committed ourselves to:

- Student and staff safety
- Equity and advancing excellence
- Rigorous, high quality teaching and learning
- Students' authentic sense of belonging and joy
- Communication and collaboration with stakeholders
- Continuous improvement and reflection
- Adaptive and innovative approaches

The School Reopening Plan provides many details regarding specifics of this year. Like every other year, policies, laws and regulations change, and we adjust our School Handbooks. I strongly encourage you to carefully review these documents including the accompanying signature page to express your understanding of these expectations.

Please contact your school's Principal if you have any questions, comments or concerns so that we can improve our communications with you and better serve every student within the Canton Public Schools.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jennifer Fischer-Mueller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue shadow effect behind the text.

Jennifer Fischer-Mueller, Ed.D
Superintendent

Background

On June 25, 2020, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education published the [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance](#) to establish key elements and timelines for the planning process in response to COVID 19. DESE called on school districts to develop COVID safety plans and protocols, while also directing districts to design a reopening plan that addresses the Continuum of Fall Reopening Models -- All In, Hybrid and Remote -- and a fully Remote Learning option.

Canton Public Schools conducted an exhaustive review of the feasibility and effectiveness of the three different Models in the Continuum, from the following standpoints: safety, teaching and learning, student and staff well-being, technology, operations, and transportation. CPS conducted several surveys to better understand the school community's preferences and perspectives. In addition, Canton Public Schools developed and offered the Remote Learning Pathway as a full-year, fully remote option for families who did not want their children to enter the school buildings. Families had the opportunity to choose either the Continuum of Learning Models or the Remote Learning Pathway for the school year.

The Comprehensive School Reopening Plan

On August 6, 2020, the Canton Public Schools presented the [Comprehensive School Reopening Plan](#) to the Canton School Committee and it was approved. The plan was subsequently submitted to DESE. The Comprehensive Plan features the following:

- The Commitments for the Fall Reopening
- The Conditions for Learning
- The Continuum of Reopening Models
- The Weekly Design of Hybrid
- The Remote Learning Pathway
- Health and Safety
- Teaching and Learning
- Technology and Digital Learning
- Social and Emotional Supports
- Students with Special Circumstances
- Transportation

Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students and staff is a top priority. As such, the Canton nursing team collaborated with the Canton Health Department and local safety officials weekly to review the DESE guidance on Health and Safety Requirements for Schools and develop the [Canton Public Schools Protocols for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios](#).

The document is an important resource that can be assessed on the [CPS website](#). It features the following important topics:

- Common Symptoms of COVID-19 and Testing Sites
- Common Elements of Protocols for COVID-19
- Protocols for Students and District Staff members
- Protocols for Potential School or District Closure

Daily Self Screening

Self screening is an essential and required daily activity for both staff and students, and any approved visitors: special education contract providers, service employees, and emergency personnel. Students and staff must conduct the self-screening prior to coming to school. A letter sent to families can be found [here](#). Instructions and information are in the Self Screener link.

Click on the following link for the [Student Self Screener](#).

Click on the following link for the [Staff Self Screener](#).

Click on the following link for the [Approved Visitor Screener](#).

Click on the following link for the [QR Codes](#).

Hand Hygiene And Sanitation Stations

Sanitation stations have been set up throughout the building. Students will also be using bathrooms for handwashing, as well as sinks that are in some of our classrooms. Proper handwashing signage is located at each of these locations.

Hallway Traffic Patterns

In accordance with recommendations from the Canton Health Department, traffic patterns have been established in common areas such as stairwells, cafeteria, gymnasium, etc. Building administration will communicate the directions in each area and to plan appropriate routes. Signage will be posted as well.

Restrooms

While trips to the bathroom will not be limited, we will be allowing only one student to leave a classroom at a time. Students will be required to sign out through a process and restrooms will be designated for each area of the building. Restrooms will be monitored to ensure a maximum of two students in a restroom at any given time. Students waiting to use a restroom will be expected to follow proper social distancing guidelines. Signage is present inside and outside of the restrooms reminding students of these guidelines.

Guests And Visitors

Guests and visitors will not be allowed to enter the school buildings, including parents/guardians. Individuals outside of the regular in-school community that will be allowed in the building include special education contract providers, service employees, and emergency personnel. These individuals will be tracked and a log will be maintained for 30 days. This log will have the individual's name, date, arrival/departure time, phone number and area visited in the building. The Principal may admit a person under unique circumstances that are deemed appropriate. Proper protocols will be followed.

Facilities: Cleaning and Operations

Constant implementation and monitoring of building operations and cleaning processes are paramount to establishing a healthy environment for staff and students. The four modes of cleaning procedures must be done comprehensively with safety in mind, while the attention to HVAC systems and maintenance is critical.

All of the Canton Cleaning and Operation protocols are outlined in the link below:

[Canton COVID 19 Cleaning and Operations 2020](#)

HVAC and Air Quality

The school department hired two consultants to review building HVAC systems and test the air quality in all six buildings occupied by staff and students. This report outlines the recommendations and the actions the district will take as agreed upon by the Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC). The HVAC Systems and Air Quality Reports can be found [here](#). Within this document, on page 2 there is a link to a folder containing detailed reports for each school building.

School Schedules

School principals and their teams faced the challenge of developing schedules for the Hybrid Model that prioritized overall health and safety, teaching and learning, a student's social and emotional well being, logistics and operations. Principals presented the following Hybrid schedules at the School Committee meeting on September 17. As principals stated during the presentation, the schedules will continually be examined to continually seek the best in-person student experience possible.

[Elementary](#)

[GMS](#)

[CHS](#)

[Rodman Early Childhood Reopening Information and Update](#)

Remote Learning Pathway (RLP)

The Remote Learning Pathway serves as the fully remote, full-year option for students and families. Canton educators are teaching the RLP classes, and the pathway will follow the Canton curriculum. Registered students are currently enrolled in RLP. Any student moves in or out of RLP will be subject to a three-week transition period.

Please click on the following link for the [Remote Learning Pathway](#) welcome letter.

Transportation

The DESE Transportation Guidance is focused on supporting districts as they develop a transportation strategy that provides safe conditions for all students and staff traveling by bus while also maximizing in-person learning. Districts' strategies should:

1. **Follow the medically-advised health and safety requirements** for school bus transportation;
2. **Address bus capacity challenges** created by the physical distancing requirements by considering strategies such as adding bus routes, staggering schedules, and pursuing a waiver for student learning time requirements if needed; and
3. **Take proactive steps to promote safe alternative transportation options** for students, including family-provided transportation, walking, and biking, as appropriate.

After reviewing the DESE Transportation Guidance and in consultation with our local safety officials, the following Canton Transportation Protocols were developed:

[CPS 2020/2021 Transportation Protocols](#)

Technology

[RUP Guidelines](#)

AUP Guidelines

Canton Public Schools Video Conference Guidelines

Food Service

[Newsletter](#)

Athletics

Canton High School Athletics serve an important role in the lives of student-athletes. The MIAA created a COVID-19 Taskforce to review medical data and protocols, analyze the feasibility of offering sports through the year, and examine the modifications to sports to run them safely.

The Canton Athletic Department had its own Athletics Task Force to examine the safety protocols, transportation policies, user fees, event attendance, and sport modifications. In addition, Canton engaged with Hockomock League athletic directors to develop league

consensus on safety protocols, student-athlete participation, sports offerings, game protocols and procedures, and scheduling.

As a result of this work, the Canton School Committee approved athletics for the upcoming year and the following documents outline the athletic guidelines:

[Canton Athletics COVID-19 Guidelines](#)

[Canton Athletics Blog](#)

[Canton Athletics User Fee Form](#)

[Canton Athletics Self Screener](#)

School Calendar

The 2020-21 school calendar was approved by the School Committee on January 23, 2020, prior to the pandemic. Due to the pandemic and conjunction with DESE guidance, The School Committee approved the modified calendar on September 10, 2020. September 16, 2020 was the first day of school.

[Abbreviated 2020/2021 Calendar](#) (approved by School Committee on 9/10/20)

[2020/2021 School Calendar](#) (approved by School Committee on 1/23/20)

Policy Updates

[EBC Supplemental - Emergency Plans](#)

[IHBHE -Remote Learning](#)

[Face Coverings - File EBCFA](#)

References:

[DESE COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)

[DESE Guidance/On the Desktop](#)

[DESE Transportation Guidance](#)

[DESE Facilities and Operations Guidance](#)

[Superintendent's Blog](#)

[School Committee Agendas, Minutes, Reports and Live Recordings](#)

[MIAA Task Force Resource Page](#)