



Chelsea Public Schools

500 Broadway, Chelsea, MA 02150
617-466-4477

March 19, 2021

Dear Chelsea Public School Community:

I want to thank our Chelsea community for an amazing display of teamwork, perseverance, flexibility and culture of care that have been the essence of our organization throughout this Covid-19 pandemic as we love our students relentlessly. As we mark a full year of remote learning as of March 13, 2021, we are now beginning a new season: Re-opening of school in-person!

On Friday, March 5, 2021, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) met and voted to adopt a recommendation giving Commissioner Riley the authority to return Elementary students to full-time, in-person school on April 5, 2021 and April 28, 2021 for students in grades 5-8. Therefore, we are skipping hybrid learning and going straight to in-person learning. This means that students who return to in-person learning will be in school five days a week every day. Thus, I am pleased to announce our timeline for in-person learning:

- CPS students in Special Education Sub-Separate classes and the Chelsea Opportunity Academy students will return to full-time, in-person learning on Monday, April 5, 2021.
- Students in grades K-4 will return to in-person learning on Monday, April 12, 2021.
- Middle school students, grades 5- 8, will return to in-person learning on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.
- English language learners at levels 1 and 2 in grades 9-12 will return to in-person learning on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.
- Plans are in the works to increase in-person learning opportunities for high school students.
- An overview of our complete updated Reopening of Schools Plan 2.0 can be found [here](#).

Please note that dates and timelines are subject to change based on virus conditions, new guidance, as well as details to be determined through our waiver process with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Families who wish to have their children continue to learn remotely may do so this year. All CPS families have been sent a survey asking you to choose between (1) Online Learning



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Academy (OLA); or (2) Full-Time, In-Person. A change in teaching and learning models is a complicated endeavor, and time is short. Due to the staffing complexities, we may not be able to entertain changes from one model to the next, but we will do our best to accommodate as many changes as possible. Additionally, when shifting models, this could result in a change of teacher. We thank you for filling out the survey and look forward to seeing many of our students in person soon! If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's school.

In closing, I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to all our educators and staff - - everyone has been key to the great successes we have had in remote learning. And, in the last few weeks, our School Committee and Chelsea Teachers' Union have been instrumental in helping us reach our goal of giving students the opportunity to return to school in-person this year. We stand ready to partner with you as we enter the final stretch of this school year. Let's finish strong!

Sincerely,

Almi G. Abeyta

Dr. Almi G. Abeyta