

School Committee Meeting
Superintendent/Receiver Report
January 11, 2021

Return to School Update

In reviewing the health metric trends and reflecting on feedback from our stakeholders, we have *decided to revise the re-entry target dates for those who selected in-person learning*. We believe this is in the best interest of maintaining the health and safety of our students, families, and staff. It is important to note that target start dates are not finalized, they are dates that we are planning for with the understanding that they might have to shift based on our ongoing review of current health data. We will continue to monitor our health metrics, partner with stakeholders, the Board of Health, and use data to inform our dates to bring more students back to school using the hybrid learning model.

We are revising the original target dates so that our early learners will begin to transition into in-person learning in February. More details will be shared by the end of this week.

Parents of children in grades Preschool through Grade 2 should have received their child's cohort assignment letters from their respective schools and will have an opportunity to request changing their current cohort selection (from full remote to in-person or from in-person to full remote). Families are encouraged to review the cohort assignment letters carefully and make any cohort change requests by January 13, 2021, by contacting your child's school. While our target re-entry dates are being revised, the cohort assignments will remain in effect. By the end of this week, we will share the revised target entry dates with families.

When students do return:

- Grades PK-K will participate in the Integrated Hybrid Model.
 - Students who wish to participate in in-person learning will be assigned to Cohort C and attend in-person 4 days/week. They will be assigned an in-person teacher.
 - Students who are fully remote (assigned to Cohort D) will be assigned a remote learning teacher.
- Grades 1-12 will participate in the Livestream Hybrid Model.
 - Students who wish to participate in in-person learning will be assigned to Cohort A or B and attend in-person 2 days/week. They will join the class virtually on their remote days.

Students who are fully remote (assigned to Cohort D) will join the class virtually with their in-person peers.

(ELPAC, DPAC, SEPAC groups), and teachers, as well as the updated DESE guidelines we will allow students to be more engaged with their peers and teachers, will offer small group instruction for additional support and include time for necessary breaks and opportunities for asynchronous and synchronous (live instruction) learning time.

The original school schedule included synchronous learning from 8 AM - noon and asynchronous learning of up to 2.5 hours daily. The schedule provided students with 6.5 hours of learning daily. The schedule change will now offer students a 6 hour school day, with 4-5 hours of synchronous learning scheduled throughout the day that includes movement breaks, lunch breaks, recess (for younger grades), hand-washing breaks, transitions, and cleaning time.

Half Day PreK Times AM - 7:55 - 10:25 (in-person cohort only) PM - 11:25 - 1:55 (remote cohort only)		Half Day PreK Times AM - 9:00 - 11:30 (in-person cohort only) PM - 12:30 - 3:00 (remote cohort only)	
School	Starting 1/19/21 through remainder of SY	School	Starting 1/19/21 through remainder of SY
HHS - Dean*	7:55 AM - 1:55 PM	HHS - North	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Transitions Academy**	7:55 AM - 1:55 PM	Lawrence	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Veritas	7:55 AM - 2:05 PM (6 hr 10 min day)	Donahue	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Peck	7:55 AM - 1:55 PM	Sullivan	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Metcalf	7:55 AM - 1:55 PM	Kelly	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
White	7:55 AM - 1:55 PM	Morgan	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
		McMahon	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
		STEM	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Wednesdays will follow the current schedule of up to 3 hours of synchronous learning for grades K-8 and up to 4 hours for grades 9-12.

- Synchronous learning on Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri is:
 - Gr. K-2: 4 hours daily
 - Gr. 3-8 is 5 hours daily
 - Gr. 9-12 is 4.5-5 hours daily

This change allows the district to:

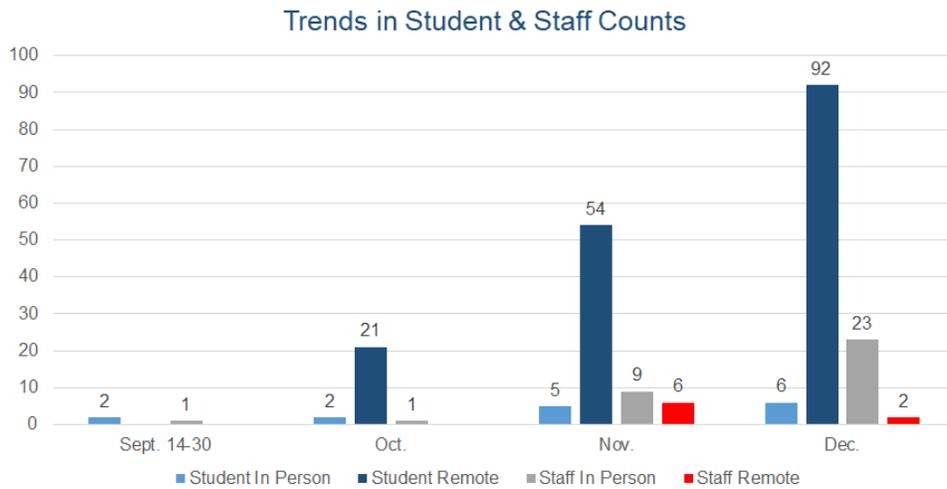
- Increase synchronous (live) instructional time to meet the needs of students and following updated DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) guidelines, and
- Develop bussing schedules to safely transport students to and from school and maintain all safety protocols and appropriate distancing.

While the re-entry target dates have been pushed back, this does not affect the new schedule that will start on January 19th. Many variables go into planning the structured learning day - remote or

hybrid - with the goal of creating the best educational experience for our students despite the challenges the pandemic presents. We as a district are continually striving to create more meaningful and engaging learning opportunities throughout the school day. It is not our expectation that any child is sitting in front of a screen for 6 hours, but rather students have ongoing engagement in structured learning throughout the day with the goal of improving the learning experience for all students.

COVID Update

Holyoke’s designation is red. As of December 31, the case count for the prior 14 days is 376 cases. The average daily incidence rate is 66.1, and the percent positivity is 7.38%. A monthly summary of HPS student and staff case counts is provided on the following slide.



Total counts by month include: September 14-30: 3 cases, October: 24 cases, November: 74 cases, and December: 123 cases.

Month	HPS Case Count
September 14-30	3
October	24
November	74
December	123
Total Cumulative Cases	224

- Since the school year began on 9/14 HPS has had 224 cumulative positive cases through 12/31.
- In the month of December, there were 98 student cases (92 remote, and 6 in-person learners) and 25 staff cases (2 remote, and 23 in-person).
- From January 1-7, there have been - 35 remote students, 1 in person student, and 5 in person staff. Cumulative cases through Thursday, January 7th are 265.

On January 4th, Holyoke Public Schools' nurses participated in a five-hour professional development training, COVID-19 Preventing Transmission in Schools: School Nurse Planning and Perspectives.

Two of our district's nurses were trained as BinaxNOW trainers and are training the nurses district-wide in the administration of the BinaxNOW rapid COVID test. We will be able to offer testing to symptomatic staff and students in the very near future.

Later this month, the district's nurses will be trained in [Mental Health First Aid](#) in preparation to support and address the mental health needs of staff and students.

The district's nurses continue to provide consultation, teaching, and offer guidance concerning the implementation of appropriate protocols and procedures regarding COVID-19 in the schools.

HPS nurses have been making personal phone calls to families district-wide to discuss the State's flu shot expectations.