

Overview

Full In-Person Learning Transition Planning

Norwell Public Schools (NPS) has, and will continue to, focus on planning for full in-person learning for all students. Return to full in-person learning will be made in cooperation with the staff and the teachers union, the local Board of Health, and families and students of Norwell Public Schools. While there are varied needs and opinions within our school community, any change from the current hybrid model to a full in-person model will have many logistical challenges. If there is a significant decrease in the spread of COVID-19 in Massachusetts and if a vaccine becomes available, it may be possible to implement this transition in late winter or spring of 2021.

Below you will find an abbreviated list of the primary factors that need to be considered and requirements that need to be met in order to move from our current hybrid model to a full in-person model. If you would like more detailed information regarding the planning for this possible transition, please see the *Hybrid to Full In-Person Learning Transition Planning* document on the website ([here](#)), and the recording of the November 16 School Committee meeting ([NSC 11-16-2020](#)).

- **Health and Safety:** We meet weekly with the Norwell Board of Health and the Joint Labor Management Committee to review the trajectory of COVID-19. The virus is unpredictable and presents an unknown we must constantly assess. More importantly, we focus on the most current COVID-19 information and projections in Norwell, our schools, and surrounding communities.
- **Fiscal:** We expect to have clarification on this year's school budget once the state, local, and Plymouth County Cares Act Grant are finalized by January 1, 2021. With this information, we will be able to determine how to maintain our COVID-19 related support aides, part-time nurses, and custodians. These supports have been invaluable in allowing NPS to maintain the hybrid learning model.
- **Education Association of Norwell:** A full agreement was reached with the Education Association of Norwell to return to school in a hybrid learning model, following all state safety procedures, and with 6 feet distancing between student desks. It is important for families to understand that the 6 feet distancing between desks has been adopted by the vast majority of public schools throughout the state. In order to move to a full in-person model, we will need to reach agreement to move to 3 feet distancing between students' desks.
- **Enrollment Considerations:** The number of students will be determined that require full remote learning in grades 6-12 through our GCVS partnership before the end of the 1st semester - between January 25 and 29, 2021.

- **Logistics:** If we are able to transition to less than 6 feet distancing of desks, we will be able to address a move to full in-person learning in stages. If consensus is reached on a transition to in-person learning, we must take the time to appropriately address bus ridership options, 6 feet lunch seating options, staffing needs, the possible reassignment of students to other teachers for balanced class sizes, and significant changes to the number of students that must quarantine due to regulations concerning close contact identification processes.
- **School Committee:** The School Committee will be updated on our progress at each of their meetings. We plan to provide some information at the December 14th meeting, with more concrete information at the January 11th and January 25th meetings.

We are all aware of how the pandemic has negatively affected every part of our lives. Certainly, a return to normalcy would benefit us all, and we are all eager to move forward with the richness and togetherness we had prior to the pandemic. We have been working incredibly hard to create learning environments that will help our students continue to learn and grow with as much normalcy as possible within the circumstances and parameters we have to function within. We will continue to do this and to respond with as much progress as possible as the pandemic circumstances evolve. If you have any questions, please see the document and meeting links above and/or contact a [Norwell Public School administrator](#) or [School Committee member](#).