

July 17, 2020

Dear Nantucket Public Schools Community,

This week has been a busy one for Nantucket Public Schools, with some important new information to share with you:

- On Wednesday, July 15, Commissioner Riley shared a **Two-Step Process for District Fall Reopening Plans** that all Massachusetts districts must use in preparing for the return to school in the fall. Step 1 (due July 31) is a preliminary reopening plan summary that outlines key findings from the district's feasibility study on in-person learning, and the district's preliminary thinking about which of the three reopening models it may use to open the school year this fall. Districts must also provide a brief description of each of the three models (remote learning, hybrid, in-person) with specific attention on how High Needs students will be supported in each model. Step 2 (due August 10) is when districts must share their comprehensive reopening plan with detailed description of the model that the district has chosen to implement in the fall. We are glad to have a template to guide us through the process, but there is still a lot of information to gather and important decisions around scheduling, health and safety, transportation, food services, and other areas that must be made before coming to a final recommendation. I am thankful to our District Leadership Team, our Task Force committees and the almost 100 staff members who have offered to be part of the planning process.
- On Friday, July 17, more guidance was released from DESE to school districts outlining specific [protocols](#) for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in schools, on the bus and in community settings. This important guidance is very helpful to us as we move forward with creating health and safety protocols and procedures as part of our preliminary plans.
- Thank you to the 191 teachers who have provided us with valuable information through the preliminary survey sent out last week to collect data about initial thoughts on returning to school in September. The overall results (district view) are attached [here](#). While this data has been very important to us as we move forward with planning, we know that people's sentiments about returning to school could change based on national and local health trends. We may be asking you to fill out another survey in the coming weeks and appreciate your willingness to help us with our data collection. Principals will also be sharing data specific to their individual schools in their weekly communications.
- I also wanted to share a district overview of the results of the parent survey that also was sent out last week. Parents filled out this survey for 727 students, close to 43% of our total school population. These results are attached [here](#). As I said above, we know that people's initial thoughts about returning to school could change, so we may be asking parents to fill out another survey in the coming weeks, as well.
- We will be releasing a survey for ESPs, technicians and custodians tomorrow so that their voices can be included in our data collection. If you are an ESP, tech or custodian, we invite you to fill out the survey by the end of this week.
- In order to gather questions and feedback from an even broader group of stakeholders, a new Task Force Committee has been established: the Parent/Community Advisory Committee. This committee of approximately 15 individuals is made up of parents from each school, community members/leaders, and two members from the School Committee. I am looking forward to meeting with this group and hearing their suggestions and ideas around returning to school in the fall.

I hope you find this information to be helpful and clear. As always, I appreciate your consistent support and dedication to the Nantucket Public Schools and the children and families we serve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Hallett

**Elizabeth Hallett, Ed.D.**

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