

Lowell Public Schools

Return to School Task Force Mid-Phase 1 Report

June 17, 2020





Developing a Framework for 3 Different Scenarios

- **Full, In Person Teaching & Learning**
- **Hybrid Teaching & Learning**
- **Remote Teaching & Learning**





Task Force Phase 1 Objectives

- Discuss and make general recommendations for further planning in the following categories:
 - Teaching & Learning
 - Operations & Safety
 - Human Resources
 - Financial Implications
 - Addressing the Needs of Students
 - Community Impacts
 - Extra-Curriculars

- Seek input from the LPS community to develop a strong, cohesive, efficient framework for more specific planning in Phase 2



Task Force Phase 1 Timeline

June 2	Launch of Task Force
June 2-15	Subgroup Meetings
June 15	Expected DESE Guidance
June 17	Report of Progress to School Committee and Public
June 17-25	Continued Subgroup Meetings to incorporate DESE guidance and discuss feedback from advisors
June 25-30	Finalize scenario recommendations and questions for further analysis in Phase 2



Full, In Person Subgroup

Leader: Wendy Crocker-Roberge, Pyne Arts
Principal

Members:

Meredith Kay, Bailey & Daley Parent

Maria Perez, McAuliffe & Robinson Parent

Haley King, McAuliffe Teacher

Kerryann Coppinger, Shaughnessy Teacher

Molly Kelly-Muon, UTL Middle School VP

Anabel DaSilva, Sullivan Teacher

Jeff Gwaizda, Mathematics Coordinator

Christine Adams, Adie Day School

Coordinator

Art Santos, Technology Integration

Specialist

Carl DeRubeis, Robinson Asst. Principal



Full, In Person Scenario Planning

Progress to Date

- Subgroups within the committee have studied various school and corporate reopening plans, analyzed guidance from DESE, and queried our networks of colleagues and parents to understand the range of needs and concerns
- An 18-page working draft document has been created to synthesize the recommendations for what a safe reopening will involve
- Efforts to mitigate virus transmission will be balanced with educational best practices to create a “new normal” for In-Person learning



Full, In Person Scenario Planning

Questions for Further Discussion

At what point does it become feasible to return to school fully, In Person?

- Rate of virus transmission in state
- Financial cost of PPE and risk mitigation practices vs. budgeted resources
- Ability to obtain PPE and install other risk mitigation tools by the start of the 2020-2021 school year
- Ability to implement instructional best practices with reasonable fidelity in classrooms
- Willingness of entire school community to resume fully, In person



Hybrid Subgroup

Leader: Liam Skinner, Daley Principal

Members:

Beth Gaspar, Lincoln & Daley Parent

Vuoch Sabandith, Reilly & Sullivan Parent

Lisa Hogan, Cardinal Teacher

Tricia Pappathan, Moody Teacher

Rachel Crawford, Bartlett Teacher

Christina Pappalardo, Butler Teacher

Melissa Newell, ELA Coordinator

Michael Lovato, Special Education Director

Vero Roberts, Technology Integration

Specialist

Colleen Parrington, Washington Teacher

Recorder: Ann Whitney



Hybrid Scenario Planning

Progress to Date

- Use a Week A, Week B schedule: Some students attend school in person while others engage in remote learning; these groups switch each week.
- Chunk curriculum into smaller units. Flexibility to teach new learning in schools with reinforcement/projects/application during remote learning or to teach new learning virtually via recorded lessons with reinforcement/practice/collaboration happening in schools based on content area and standards.
- Facilitate synchronous activities between in-person and remote learners groups.



Hybrid Scenario Planning

Questions for Further Discussion

- How will support staff (paras and tutors) support this model?
- How can we reduce transportation costs and health risks in the hybrid model through school assignments, number of days, walking mileage, and/or route design?
- To what extent might we differentiate for different groups: For example, allow students who are less independent (K – 2) to be in school full-time while more independent students (grades 10 – 12) remote learn?



Remote Subgroup

Leader: Matt Stahl, Wang Principal

Members:

Zeilika Henry, Murkland Parent

Nancy Gomez, Laura Lee & Washington
Parent

Beth Welch, Reilly Teacher

Cheryl Pollard, Stoklosa Teacher

Susan Uvanni, UTL Elementary VP

Kerien Driscoll, STEM Academy Teacher

Elaine Santelmann, Science Coordinator

David Anderson, McAuliffe Principal

Kara Wilkins, Technology Integration
Specialist

Donna Maluccio, Asst. Special Education

Director



Remote Scenario Planning

Progress to Date

- Consistent K-4 and 5-8 student schedules (samples developed by subgroup) to ensure time on learning
- Consistent instructional technology platforms, such as SeeSaw for early childhood and Google Classroom for Gr. 3-8
- Consistent curriculum pushed out from the district curriculum office, with support from literacy and instructional specialists
- Continued LPS “library” of successful remote learning lessons and projects
- Professional development for new platforms



Remote Scenario Planning

Questions for Further Discussion

- What are the most cost-effective options for online programs and curricula? What do we already own? What do we need to fill gaps?
- What is the best way to support parents/guardians/child care providers during remote learning?
- Will we be able to utilize our staff flexibly within this Remote Learning model?
- How will we assess students' independent levels during Remote Learning?



Lowell High School Scenario Planning Timeline

June 5	Survey to Faculty Regarding Fall Planning
June 9	Created Subgroups from the 43 Faculty Volunteers and School Site Council Parent Members
June 10	District Planning and Coordination with K-8 Subgroups
June 16	Commencement of LHS Subgroups
June 17-25	Continued Subgroup Meetings to incorporate DESE guidance and discuss feedback from advisors
June 25-30	Finalize scenario recommendations and questions for further analysis in Phase 2



Lowell High School Scenario Planning

**Convener:
Roxane Howe**

Full, In Person	Hybrid	Remote
Angela Lawler Brennan	Stephanie Selvaggio	Libby Often
Michael Winslow	Scott Ouellet	Barbara Beaton
Nate Kraft	Amanda Perrin	Robin Boots
Amanda Ernst	Cailin Stearns	Gina Martel
Alison Montemurro	Robert DeLossa	Stephen Gervais
Margaret Kennedy	Bopha Boutselis	Thomas Heywosz
Patricia Adams	Emily Steinberg	Deanna Stanford
Charles Bolianites	Sharon Bisantz	Marcia Fernsten
Meghan Tesini	Allyson Carbone	Ari Sullivan
Boyd Bertrand	Wayne Taylor	Tricia Gabor
Jessica Daviso	Suzanne Riley	Malinda Pires
Colleen Winn	Megan O'Loughlin (CA)	Amy Woo
María Vejar	Sherley Blood Thom	Donna Newcomb
Dorian Popescu	Stacy Nelson--parent	Jaya Sinha
Kathy Doughty--parent		Liz Gilreath--parent



Next Steps

- Refine and translate Family Survey
- Include expected DESE guidance
- Align scenario plans
 - Vertically PreK-12
 - Elements across Full, In Person, Hybrid/Blended, and Remote
- Prepare Phase 1 Recommendations and Questions
- Shift to Phase 2