



Lowell Public Schools

Planning for a Safe Return to School in the Fall

School Committee Update - July 23, 2020



LOWELL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Agenda

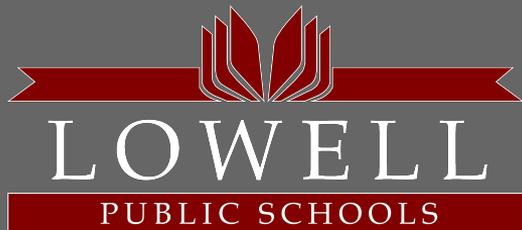
- What are families saying?
- How do we ensure proper social distancing on campuses?
- How do we maintain safe transport to and from school?
- How can we maximize air quality within classrooms?
- What personal protective equipment will be required to minimize spread?
- What's the proper frequency for deep cleaning of buildings?
- Should we reconsider our previously approved first day of school?
- Do we have an update on the budget?
- What are next steps between now and day 1?





What are families saying?

-
- ❑ LPS sent a survey to families asking for feedback on some of the options the district is considering putting into place for the upcoming school year. The survey was available from June 26-July 8. A total of 2,442 responded to the survey.
 - ❑ Additional feedback has been provided by the English Learner Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the Special Education PAC during separate virtual discussions.
 - ❑ We will continue gathering input over the next week during a series of virtual community forums.





What are families saying?

Key takeaways from survey and listening sessions:

- 74.9% - My children want to return to school.
 - 73.9% indicate their child wants to participate in extracurricular activities.

- 70.8% - If my child's school is open in the fall I plan to send them to school.
 - This doesn't necessarily mean families want to go back to school, but logistically may have no other option.

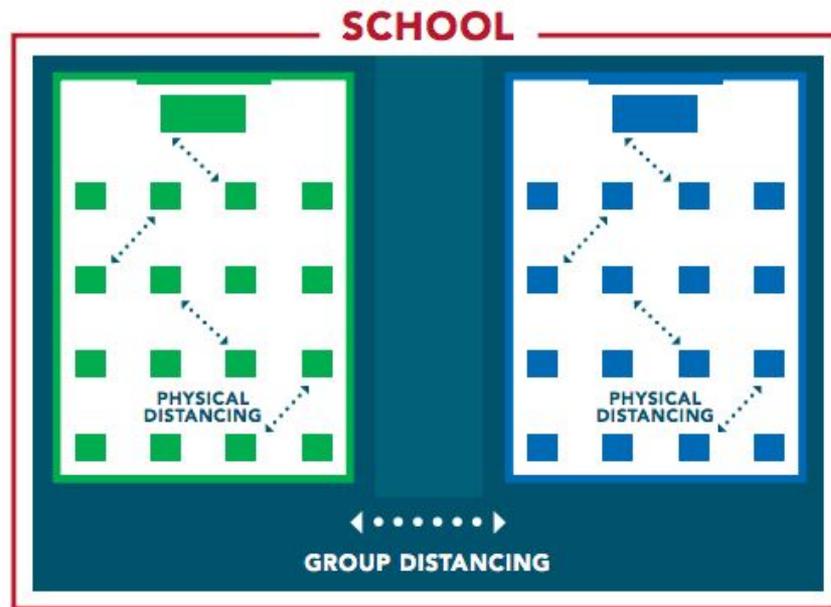
- 68.2% - Allow families to choose either in-person school or remote school and for LPS to offer both
 - Families need to clearly understand what each option entails in order to make a final decision. This includes policies on school transfers and assignments between in-person and online schooling options.





How do we ensure proper social distancing on campuses?

- 6-feet social distancing between students at all times





Student Capacity By School

| School | Address | City | Main Telephone # | 2019/2020 Enrollment | Number of Conventional Sized Classrooms | Estimated Number of Students per Conventional Classroom @ 6 Feet | Estimated Student Capacity at 6' Distancing Conventional Classrooms | Estimated Student Capacity at 6' Distancing Break-Out/Lab Fixtured Classrooms | Number of Break-Out/or Lab Fixtured Sized Classrooms | Number of Students per Break-Out Classroom @ 6 Feet | Total Estimated Student Capacity/ School | % of SY19/20 Enrollment That Can Be On Campus w/ 6' Social Distancing |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Adult Ed | 408 Merrimack St, 01854 | Lowell | 978-458-9007 | | | | | | | | | |
| Bailey | 174 Cambell Dr., 01851 | Lowell | 978-937-7644 | 481 | 21 | 12 | 252 | 15 | 3 | 5 | 267 | 55.51% |
| Bartlett | 79 Wannalancit St., 01854 | Lowell | 978-937-8968 | 486 | 25 | 13 | 325 | 27 | 9 | 3 | 352 | 72.43% |
| Butler | 1140 Gorham St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-8973 | 566 | 20 | 12 | 240 | 32 | 8 | 4 | 272 | 48.06% |
| Cardinal O'Connell | 21 Carter St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-446-7000 | 119 | 8 | 7 | 56 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 58 | 48.74% |
| Daley | 150 Fleming St., 01851 | Lowell | 978-937-8981 | 690 | 24 | 15 | 360 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 370 | 53.62% |
| Day School | 60 Carlisle St., 01824 | Lowell | 978-674-2405 | 55 | | | | | | | 0 | 0.00% |
| Greenhalge | 149 Ennell St. 01850 | Lowell | 978-937-7670 | 496 | 22 | 12 | 264 | 30 | 10 | 3 | 294 | 59.27% |
| Laura Lee | 235 Powell St., 01851 | Lowell | 978-937-7655 | 26 | 6 | 4 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 92.31% |
| Leblanc | 58 Sycamore St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-970-5467 | 30 | 8 | 12 | 96 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 105 | 350.00% |
| Malloy | 125 Smith St., 01851 | Lowell | 978-970-3318 | 62 | 11 | 7 | 77 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 77 | 124.19% |
| Lincoln | 300 Chelmsford St., 01851 | Lowell | 978-937-2846 | 504 | 27 | 12 | 324 | 16 | 4 | 4 | 340 | 67.46% |
| LHS - | 50 Fr. Morrissette Blvd., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-8900 | 3004 | 164 | 12 | 1968 | 190 | 38 | 5 | 2158 | 71.84% |
| Mc Auliffe | 570 Beacon St., 01850 | Lowell | 978-937-2838 | 505 | 22 | 12 | 264 | 36 | 12 | 3 | 300 | 59.41% |



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|----------------|----------------------------|--------|------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Mc Avinnue | 131 Mammoth Rd, 01854 | Lowell | 978-937-2871 | 488 | 27 | 12 | 324 | 51 | 17 | 3 | 375 | 76.84% |
| Moody | 158 Rogers St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-7673 | 237 | 13 | 12 | 156 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 165 | 69.62% |
| Morey | 130 Pine St., 01851 | Lowell | 978-937-7662 | 507 | 24 | 12 | 288 | 24 | 8 | 3 | 312 | 61.54% |
| Murkland | 350 Adams St., 01854 | Lowell | 978-937-2826 | 496 | 24 | 12 | 288 | 15 | 5 | 3 | 303 | 61.09% |
| Pawtucketville | 425 West Meadow Rd., 01854 | Lowell | 978-937-7667 | 504 | 30 | 12 | 360 | 27 | 9 | 3 | 387 | 76.79% |
| Pyne /Arts | 145 Boylston St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-7639 | 519 | 32 | 12 | 384 | 30 | 10 | 3 | 414 | 79.77% |
| Reilly | 115 Douglas Rd., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-7652 | 494 | 23 | 12 | 276 | 21 | 7 | 3 | 297 | 60.12% |
| Riverside | 73 Woburn St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-453-1115 | 46 | 8 | 7 | 56 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 | 121.74% |
| Robinson | 110 June St., 01854 | Lowell | 978-937-8974 | 665 | 38 | 25 | 950 | 27 | 9 | 3 | 977 | 149.92% |
| Shaughnessy | 1158 Gorham St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-7657 | 486 | 23 | 12 | 276 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 288 | 58.64% |
| Stem Academy | 43 Highland St., 01854 | Lowell | 978-674-4331 | 845 | 33 | 14 | 462 | 69 | 23 | 3 | 531 | 62.84% |
| Stoklosa | 560 Broadway St., 01854 | Lowell | 978-275-6330 | 670 | 36 | 10 | 360 | 24 | 8 | 3 | 384 | 57.31% |
| Sullivan | 150 Draper St., 01852 | Lowell | 978-937-8993 | 682 | 31 | 11 | 341 | 36 | 12 | 3 | 377 | 55.28% |
| Wang | 365 West meadow Rd., 01854 | Lowell | 978-937-7683 | 710 | 31 | 11 | 341 | 39 | 13 | 3 | 380 | 53.52% |
| Washington | 795 Wilder St., 01851 | Lowell | 978-937-7635 | 254 | 17 | 12 | 204 | 27 | 9 | 3 | 231 | 90.94% |



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|--------|---------|------|------------------|----------------------|---|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Totals | | | | 14627 | 748 | 316 | 9316 | 775 | 226 | 79 | 10091 | 68.99% |

- Conventional Classrooms were set up with all student desks facing forward with the minimum **SIX** foot distance shown in the DESE illustration to maximize the capacity.
- Many classrooms (particularly in the very young grades) currently seat the students at tables closer than the three foot requirement and facing each other.- For this estimate, removing those tables and using student desks that are forward facing and meet the distance requirement is assumed. If the current fixtures remain and proper social distancing is met, there is a significant drop in capacity in those classrooms
- Due to the very specific uses of the Adult Ed and Day School, their capacity was not included in this estimate.
- Options for schools at capacity: DESE approved online school for parents/guardians to choose for the 20-21 school year.

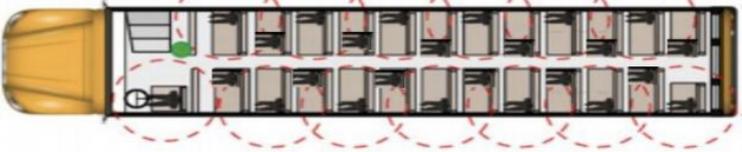


How do we maintain safe transport to and from school?

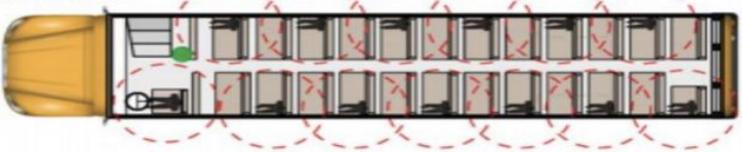
71 students



24 students



12 students



- 66 buses used last year for general busing
- 2019/2020: 52 middle-schoolers per bus or 77 elementary students per bus
- 2020/2021: 13 kids per bus per current CDC standards
 - Would need over 200 buses
 - Cannot acquire that many buses



Can we maximize safety and limit the risk of exposure and spread on school busses by reducing the need for bus transportation?

Which statement best describes transportation to school for your child?

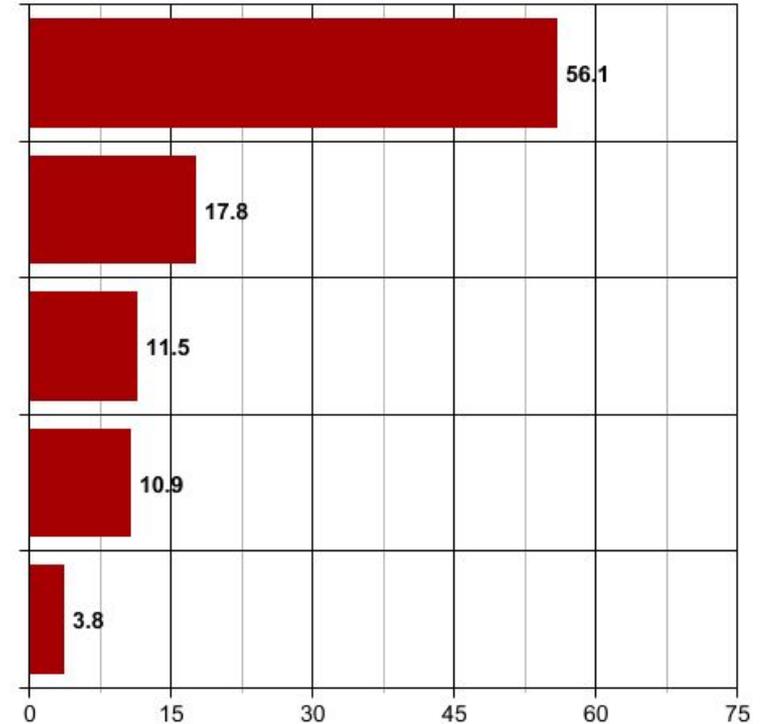
56.1% - Families already bring my child to school (walking or driving).

17.8% - Families feel safe sending their child on the bus if there was social distancing in place.

11.5% - Families do not feel comfortable sending their child on the bus, but would provide transportation to and from school.

10.9% - If transportation is not an option, families would prefer remote learning.

3.8% - Indicated that if transportation is not an option and their child had a school within walking distance, they would prefer to switch that school.



**Based on 2,061 responses*



SCHOOLS FOR HEALTH

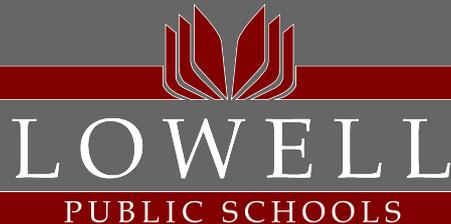
Risk Reduction Strategies
for Reopening Schools

June, 2020

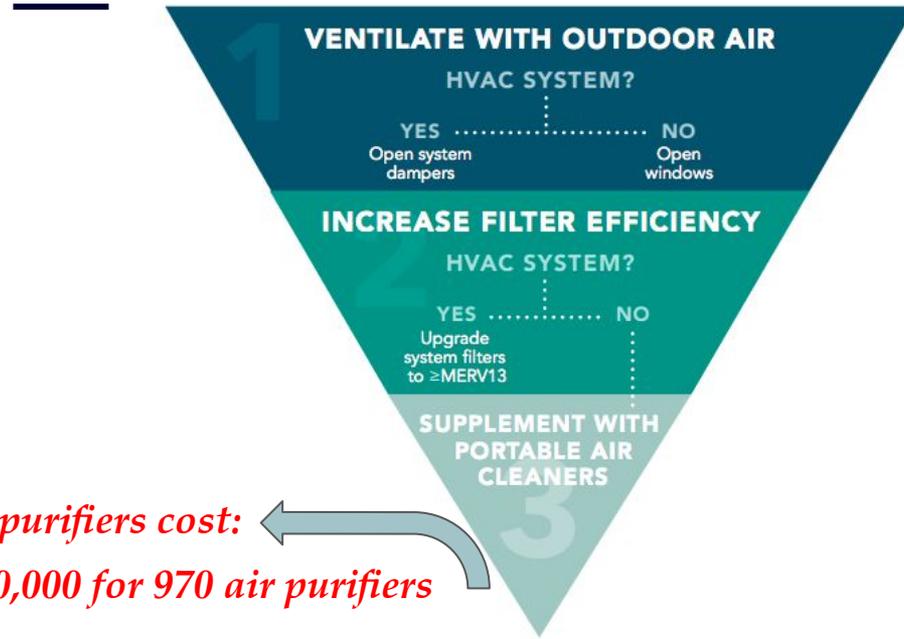
COVID-19



HARVARD T.H. CHAN
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



How can we maximize air quality within classrooms?



Air purifiers cost: 
\$320,000 for 970 air purifiers



What personal protective equipment will be required to minimize spread?

Anticipated needs

- Hand sanitizer
- Hand washing
- Sanitizing wipes
- Masks
- Gowns
- Face shields
- Gloves
- Fogging schedule within building/classrooms (already acquired fogger for each school)



Cost - Approximately \$1.6 million
12-week requirements were provided to State in June.



Budget for PPE supplies

DISPOSABLE MASKS

Initial recommended quantities per 100 individuals per group per school

| Group | Quantity per 100 per group | 12-week Supply at 100% Attendance | 12-week Supply at 50% Attendance | 12-week Supply at 25% Attendance | Assumptions | Quantity (Unit of Measure is each) | Average Price Paid | Cost Estimate |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Teachers and other staff | 500 | 6,000 | 3,000 | 1,500 | 5 disposable masks per week per teacher. | 162,000 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 165,240.00 |
| School nurses and health providers | 1,000 | 12,000 | 6,000 | 3,000 | 10 disposable masks per week per school nurse. | 12000 | \$ 1.02 | \$ 12,240.00 |
| TOTAL | | | | | | 174000 | | \$ 177,480.00 |



Budget for PPE supplies

| MATERIALS FOR STAFF MEMBERS WHO MAY BE IN HIGH-INTENSITY CONTACT WITH STUDENTS OR HANDLING WASTE MATERIALS | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Initial recommended quantities calculated per 1 staff</i> | | | | | | | | |
| <i>(e.g. nurses, custodians, nurses, and some special education teachers and other staff)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Item | 1-week. Supply for 1 Staff | 12-week Supply | Assumptions | Intentionally Left Blank | Intentionally Left Blank | Quantity (Unit of Measure is each) | Average Price Paid | Cost Estimate |
| Disposable Nitrile Gloves | 10 | 120 | 10 disposable nitrile gloves (pair) per week, per staff. | | | 15000 | \$ 0.09 | \$ 1,350.00 |
| Disposable Gowns | 10 | 120 | 10 disposable gowns per week, per staff. | | | 15000 | \$ 10.49 | \$ 157,350.00 |
| Eye Protection | 2 | n/a | 2 re-usable eye protection per staff total. | | | 250 | \$ 10.89 | \$ 2,722.50 |
| Face Shields | 2 | n/a | 2 reusable face shields per staff total. | | | 250 | \$ 4.30 | \$ 1,075.00 |
| Waste Disposal Medium | 1 | n/a | 1 unit per staff total. | | | 0 | | \$ - |
| N-95 Ventilating Masks* <small>Note: N-95 masks are recommended only if staff will be in contact with a suspected COVID-19 positive case and/or performing aerosol-generating procedures</small> | 10 | 120 | 10 N-95 masks per week, per staff. | | | 250 | \$ 1.29 | \$ 322.50 |
| *KN-95 Ventilating Masks can be substituted for N-95 masks if they have been tested for filtration effectiveness (MDPH Comprehensive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Guidance, May 21, 2020) | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | | | 30750 | | \$ 162,820.00 |



Budget for PPE supplies

| BUILDING SUPPLIES | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------|
| | 1-week Supply for one building | 12-week. Supply at 100% Attendance | 12-week Supply at 50% Attendance | Assumptions | Intentionally Left Blank | Quantity (Unit of Measure is each) | Average Price Paid | Cost Estimate |
| Hand Sanitizer | 1/3 gallon/ classroom | 4 gallons/classroom | 2 gallons/classroom | 1/3 gallon of hand sanitizer per classroom, per week at 100% attendance. | | 2000 | \$ 55.85 | \$ 111,700.00 |
| Disposable Nitrile Gloves | 20 | 240 | 240 | 20 disposable nitrile gloves (pair) per week, per custodial staff member at 100% attendance. | | 6000 | \$ 0.09 | \$ 540.00 |
| Waste Disposal Medium | 1 | n/a | n/a | 1 disposal medium per school building. | | 236 | | \$ - |
| | | | | | TOTAL | 8236 | | \$ 112,240.00 |



What's the proper frequency for deep cleaning of buildings?

| Cleaning Frequency | Examples |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Daily | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom desks, tables, and chairs • Shared spaces |
| Multiple times per day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door handles • Light switches • Handrails • Drinking fountains • Sink handles • Restroom surfaces • Cafeteria surfaces • Elevator buttons |
| Between uses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toys, games, art supplies, instructional materials • Keyboards, phones, printers, copy machines • Seats on bus |



Should we reconsider our previously approved first day of school?

Scenario I with current DESE approved 180 day schedule.

| | Total Days Scheduled | Total Days Required | Adjusted Start Date |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Instructional Days for Students | 180 | | September 2 |
| Eliminate Built- in Snow Days (move to remote learning on snow days) | -5 | 0 | September 9 |
| Eliminate Election Day | -1 | 0 | September 10 |
| Eliminate February Vacation | -5 | +1 (President's Day) | September 15 |
| Eliminate Good Friday | -1 | 0 | September 16 |
| Eliminate April Vacation | -5 | +1 (Patriot's Day) | September 21 |

Scenario II with possible DESE approved 177 day schedule.

| | Total Days Scheduled | Total Days Required | Adjusted Start Date |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Instructional Days for Students | 177 (Proposed adjusted timeline) | | September 8 |
| Eliminate Built- in Snow Days (move to remote learning on snow days) | -5 | 0 | September 15 |
| Eliminate Election Day | -1 | 0 | September 16 |
| Eliminate February Vacation | -5 | +1 (President's Day) | September 22 |
| Eliminate Good Friday | -1 | 0 | September 23 |
| Eliminate April Vacation | -5 | +1 (Patriot's Day) | September 29 |

* Current last day of school is scheduled for June 17, 2021. This date could be moved to June 30, 2021, creating 10 additional days to be utilized in the scenarios listed above.



Update on the Budget

Chapter 70

- State still forecasting a \$6- \$7 billion revenue shortfall.
- 1/12th budgets have been approved for August.
- Level service funding has been recommended but highly unlikely.

Grants

- Federal allocations have been released (\$7.2 million) and applications are underway
- Cares Act/ESSER funds application was submitted for \$4.2 million
- CvRF School Reopening grant (PPE @ \$225/student) released (\$3.2 million)
- Remote Learning Tech Essentials grant - application submitted (\$2.1 million)

1/12th Continuation Budget for August

- Level funding for August 2020 was authorized by Governor Baker
- Causes challenges so we recommend waiting until June 29 (\$14.9 approved by the City)





Next Steps

-
- Continue community conversations up to **approval of reopening plans** for each scenario in advance of **required July 31 submission to DESE**
 - **Finalize, publish and communicate reopening plan** for September by the **week of August 3rd**, including any required revisions to policies for transportation and school assignment
 - Notify and **support families** through school choices based on final September opening plan

CURRENTLY, THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SCHOOL RE-OPENING PLAN





Next Steps

-
- Finalize and submit all available grant applications for COVID and **develop an annual budget** once state revenue figures are released, including all required costs of reopening plan
 - Develop MOAs with unions, lift hiring freeze and **meet all staffing requirements** based on approved reopening plan
 - **Train all staff** and develop **orientation sessions for students and families**





Questions?

1. Are there additional ways to involve families and community members within the planning process that should be considered?
2. Is there additional information that would be helpful in advance of approving the three reopening scenario plans by July 31?
3. Is there additional information that would be helpful in advance of approving the 1 final plan for the fall by the first week of August?

