

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools

January 29, 2021

Dear LPS Families,

The current school year continues to present many challenges, but thanks to your patience, flexibility, and sacrifice, we have been able to overcome obstacles. This has been a very hard school year for everyone, families and teachers. I personally deeply appreciate all that family and family partners have done to support their student's learning at home. I ask for your patience and cooperation as we begin the third quarter of the school year (February 8 – April 9). **Last night, the Lynn School Committee approved a proposal to continue with remote learning for most students beginning February 8th until April 9th.**

The proposal for learning during the third quarter includes a plan to provide in-person learning for specific groups of students:

- high-needs special education students (programs listed below) and pre-kindergarten, beginning **tentatively** March 1, 2021
- kindergarten beginning **tentatively** March 15, 2021

The specifics for in-person programming will be communicated directly to the families of students in these programs.

The decision for the vast majority of students to remain in remote learning was incredibly difficult. Our community remains dangerously high-risk for the transmission of COVID-19; therefore, at this time, we will remain in the remote learning setting for the majority of students. A shift to an in-person, hybrid schedule for all students at this time presents serious safety concerns for students and staff. In order to ensure a healthy and safe learning environment, decisions are made in partnership with the city's Health Director and the Lynn Public Schools Nursing Department. This is part of our unwavering philosophy and commitment to the health and well-being of all. The proposal for learning beginning February 8th is in keeping with that commitment.

The groups of students who are invited to begin receiving in person instruction on March 1st are those whose needs we struggle to meet the most in the remote learning format. The selection of these groups is not intended to suggest that these are the only students for whom remote learning is difficult. The students invited for in-person learning are those whose learning and growth needs simply cannot be met in remote learning.

It is my sincere hope that the situation in the coming months will be safe enough to invite more students back for in-person learning or activities.

The conditions of a global pandemic are far from ideal. It will get better. I am excited to expand in-person services for students during the third quarter. I am so proud and admire the effort and resilience our students have shown in the remote setting over the past year. Please reach out to your student's school and they will answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have. As always, I will continue to keep the lines of communication open. **Please join me for a Virtual Town Hall for all families on February 23, 2021 at 6pm.** Information for the Town Hall will be available on Monday, February 22, 2021.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD

Programs Scheduled for In-Person Learning in the 3rd Quarter (February 8 – April 9)

Families with students in these programs will be contacted about specifics

Effective tentatively March 1st

Intellectually Impaired (II)

Developmentally Delayed (DD)

Life Skills

Pre-Kindergarten Integrated

Effective tentatively March 15th

Kindergarten