



We make a difference in Enfield - every child, every day.

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Dear Parents, Staff, and Students of the Enfield Public Schools,

Let me begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year; I hope 2021 is better than this past one. I need to use this communication to explain where we currently are and where we hope to be in the near future. Before I get into specifics, I have to remind everyone that nothing over the past ten months has been etched in stone, and I have no delusions that this plan will be either. Although I am more hopeful now that there is a light at the end of this very dark tunnel, we still have a few more difficult months to get through before we can get back to “normal.” My priority of ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff to the best of my ability has not changed, but the realization that our kids have had a year of their education disrupted necessitates the creation of a plan to return them to the classroom more frequently.

Beginning on Monday, January 11, we will return to our hybrid model of instruction, just as we have operated since the beginning of this school year. This means that students in Cohort A will attend school in person on Mondays and Tuesdays, and students in Cohort B will attend school in person on Thursdays and Fridays. All students will participate in remote, asynchronous instruction on Wednesdays. This model will be enacted for the remainder of the month of January. Any program that was permitted to attend in-person classes four days a week prior to our last break will again be permitted to do so. Any student who has opted for full remote learning will continue to be permitted to choose that option for the remainder of this academic year and will be allowed to remain remote, regardless of the instructional model we are operating under.

Beginning Monday, February 1, we will transition to a modified hybrid schedule, where remote Wednesdays will be removed, and students will be allowed to attend in-person classes on Wednesdays, depending on their cohort. Because of the number of holidays and professional learning days in February, it will not be a true “3/2 hybrid split,” as previously discussed; however, students in both cohorts will be afforded the opportunity to attend in-person classes for fourteen days total, beginning on January 11 and continuing until February 26. Students in programs where they were previously permitted to attend in-person classes four days a week will then be permitted to attend five days a week, if desired. We will continue in this modified hybrid model for the entire month of February, concluding on February 26. I realize this may be confusing to follow, so I have included a detailed calendar at the end of this message for families to better understand which cohorts are to attend in person on each day.

If circumstances permit, and assuming all goes according to plan, beginning on Monday, March 1, all Pre-K-5 students will return to in-person classes five days a week. Again, this is the plan as of now, and I am compelled to remind everyone that circumstances can change, but if we are able, this will allow our youngest learners to return to the classroom full-time on March 1. Unfortunately, this will be just days short of the one-year anniversary from when we were forced to close schools, but it is my hope that the healing from this past year can then begin. As for students at JFK and Enfield High School, at the present time, I cannot guarantee we have the adequate spacing to accommodate the entire student body returning at once. Just because we are returning to full, in-person classes does not mean we are no longer required to comply with social distance measures or mitigation strategies. Because of this, we cannot offer five days a week of in-person learning for our 6-12 students until we know how many families will commit to returning full time. In the coming days, your child's principal at JFK and EHS will be sending home a communication asking for your intentions come March 1. Once we have an idea of how many students would prefer to return full time, a decision will be made as to whether we are able to offer this option. I need to be clear—as much as I would like to extend this offering to our secondary students, I cannot promise that I can do this until I know how many students will choose to participate. If the entire student body opts to return, the reality is that we will not be able to offer this option, and we would remain in the

modified hybrid model for the remainder of this school year. As soon as we gather the appropriate data and make a determination on what we can offer, I will send further communication to these families and students.

I realize none of this is perfect and that the last year has been the hardest any of us have ever experienced. I also need to assure you I did not make this decision lightly. I am sure there will be some who believe we are returning too soon, as well as some who think we should have been back long ago. If I have learned anything this past year, it is that any decision will never make everyone happy. Please do not read into that statement as me not caring or not taking other opinions into consideration when I have to make a decision like this – because I certainly do. I believe, however, that I owe everyone transparency as to what led me to this conclusion—our kids. The realization that we are coming up on one year since our students were sent home from our schools with no definitive return date in sight is something I cannot ignore. As I stated earlier, I cannot promise anyone that this plan will actually work as outlined or that I will not be forced to close buildings down again. In fact, I fully expect I will be forced to again do so – but I strongly believe we have to make every effort for our kids to try to get them back in person so they can feel some sense of normalcy once again. Let me be clear—I will not compromise the health and safety of any student or staff member, and if I believe that closing down again is in the best interest of the district, I will not hesitate to do it; however, my hope is that this plan gives our kids, families, and staff a little optimism that brighter days are ahead and that the world will finally return to normal.

Thank you - and stay well,

Christopher J. Drezek

Superintendent of Schools

JAN 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	11 A	12 A	13 Distance Learning ALL	14 B	15 B	
	18 OFF	19 A	20 Distance Learning ALL	21 B	22 B	
	25 A	26 A	27 Distance Learning ALL	28 B	29 B	

FEB 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 A	2 A	3 A	4 B	5 B	
	8 A	9 A	10 B	11 B	12 OFF	
	15 OFF	16 OFF	17 A	18 B	19 B	
	22 A	23 A	24 A	25 B	26 B	

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021

PRE-K - G5: FIVE (IN PERSON) DAYS A WEEK

JFK & EHS: HYBRID OR 5-DAYS (TBD)