



## School Reopening - Frequently Asked Questions

***Q: When will the final WRSD reopening plan be available?***

**A: August 10th.**

The Commissioner of Education has directed all Massachusetts school districts to share the details of their final reopening plans by August 10th. This date was selected in order to allow school districts the opportunity to incorporate the most recent guidance available from the state.

***Q: What plans are being considered?***

**A: In-person schooling; hybrid learning; and remote learning.**

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is requiring all school districts to develop plans for these three learning models. Having these plans in place will allow districts to more readily adapt should it become necessary to switch from one learning model to another.

***Q: What exactly is hybrid learning?***

**A: A combination of in-person schooling and remote learning.**

In a hybrid learning scenario, students would alternate between in-person schooling and remote learning. For example, half of the students might attend classes in-person, while the other half would participate in remote learning. After a number of days or perhaps a week, the students would switch places. This pattern would repeat for the duration of hybrid learning.

***Q: What if I don't want my child(ren) to physically attend school until a vaccine is available?***

**A: You may keep your child(ren) home and participate in remote learning.**

Based on state guidelines, school districts must provide a remote-only learning program for parents who opt-out of in-person or hybrid schooling for health and safety reasons. This option will be available to all families until the pandemic is over.

***Q: How should my family plan for the start of the school year with so much uncertainty?***

**A: Unfortunately, the only thing we can all do is plan to be flexible and be ready to adapt.**

A safe return to in-person schooling is everyone's top priority. However, given the circumstances, no one can say with certainty exactly when that will be possible or for how long. Even if the district reopens for in-person schooling, there's the possibility of another statewide shutdown during the school year. For this reason, families should start now to make contingency plans for remote learning.

***Q: Is the district still planning to reduce related arts programs?***

**A: No.**

Thanks to the support of our Member Towns, we can avoid some of the drastic budget cuts that were itemized in our tiered reduction plan. At this time, we expect all related arts programming to be retained.

***Q: Will a remote learning program be more robust than it was in the spring?***

**A: Yes.**

After our abrupt closing in March, teachers and students were forced to convert to remote learning without any prior planning or support. For this reason, the requirements of our plan at the time were tailored to facilitate remote learning in a way that took into consideration the remarkable circumstances in which teachers were asked to teach and students were asked to learn. A remote learning plan for the fall will be designed to approximate a traditional curriculum and workload as much as possible, including increased accountability.

***Q: Will the district provide additional support for families who lack access to technology?***

**A: Yes.**

Because a remote learning plan for the fall will require greater participation and accountability, the district is currently planning to make additional Chromebooks available for families to borrow. Families without internet access will be contacted so that arrangements can be made to facilitate connectivity.

***Q: Will WRHS 9th grade students still be issued Chromebooks as part of the 1:1 Program?***

**A: Yes.**

While there are some questions about the Chromebook supply chain and delivery dates, 1:1 Chromebooks for incoming 9th grade students have been ordered and will be issued as soon as they are available. Barring any delivery delays, we expect this to occur prior to the start of the school year.

*We will continue to update and add to this FAQ as more information becomes available and plans for reopening are finalized.*