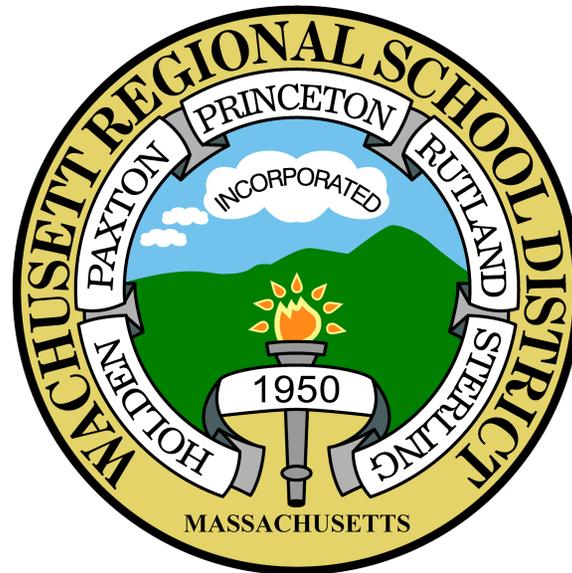


# Wachusett Regional School District

## Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Initial Recommendations Report



July, 2020

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

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# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Introduction

The following report includes recommendations made by members of the District Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force. The Task Force was initiated by Superintendent Darryll McCall in May, 2020 in order to supplement the district's planning process for a potential Fall, 2020 school reopening. Despite the absence of official recommendations or guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) during the Task Force planning that occurred in June, 2020, the process and domain areas focused on by the Task Force are in close alignment with the DESE's ["Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance"](#) document released on June 25, 2020.

The district recognizes the multi-layered complications that a potential school reopening during the COVID-19 pandemic brings. There is a wide range of thoughts, feelings, and emotions related to both the extended school closure (during the Spring of 2020) and the potential reopening of schools in the Fall of 2020. The voices of key stakeholder groups, including students, parents, faculty, staff, school and district administration, as well as members of the local community, will be included meaningfully in the district's planning for reopening schools. The ideas and input of members of these stakeholder groups will help to strengthen the final plan, as well as to expose potential blindspots that may not be exposed if the planning were to occur in isolation and without stakeholder input.

Additionally, the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic has sparked increased fear, anxiety, and the pervasive feeling of helplessness in many people across the world and within our district community. The fear of ourselves or a loved one becoming ill, loss of employment, loss of freedom of movement, and the collective trauma experienced by so many of us throughout the past few months and currently have had a negative cumulative effect on our sense of personal agency. The Task Force is an opportunity to turn fear into action; anxieties into recommendations; isolation into collective decision-making. The only way forward is through, and the Task Force represents a movement away from *describing problems* and towards *solving problems*.

The recommendations in this Report are based on the best available information at the time of the planning meetings. The Task Force recognizes that all of the recommendations may not be feasible or possible based on budgetary and other limitations, and that the District will ultimately need to develop its own comprehensive plan for reopening schools, using the recommendations in this report as a road map for infusing best practices to promote the health and safety of all children and adults in school buildings.

It is the intent of the District to maintain the Task Force at least through the 2020-2021 school year in order to be a conduit for stakeholder input, to provide feedback and recommendations for District reopening plans as they are solidified, and to allow the District to be prepared for potential future pandemics that require drastic changes to the traditional model of teaching and learning.

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Task Force Process Overview:

### Goals of the Task Force:

1. *Develop a set of recommendations for Fall, 2020 school re-opening, focusing on **student health**, **emotional** and **academic** domains.*
2. *Review available state and federal guidance for reopening schools in a safe manner.*
3. *Collect and consolidate local stakeholder feedback about what is needed for a safe school reopening.*
4. *Explore possible contingency plans for reopening schools.*

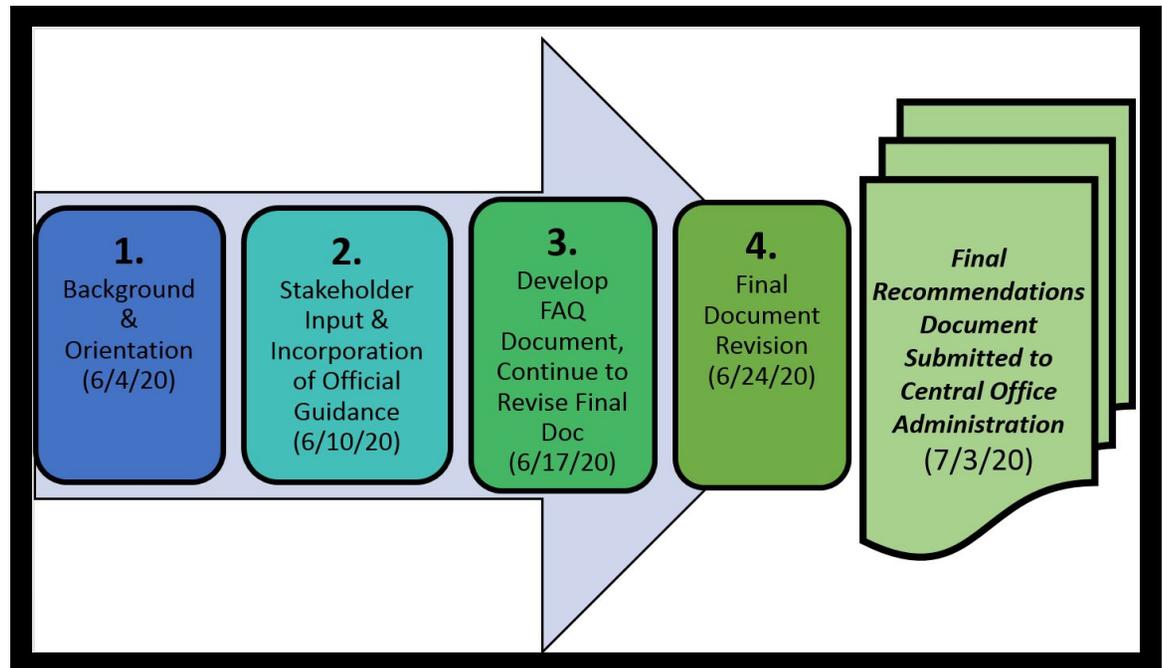
### Task Force Process

Given the District's sense of urgency to generate preliminary plans for a potential reopening of schools in the Fall, the Task Force timeline was expedited to occur in the month of June (see visual to the right). Four whole-group Task Force virtual meetings were held, with small group virtual meetings held focused on subdomains.

Group norms were established in order to promote equal voice of all Task Force members, as well as to create a climate conducive to collaboration, collegiality, and open discussion.

The norms established to guide the Task Force discussions are:

1. *Sit with the uncertainty*
2. *Assume positive intent*
3. *Agree/disagree with ideas (not people)*
4. *Take an inquiry stance (ask questions)*
5. *Share "air time" / equal voice*



## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

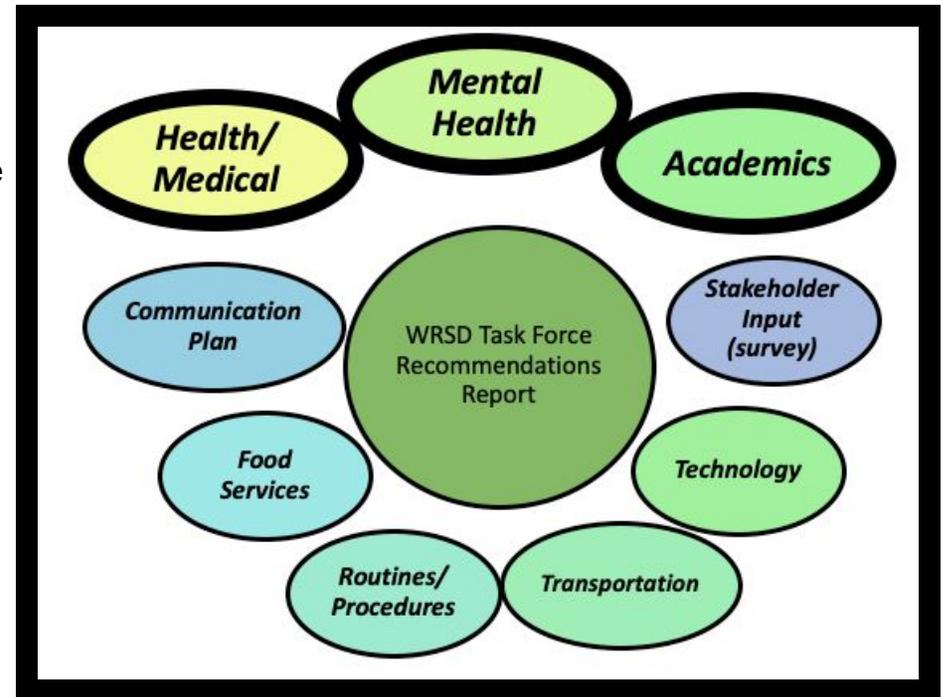
Multiple feedback channels were made available to Task Force members, including surveys, discussions during Task Force meetings, discussions and correspondence with the facilitator, and discussions during sub-committee meetings.

### Domains of Focus

Members of the Task Force were divided into sub-groups that focused on specific domains that will be crucial considerations for the safe opening of schools in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic (see visual to the right).

The three main domains covered by the sub-groups were *Health/Medical*, *Mental Health*, and *Academics*. The facilitator assigned people to groups based on their expertise, interests, and background, and adjustments were made to these assignments based on feedback from Task Force members.

The recommendations found in each sub-domain later in this report were made by members of the small groups with feedback from the whole Task Force.



### Task Force Membership Recommendations:

As we move into the next phase of planning during the Summer, 2020, it is important to add additional Task Force members to ensure equity of voice, and to ensure that each domain can be adequately-addressed with meaningful input from related stakeholders.

*The following additions of Task Force members are recommended:*

1. *Member of the WRSD Special Education Parent Advisory Council (SEPAC)*
2. *Additional parents/guardians*
3. *Building and grounds administrator*
4. *School-based custodian*

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Task Force Members:

### Central Office Administration:

1. Dr. Darryll McCall, Superintendent of Schools
2. Dr. Brendan Keenan, District Director of Social-Emotional Learning (Task Force facilitator)
3. Margaret Barton, Supervisor of School Nutrition
4. Dan Deedy, Director of Business & Finance
5. Carol Hume, Special Education Coordinator
6. Barry Sclar, Supervisor of Information Services
7. Lincoln Waterhouse, Special Education Coordinator

### School Administration:

1. Tammy Boyle, Principal, Thomas Prince School
2. Andrew Costa, Assistant Principal, WRHS
3. Melissa Wallace, Principal, Dawson Elementary School

### Students:

1. Evangeline Welch, Incoming 12th grader (WRHS)
2. Alexis Pratt, Incoming 12th grader (WRHS)

### School Nurses:

1. Sandra Berquist, Davis Hill Elementary School (Nurse Leader)
2. Laurie Coe, Mayo Elementary School
3. Lisa Lamoureaux, Chocksett Middle School
4. Luong Duong, WRHS

### Parents & Community:

1. Dr. Timothy Hogan, Pediatrician & Dawson parent
2. Dr. Vanessa Lin, Pediatrician & Dawson parent
3. Dr. Patricia Seymour, Family Practice Physician and Mayo parent
4. Dr. Jessica Griffin, Executive Director of the UMass Medical Child Trauma Training Center and Paxton Center parent
5. Dawn Desilets Sulmasy, Parent, WRHS

### School Committee:

1. Sherrie Haber, Town of Rutland
2. Adam Young, Town of Holden
3. Dr. Linda Long-Bellil, Town of Holden

### Faculty & Staff:

1. Kayla Sanko, ECC teacher
2. Amy Norton, Paxton Center teacher (Elementary K-2)
3. Mike Lague, Glenwood teacher (Elementary 3-5)
4. Mary Beth Petit, Mountview teacher (Secondary 6-8)
5. Alicia Jasiekiewicz, WRHS teacher (9-12)
6. Lynn Leschke, WRSD teacher (9-12)
7. Tracy Kasparian, Special Education teacher (Mountview)
8. Jennifer Reilly, School Counselor (WRHS)
9. Dr. Timothy Connors, School Psychologist (WRHS)
10. Jessica Maguire, School Counselor (Paxton Center School)



## **Task Force Recommendations**

### **Group 1: Health/Medical**

#### **Group Members:**

1. Tim Hogan
2. Vanessa Lin
3. Patricia Seymour
4. Adam Young
5. Sandra Berquist
6. Laurie Coe
7. Lisa Lamoureux
8. Luong Duong

#### **Guiding Principles:**

1. We cannot eliminate risk of COVID-19 to students, staff and the community but we will look for opportunities for risk reduction.
2. We will make recommendations based on the CDC, DPH, DESE, NCSFCS (National Council on School Facilities and Cooperative Strategies) guidance and the best evidence acknowledging that this is evolving.
3. We are not necessarily limiting our recommendations to resource or budgetary limits of WRSD as many of these are unknown to this group. Certainly, not all of our recommendations are feasible and we defer to WRSD making these ultimate decisions.

#### **Time Sensitive Issues:**

1. Purchase of PPE and hand sanitizer in sufficient volumes is time sensitive.
2. Communication with families about the need for masks
3. Staffing (medical staff (priority for LPN/MA), substitute teachers and custodial staff) is a major concern
4. Admin should create schedule for entrance screeners

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

Recommended Procedures (include new policies in staff orientation procedures):

- 1.) [Screening checklist procedure](#)
- 2.) [Student Mask procedure](#)
  - a.) [Letter to families re: mask wearing](#)
- 3.) [Staff Mask procedure](#)
- 4.) [When to Visit the RN office including isolation space](#)
- 5.) [Student and Staff hand washing procedure](#)
- 6.) [Persons with possible Covid19](#)
- 7.) [Student dismissal procedure](#)
- 8.) Student absenteeism protocol
- 9.) “Back to school” contract with student/parent signatures (hand washing, mask wearing, dismissal procedures, absenteeism procedures)

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

Health/Medical			
Sub- Domain	Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i>	Hybrid (remote learning & in-school) <i>More Risk</i>	In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i>
<i>Prevention</i>	<p><b><i>Consider the risk to the community; specifically, the need for other childcare arrangements if schools are closed. The risk of COVID-19 transmission therefore is not 0 to our students and families even in this remote learning scenario.</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Required student &amp; staff masks (see <u>mask policy</u>; some exceptions apply; shields if mask cannot be tolerated)</li> <li>● Distancing in classrooms and while travelling through halls/on grounds as a group</li> <li>● Alcohol based hand sanitizer dispensers should be placed at school entrances and entrances to every shared area if in use (cafeteria, gym, etc)</li> <li>● Alcohol based hand sanitizer should be available in each classroom per DESE guidelines (1/3 gallon per classroom per week)</li> <li>● Create a <u>handwashing policy</u> to guide student/parent expectations including routine schedule.</li> <li>● Create <u>a new procedure that controls RN office flow and volume</u> and communicate to all school staff and parents. (decrease usage as able, reduce parent pick up delays)</li> <li>● Assign Entrances and Exits</li> <li>● Design one way paths through the school to limit hallway traffic</li> <li>● Stagger student arrival (walkers, individual buses)</li> <li>● Instructional spaces should have 3' of personal space per student</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Required student &amp; staff masks (see <u>mask policy</u>; some exceptions apply; shields if mask cannot be tolerated)</li> <li>● Alcohol based hand sanitizer dispensers should be placed at school entrances and entrances to every shared area if in use (cafeteria, gym, etc)</li> <li>● Alcohol based hand sanitizer should be available in each classroom per DESE guidelines (1/3 gallon per classroom per week)</li> <li>● Create a <u>handwashing policy</u> to guide student/parent expectations including routine schedule..</li> <li>● Create <u>a new procedure that controls RN office flow and volume</u> and communicate to all school staff and parents. (decrease usage as able, reduce parent pick up delays)</li> <li>● Assign Entrances and Exits</li> <li>● Design one way paths through the school to limit hallway traffic</li> <li>● Stagger student arrival (walkers, individual buses)</li> <li>● High touch surfaces should be cleaned at least twice daily with disinfectant</li> <li>● Students use only personal desks or assigned tables to the degree they are able based on the academic plan. Older</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High touch surfaces should be cleaned at least twice daily with disinfectant</li> <li>• Students use only personal desk to the degree they are able based on the academic plan. Older students will wipe down their space when leaving with disinfecting wipes.</li> <li>• If tables are used instead of desks, fewer students should be assigned to tables consistent with the 3' distancing guidelines.</li> </ul>	students will wipe down their space when leaving with disinfecting wipes.
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Screening</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DESE does not recommend temp screenings</li> <li>• Parent education and self reporting</li> <li>• <b>CDC requires universal screening:</b> checklist of symptoms and contacts required for school entry each day</li> </ul>	
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Surveillance</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New absenteeism protocol (see below)</li> <li>• Enhance communication with extended care programs</li> <li>• Designate one contact per school for COVID-19 related communication and surveillance (not school primary RN)</li> </ul>	
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Supplies</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASAP Order PPE supplies (masks (surgical and N95), faceshields, eye protection, barrier gowns) for health offices and staff - see DESE guidance (June 6th)</li> <li>• Identify PPE online teaching tools (masks, faceshields, eye protection, barrier gowns) or develop inservices.</li> <li>• Create PPE conservation and recycling strategies (see below)</li> <li>• Hand sanitizer and freestanding dispensers must be obtained prior to school opening</li> </ul>	

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Cleaning Procedures</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students use only a personal desk to the degree they are able based on the academic plan. Older students will wipe down their space when leaving with disinfecting wipes.</li> <li>● If tables are used instead of desks, tables should be cleaned between uses by “sets” of students.</li> <li>● Classrooms cleaned nightly (additional custodial staff will be needed)</li> <li>● RN office cleaning should include custodial protection (including mask, eye protection, gown)</li> <li>● Develop RN office waste procedure</li> <li>● Bus cleaning occurs XXX</li> <li>● Standardize products between schools (cleaning vs. disinfecting)</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>High Risk Situations and Mitigation Strategies (see <a href="#">Routines/Procedures section</a>)</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nurses Office</li> <li>● Buses</li> <li>● Lunchtime</li> <li>● Switching classes</li> <li>● LPN/MA “Surge” staffing including 1 additional staff person at every school (2 at the high school)</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Training (parents, students, faculty, staff)</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Draft letter (WRSD--&gt;parents) by June 20th regarding the need for student masks (certain exceptions)</li> <li>● Survey to parents regarding reducing the burden of mask wearing included with letter.</li> <li>● <a href="#">School Staff (RN and back up) donning and doffing training video</a></li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Procedures for suspected infection</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For students and staff that develop symptoms while at the school follow the <u>persons with possible COVID-19</u> protocol</li> <li>● For students and staff that have symptoms prior to work that could be c/w COVID-19 they should stay home and follow the <u>persons with possible COVID-19</u> protocol</li> </ul>	

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Facilities (e.g. isolation room)</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each school should designate an area that can be monitored by the medical staff (proximity to RN office and window viewing) where a student with symptoms c/w COVID-19 can isolate (door can be closed, separate from the health office) while awaiting a safe school dismissal plan.</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Communication with DPH</i>	<i>Necessary regarding reopening dates (based on regional statistics)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Necessary for case identification, contact tracing, quarantining of contacts and post-COVID-19 school re-entry. This may be best managed centrally or with additional personnel (supervisory RN, etc)</li> <li>Designate one contact per school for COVID-19 related communication and surveillance (not school primary RN)</li> </ul>	

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 1: Routines/Procedures

### Group Members:

1. Tim Hogan
2. Vanessa Lin
3. Patricia Seymour
4. Adam Young
5. Sandra Berquist
6. Laurie Coe
7. Lisa Lamoureux
8. Luong Duong

<b>Routines/Procedures</b>			
<b>Sub-Domain</b>	<b>Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i></b>	<b>Hybrid (remote learning &amp; in-school) <i>More Risk</i></b>	<b>In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i></b>
<i>Drop-off/Pick-up of students</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This depends on the ultimate bus model</li> <li>● Consider staggering bus arrivals</li> <li>● Encourage parents to use parent transportation to minimize bus volume</li> <li>● School entrance &amp; exits should be marked and separate;</li> <li>● Consider grade-specific entrances or staggered arrival by grade or classroom.</li> <li>● Attestation of no symptoms required prior to school entrance (screening required)</li> <li>● Handwashing should be facilitated at entrances (hand sanitizer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This depends on the ultimate bus model</li> <li>● Consider staggering bus arrivals</li> <li>● Encourage parents to use parent transportation to minimize bus volume</li> <li>● School entrance &amp; exits should be marked and separate;</li> <li>● Consider grade-specific entrances or staggered arrival by grade or classroom.</li> <li>● Attestation of no symptoms required prior to school entrance (screening required)</li> <li>● Handwashing should be facilitated at entrances (hand sanitizer stations must be placed at each entrance to the schools)</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		stations must be placed at each entrance to the schools)	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Cleaning &amp; Disinfection</i>	<b><i>Prior to return to school/reopening</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Group 1 has requested custodial staff representation to guide this)</li> <li>• Standardized supplies and cleaning protocols between schools</li> <li>• Develop protocols for clearing these high risk areas:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RN office</li> <li>2. cafeteria (if in use)</li> <li>3. isolation room procedures</li> <li>4. bathrooms</li> <li>5. main office</li> <li>6. shared spaces such as PODS</li> <li>7. locker areas</li> <li>8. library</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Signs &amp; Messaging</i>	<b><i>N/A</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly Mark:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Entrances</li> <li>2. Exits</li> <li>3. Flow of traffic</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Reminders for handwashing</li> <li>• Clear identification of handwashing areas/stations</li> <li>• Hand washing stations in a monitored area</li> <li>• Shut off bubblers/water fountains/water refill</li> <li>• Discourage “cut-through” spaces, particularly the RN offices</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Sports &amp; Extra-curricular</i>	<b><i>Defer to WRSD regarding sports decisions - recommendations will be consistent with the other two models</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Using masks in locker rooms (okay for off in the outdoor, field spaces)</li> <li>• Bags 6+ feet apart.</li> <li>• Water bottles stay with your bag/equipment pile</li> <li>• Events should include guardian/family transport rather than bussing</li> <li>• Consider shifting sports seasons/schedules (start mid-late september)</li> <li>• Athletes must bring their own equipment (sports, masks, hand sanitizer and water)</li> </ul>	

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		bottles) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coaches should keep masks on</li> <li>Limit spectators and required social distancing and masks at events</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Student Registration &amp; Enrollment</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should remain online</li> <li>No school tours (use virtual)</li> <li>No in-person meet &amp; greets</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>School Calendar</i>	<b><i>Possible changes. Unknown at this time</i></b>		
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>School Schedules</i>	<b><i>Consider RN-student &amp; student counseling connection activities</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We recommend against multiple “shifts” of students each day</li> <li>Consider models that decrease traffic</li> <li>Consider schedules that allow for midweek classroom disinfection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer periods, less classes in a day</li> <li>Reduce switching classrooms - encourage teachers to come to the students room where possible.</li> </ul>
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Visitors to schools / Main office</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit visitors (urgent only)</li> <li>Screen visitors (phone call from car with screening questions re: symptoms and contacts prior to entry)</li> </ul>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Field Trips (off-campus)</i>	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transportation is high risk so recommend against</li> </ul>	

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Policy Modifications (as needed)</i>	<b><i>Review, revise and socialize policies in preparation for return to school</i></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) <a href="#">Screening checklist procedure</a></li> <li>2.) <a href="#">Student Mask procedure</a> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a.) <a href="#">Letter to families re: mask wearing</a></li> </ol> </li> <li>3.) <a href="#">Staff Mask procedure</a></li> <li>4.) <a href="#">When to Visit the RN office including isolation space</a></li> <li>5.) <a href="#">Student and Staff hand washing procedure</a></li> <li>6.) <a href="#">Persons with possible Covid19</a></li> <li>7.) <a href="#">Student dismissal procedure</a></li> <li>8.) Student absenteeism protocol (needs to include tracking - in progress, more info needed from WRSD)</li> <li>9.) “Back to school” contract with student/parent signatures (hand washing, mask wearing, dismissal procedures, absenteeism procedures) - authored by admin</li> </ol>	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Recess/ Playgrounds</i>	<b><i>N/A</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Playgrounds should remain closed</li> <li>● Recess can be on fields or other open spaces</li> </ul>	

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 2: Mental Health

### Group Members:

1. Tammy Boyle
2. Jessica Griffin
3. Tracy Kasparian
4. Jennifer Reilly
5. Tim Connors
6. Jes Maguire

Mental Health			
Sub-Domain	Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i>	Hybrid (remote learning & in-school) <i>More Risk</i>	In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i>
<p><i>Strategies for reconnecting with peers &amp; adults (supportive relationships)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advisory time/morning meeting with teachers and counselors</li> <li>● Connect via phone or video every student in your advisory/homeroom</li> <li>● NHS reaching out to new freshmen virtually</li> <li>● Online virtual activities to help with transition to high school (lower buy in)</li> <li>● School counseling curriculum</li> <li>● Community building activities (staff vs. student games, school performance, sports--- virtual?)</li> <li>● Teachers working with</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advisory time/morning meeting with teachers and counselors</li> <li>● Connect via phone or video every student in your advisory/homeroom</li> <li>● NHS reaching out to new freshmen virtually</li> <li>● Some transitional activities with incoming freshman (freshman seminar, counselor presentations, minute meetings, etc)</li> <li>● School counseling curriculum</li> <li>● Community building activities (staff vs. student games, school performance, sports--- some virtual?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advisory time/morning meeting with teachers and counselors</li> <li>● NHS reaching out to new freshmen in-person</li> <li>● Transitional activities with incoming freshmen (freshman seminar, counselor presentations, minute meetings, etc)</li> <li>● School counseling curriculum delivered face to face</li> <li>● Community building activities (staff vs. student games, school performance, sports--- virtual?)</li> <li>● Teachers working with students to document their experience (for kids to process the last few months)</li> <li>● PBIS-type lessons on safety/protocols</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	students to document their experience (for kids to process the last few months)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers working with students to document their experience (for kids to process the last few months)</li> </ul>	K-8
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Tier 1 Support (all students)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google classroom posts</li> <li><a href="#">MTV Guidance website</a></li> <li>PBIS lessons on social skills online</li> <li>Implement a trauma-based curriculum consistent throughout the district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google classroom posts; access to school counselor office without penalty (attendance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Google classroom posts; access to school counselor office without penalty (attendance)</li> <li>PBIS lessons on expectations</li> <li>Begin the first day of school (grades K-8 where feasible) with the teacher you had the previous academic year</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Tier 2 Support (some students)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly workshops for students to help with things like stress management, anxiety, academic support, college workshops</li> <li>Virtual Group counseling by adjustment counselor and/or psychs-- low buy-in</li> <li><a href="#">MTV Guidance website</a></li> <li>Virtual lunch bunch</li> <li>PBIS lessons on social skills online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly workshops for students to help with things like stress management, anxiety, academic support, college workshops</li> <li>Virtual lunch bunch</li> <li>PBIS lessons on social skills online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monthly workshops for students to help with things like stress management, anxiety, academic support, college workshops</li> <li>Virtual Group counseling by adjustment counselor and/or psychs-- more buy-in</li> <li>Transfer group</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Tier 3 Support (few students)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zooms, Google Hangouts, virtual support through BRYT program and TLC program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zooms, Google Hangouts, virtual support through BRYT program and TLC program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open access to school counselor without penalty (attendance), BRYT program</li> </ul>
<i>Crisis Intervention Protocols</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Flow Chart</a></li> <li><a href="#">Crisis Protocol for Virtual Setting</a></li> <li><a href="#">Parent Notification of Referral</a></li> <li><a href="#">Re-entry Meeting</a></li> </ol>		
<i>Community-based referrals</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">Interface, Enlightened Interventions, Pediatric Behavioral Health, DCF ; police (wellness checks)                      MTV has a <a href="#">list of local outpatient providers</a> and how to access <a href="#">emergency mental health services</a>                      LINK-KID (1-855 LINK-KID) is a free referral service specifically for trauma-focused evidence based treatment, housed at UMASS Medical School for ages 0 to 25</p>		

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Groups 2 & 3: Communication Plan

### Group Members:

1. Brendan Keenan
2. Tammy Boyle
3. Jessica Griffin
4. Tracy Kasparian
5. Jennifer Reilly
6. Tim Connors
7. Jes Maguire
8. Melissa Wallace
9. Carol Hume
10. Lincoln Waterhouse
11. Evangeline Welch
12. Alexis Pratt
13. Amy Norton
14. Mike Lague
15. Mary Beth Pettit
16. Alicia Jasiakiewicz
17. Lynn Leschke
18. Linda Long-Bellil

### Goals of the Communication Plan:

1. Respond to and validate concerns expressed by stakeholder groups in survey.
2. Provide specific and detailed information about reopening procedures in the District.
3. Give stakeholders confidence in the measures taken to ensure the health and safety of children and adults in school.

### General Recommendations (Communication):

1. Send the timeframe for when decisions will be made about school reopening to families ASAP
2. Continue to update families with future plans (i.e. returning to “normal” schooling later in the year) as new information and guidelines become available
3. Continue to communicate with staff and families using surveys, phone calls, emails, etc.
4. Keep social media and websites updated and consistent

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

5. Create documents with information such as guidelines and restrictions as they become available; share these online as well as post them in schools if students return

Draft Communication Plan							
Reopening Phase	Stakeholder Group	Date of Message	Domain(s) Addressed (Medical, routines, etc.)	Objective(s) of Message	Message Content (link to Doc)	Delivery Method(s)	Frequency (if applicable)
Pre-Opening (Summer)	Parents/ Students						
	Teachers/Staff						
	Community						
	Local Officials						
“Opening” (Fall)	Parents/ Students						
	Teachers/Staff						
	Community						
	Local Officials						
Ongoing (remainder of 2020-2021 school year)	Parents/ Students						
	Teachers/Staff						
	Community						
	Local Officials						

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 3: Academic

### Group Members:

1. Melissa Wallace
2. Carol Hume
3. Lincoln Waterhouse
4. Evangeline Welch
5. Alexis Pratt
6. Amy Norton
7. Mike Lague
8. Mary Beth Pettit
9. Alicia Jasiekiewicz
10. Lynn Leschke
11. Linda Long-Bellil

Academic/Instruction			
Sub-Domain	Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i>	Hybrid (remote learning & in-school) <i>More Risk</i>	In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i>
<i>Classroom configuration (social distancing)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Remote Learning Only model must implement face to face interactions - Google hangout/Zoom and/or video lessons into schedules.</li> <li>● Start of school year - 1st week of “remote learning only” to be used to familiarize teachers and students with the online process.</li> <li>● Provision of Academic Materials to students (books, manipulatives, printed material when technology is not available, lab materials)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Desks 6 feet apart all facing same direction</li> <li>● 10 students per classroom - 12 maximum including teacher(s)</li> <li>● Staff/Students must wear masks</li> <li>● Classrooms at grade levels Pre-K- Grade 5 should remain self-contained. Students will not rotate between classrooms.</li> <li>● During passing periods, hallways/stairwells will be one-way; they will be marked</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Desks 6 feet apart all facing same direction</li> <li>● 10 students per classroom - 12 maximum including teacher(s)</li> <li>● Staff/Students must wear masks</li> <li>● Classrooms at grade levels Pre-K- Grade 5 should remain self-contained. Students will not rotate between classrooms.</li> <li>● During passing periods, hallways/stairwells will be</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Clearly designated schedule for students and staff to ensure engagement and to track access, insure accountability, and ensure that the work of students is assessed and ensures meaningful benefit.</li> <li>● Teachers teach from the physical classroom even if students are not there. Provide teachers with the option of providing remote instruction within the building or from their homes</li> <li>● Teachers will provide on-line direct instruction to students with additional remote work completion</li> </ul>	<p>accordingly. The process of marking hallways and stairs should begin in summer of 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use of physical barriers where students can not remain 6-feet apart</li> <li>● Use of microphones to help students hear the teacher while wearing a mask</li> <li>● Hybrid models utilize face to face interactions - google hangout and/or video lessons into schedules.</li> <li>● For classes requiring shared equipment use, students may need to have their own set of classroom supplies provided or clear protocols will need to be established prior to the start of the school year relative to cleaning materials consistent with Health Dept. Guidance. Classes where this may be more impactful would be science lab classes, art classes, and gym classes. These classes may need to have students come to the classroom setting with cleaning in between classes.</li> <li>● No shared drinking such as use of bubblers or hydration stations. These areas should be removed or blocked from access with a physical or visual barrier prior to students entering school.</li> </ul>	<p>one-way; they will be marked accordingly. The process of marking hallways and stairs should begin in summer of 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use of physical barriers where students can not remain 6-feet apart</li> <li>● Use of microphones to help students hear the teacher while wearing a mask.</li> <li>● Protecting at-risk teachers and at-risk students with PPE</li> <li>● For classes requiring shared equipment use, students may need to have their own set of classroom supplies provided or clear protocols will need to be established prior to the start of the school year relative to cleaning materials consistent with Health Dept. Guidance. Classes where this may be more impactful would be science lab classes, art classes, and gym classes. These classes may need to have students come to the classroom setting with cleaning in between classes.</li> <li>● No shared drinking such as use of bubblers or hydration stations. These areas should be removed or blocked from access with a physical or visual</li> </ul>
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## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prohibit use of lockers in high school and middle schools to promote social distancing.</li> <li>● Schedule families who have multiple children to be in the school on the same schedule</li> <li>● Additional time necessary for transitioning safely off and on busing, to lunch, and to bathrooms will impact the amount of time students are actually in the classroom and learning. To maintain safe distancing it is likely that students will need to transition from and to buses separately at staggered times.</li> <li>● Initial training will need to be provided to students on COVID-19 safety (e.g. how to wash your hands for our youngest students).</li> <li>● Students are reporting that taped instruction vs. streamed live content may be easier to access due to technology limitations.</li> <li>● Implement a survey to families to predict enrollment numbers for in school instruction</li> </ul>	<p>barrier prior to students entering school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prohibit use of lockers in high school and middle schools to promote social distancing.</li> <li>● Additional time necessary for transitioning safely off and on busing, to lunch, and to bathrooms will impact the amount of time students are actually in the classroom and learning. To maintain safe distancing it is likely that students will need to transition from and to buses separately at staggered times.</li> <li>● Initial training will we need to provide to students on COVID-19 safety (e.g. how to wash your hands for our youngest students).</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<p><i>Developmental Considerations (e.g. elementary vs. high school students)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Age and developmental ability levels of students relative to the implementation of in person vs. virtual learning. We need to prioritize the needs of students who cannot benefit from virtual instruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Age and developmental ability levels of students relative to the implementation of in person vs. virtual learning. We need to prioritize the needs of students who cannot benefit from virtual</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		instruction.	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Staffing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide technology needs for staff/teachers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 will be cause for teacher absence for a period of up to 14 days.</li> <li>● Significant consideration of nursing absence and shortage of substitute nursing and impact on the need to close school and implement COVID-19 preparedness plan.</li> <li>● Provide technology needs for staff/teachers.</li> <li>● Provide supports for the impact on teacher availability due to teachers with children not having access to child care.</li> <li>● Develop a system of day care provision to be implemented by district</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 will be cause for teacher absence for a period of up to 14 days.</li> <li>● Significant consideration of nursing absence and shortage of substitute nursing and impact on the need to close school and implement COVID-19 preparedness plan.</li> </ul>
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

<p><i>Special Education</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students with disabilities who require direct service or instruction outside of the regular education classroom, regardless of grade level, will need in school support. During summer of 2020, space will need to be identified where those services can be provided as substantially separate programs may require additional classroom space.</li> <li>● These students would not follow the model outlined in recommendation 4 but would attend school daily. This would include students in our district-wide programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students with disabilities who require direct service or instruction outside of the regular education classroom, regardless of grade level, will need in-school support. During summer of 2020, space will need to be identified where those services can be provided as substantially separate programs may require additional classroom space.</li> <li>● These students would not follow the model outlined in recommendation 4 but would attend school daily. This would include students in our District Wide Programs.</li> <li>● Consideration developmental ability levels of students relative to the implementation of in person vs. virtual learning.</li> <li>● Substantially separate programs have a high number of support staff and require additional space to ensure space (6 ft.) recommendations are implemented and class size limitations are considered.</li> <li>● Students with significant medical needs and risks must be considered relative to use of masks and PPE. District identifies this vulnerable population to provide additional safety precautions for staff.</li> <li>● Provide protocol for practices for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Substantially separate programs have a high number of support staff and require additional space to ensure space (6 ft) recommendations are implemented and class size limitations are considered.</li> <li>● Students with significant medical needs and risks must be considered relative to use of masks and PPE. District identifies this vulnerable population to provide additional safety precautions for staff.</li> <li>● Provide protocol for practices for Restraint Additional safety precautions needed</li> <li>● Provide protocol for practices for Restraint Additional safety precautions needed</li> </ul>
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## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		restraint. Additional safety precautions needed	
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Professional Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PD needed for staff on different educational platforms/software (ie: Google Classroom, Google Meets, Screencasting programs, etc.)</li> <li>● Provide technology training in supporting teachers for video recorded or video live instruction modalities.</li> <li>● Parents provided training on how to use platforms such as Google Classroom and other technology resources so that they can support the youngest learners who cannot navigate this technology independently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PD needed for staff on different educational platforms/software (ie: Google Classroom, Google Meets, Screencasting programs, etc.).</li> <li>● Training for staff in use of PPE and implementation of COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.</li> <li>● Provide technology training in supporting teachers for video recorded or video live instruction modalities.</li> <li>● Parents provided training on how to use platforms such as Google Classroom and other technology resources so that they can support the youngest learners who cannot navigate this technology independently</li> <li>● Provide teacher training in areas where prior experience or training in subject matter is not evident.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Training for staff in use of PPE and implementation of COVID-19 Preparedness Plan..</li> </ul>

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 4: Food Services

Group Members:

1. Margaret Barton
2. Dan Deedy
3. Brendan Keenan
4. Andrew Costa

<b>Food Services</b>			
<b>Sub-Domain</b>	<b>Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i></b>	<b>Hybrid (remote learning &amp; in-school) <i>More Risk</i></b>	<b>In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i></b>
<i>PPE and other equipment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Masks, face shields, non-contact thermometers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Masks, face shields, non-contact thermometers, plexiglass, vinyl floor markers, non-contact hand sanitizing stations at each cafe entrance.</li> <li>● Expanded/Redesigned seating in cafeterias.</li> <li>● Need for multiple delivery carts to classrooms.</li> <li>● Possible need for wireless POS terminals for delivery throughout schools.</li> <li>● Touch free PIN pads at register terminals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mask, face shields, non-contact thermometers, plexiglass, vinyl floor markers, non-contact hand sanitizing stations at each cafe entrance.</li> <li>● Expanded/Redesigned seating in cafeterias.</li> <li>● Need for multiple delivery carts to classrooms.</li> <li>● Possible need for wireless POS terminals for delivery throughout schools.</li> <li>● Touch free PIN pads at register terminals.</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Food Preparation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All Grab n' Go service.</li> <li>● Expanded purchases of to-go meal distribution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review DESE &amp; BoH regulations and guidance for service.</li> <li>● All individually wrapped items?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review DESE &amp; BoH regulations and guidance for service.</li> <li>● All individually wrapped items?</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

	containers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible/probable ‘no touch’ of all items in cafeterias.</li> <li>• Students’ meals are completely trayed then distributed in classrooms and cafeterias.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible/probable ‘no touch’ of all items in cafeterias.</li> <li>• Students’ meals are completely trayed then distributed in classrooms and cafeterias.</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Food Distribution</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grab n’ Go type meal service in each town; five locations.</li> <li>• Plan for ‘open site’ feeding’ if the option is available through USDA, making meals available for pick up to any child living in the district.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for ‘open site’ feeding’ if the option is available through USDA, making meals available for pick up to any child living in the district that is remote learning.</li> <li>• Cafe service and/or classroom feeding for those in school.</li> <li>• Delivery of meals to all classrooms is not feasible.</li> <li>• Possibility of sending a meal home with a student that will be remote learning the following day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cafe service and/or classroom feeding for those in school.</li> <li>• Delivery of meals to all classrooms is not feasible. Equipment, staffing and timing issues.</li> <li>• Students pick up meals through the cafeteria and return to the classroom or designated area to eat.</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Seating of Students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination of classroom and cafeteria seating.</li> <li>• Use of available open spaces for student seating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination of classroom and cafeteria seating.</li> <li>• MTV &amp; WRHS would have the largest populations to consider.</li> <li>• Use of available open spaces for student seating</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Cleaning &amp; Disinfection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular staff and custodial cleaning of kitchens</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular staff and custodial cleaning of kitchens.</li> <li>• Increased sanitation of high touch areas with proper approved cleaners.</li> <li>• If utilizing cafeteria seating, custodians</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular staff and custodial cleaning of kitchens.</li> <li>• Increased sanitation of high touch areas with proper approved cleaners.</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

		would need to disinfect tables and seats in between each seating.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If utilizing cafeteria seating, custodians would need to disinfect tables and seats in between each seating.</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Schedules/Routines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible staff reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible staff reduction or reassignments for coverage as needed.</li> <li>• Possible increase in staffing hours if both cafeteria and Grab n' Go meals are prepared.</li> <li>• Shift in working hours if lunch services times are expanded to assist in meal distribution during the lunch service time and to accommodate smaller group seatings or food delivery to classrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular staffing or possible increased levels as needed depending upon service model .</li> <li>• Shift in working hours if lunch services times are expanded to accommodate smaller group seatings or food delivery to classrooms.</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Professional Development/ Training</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff returning earlier to schools (August) for necessary training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff returning earlier to schools (August) for necessary training and setting up for changes in serving protocols.</li> <li>• Local Board of Health will review with staff. DESE, SNA, JSI training likely provided.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff returning earlier to schools (August) for necessary training and setting up for changes in serving protocols.</li> <li>• Local Board of Health will review with staff. DESE, SNA, JSI training likely provided.</li> </ul>
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Students with allergies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom feeding concern-nurse and teacher involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classroom feeding concern-nurse and teacher involvement</li> </ul>

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 4: Transportation

### Group Members:

1. Margaret Barton
2. Dan Deedy
3. Brendan Keenan
4. Andrew Costa

<b>Transportation</b>			
<b>Sub-Domain</b>	<b>Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i></b>	<b>Hybrid (remote learning &amp; in-school) <i>More Risk</i></b>	<b>In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i></b>
<i>Bus Routes/Schedules</i>	<b><i>Planning for Transportation pending</i></b>		
<i>Seating arrangements &amp; transitions</i>			
<i>Cleaning &amp; Disinfection</i>			
<i>Policies/Procedures (e.g. eating on bus, etc.)</i>			
<i>Professional Development/ Training</i>			

# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 5: Stakeholder Survey

### Group Members:

1. Sherrie Haber
2. Barry Sclar
3. Dawn Sulmasy
4. Kayla Sanko
5. Christine Smith
6. Brendan Keenan

### Goals of Survey:

1. *Give stakeholders a vehicle for bringing forward their ideas and concerns for the Fall school reopening.*
2. *Collect and consolidate local stakeholder feedback about what is needed for a safe school reopening (this is taken directly from the goals of the task force).*
3. *Gauge the readiness of each stakeholder to re-enter school.*

### Survey Window Dates:

- June 12 - June 22, 2020`

### Summary of Comments (open response)

“Please share any additional ideas or concerns you have about returning to school in the Fall.”

The responses to this question were reviewed for themes. Below you will find a list of themes that emerged from responses, with selected portions of responses included to provide context.

- **Fear:**
  - Many survey respondents indicated that they are fearful about the possible return to school, and about the impact of the pandemic on children and adults.

#### **Sample of Comments:**

## **WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)**

- (Parent) “I don't want to send my daughters to school and tell them that sharing is bad, and that they need to be scared all of the time. That they can't go near friends without fear of getting or giving illness. This has ways been a possibility, but we didn't SCARE children because they might bring the stomach bug or flu home.”
- (Parent) “This is not the “new “ norm for them. They don't even want to go into a store because they are scared. They think if everyone is wearing masks then “sick “ is still here and they shouldn't be in places with lots of people.”
- (Teacher) “Trying to wrap my head around all these scenarios is extremely overwhelming for a teacher and parent. I'm very fearful that I won't be able to teach anymore if that is the case.”
- (Teacher) “These kids are not able to social distance, wear masks, wash their hands properly, cover their mouths when they cough, drool, have toileting accidents etc. I am fearful for my own health and safety as well as the other children in my classroom.”
- (Student) “We need to get back to school as soon as possible. I am not at all concerned about catching Covid-19 even though I know other people may be very scared to come back. I think many kids are itching to get back and I am as well.”
- (Student) “I am afraid to bring covid home to my family - who is at a high risk!!”
- (Community Member) “My greatest desire for all the young people at this time is that they not internalize fear and I believe that is a very difficult thing to avoid in many cases, under the current guidelines.”
- (Community Member) “I think the social distancing is going to scare the kids. I've seen pictures of extreme measures.”
- (Community Member) “Kids won't wear masks all day, I can barely do it myself. The kids need exercise to get rid of the anxiety they are all experiencing, teach them how to cope in positive ways, art, music, running, seeing friendly faces.”
- **Remote Learning:**
  - Many of the comments made by stakeholders revolved around remote learning. Comments included positive ones about the Spring, 2020 remote learning plan, as well as challenges that arose.

### **Sample of Comments:**

- (Parent) “Although I think there will be difficulties and adjustments necessary, I feel that the students need to be in school because their educational goals cannot be reached entirely through remote learning.”
- (Parent) “As a parent, any sort of remote learning or hybrid approach would be very difficult for numerous reasons. I really hope we try to get the kids IN school with the understanding we will have to close if cases rise but with a plan for that in place.”
- (Teacher) “Family life, work life, and remote learning balance while trying to stay healthy physically and emotionally.”
- (Teacher) “Technology to FULLY support remote learning.”

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

- (Student) “As a student, my main concerns revolve around academics. I felt that remote learning was ineffective in properly teaching material, so if it has to continue changes will hopefully be made.”
- (Student) “I believed that I have thrived in remote learning and believe that is the safest and most effective way to learn until there is a vaccine or treatment available.”
- (Community Member) “The current process with remote learning as the only option was necessary to control the spread but not sustainable long term.”
- (Non-Teaching Staff) “I am concerned for the SpEd students as many did not do well with remote learning. When we return to in-class learning, their aides will be key to their emotional and academic success. It is so important that the aides will be there for them!”
- (Non-Teaching Staff) “I feel that starting the school year with remote learning would be even more difficult than what we have just been through, although I am trying to prepare for some type of distance learning and classroom mix I assume.”
- **Wearing Masks:**
  - **Summary:** There is a wide variation of opinions related to masks being made mandatory for children and adults in school, according to the survey results. Parents/guardians as a whole showed the lowest level of support for the wearing of masks by students and staff (35% and 42% respectively according to survey results). Overall, there was more support for staff wearing masks in all stakeholder groups when compared to students wearing masks. Given the requirement for mask-wearing being issued by the Massachusetts DESE, it will be important to communicate with all stakeholders about this requirement, and to provide materials to explain the rationale for such a requirement.

	<b>Masks for Students (rated as being important for returning to school)</b>	<b>Masks for Staff (rated as being important for returning to school)</b>
<b>Parent/Guardians</b>	35%	42%
<b>Students</b>	47%	55%
<b>Teachers</b>	47%	51%
<b>Community Members</b>	43%	53%
<b>Non-Teaching Staff</b>	45%	55%

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

### **Sample of Comments:**

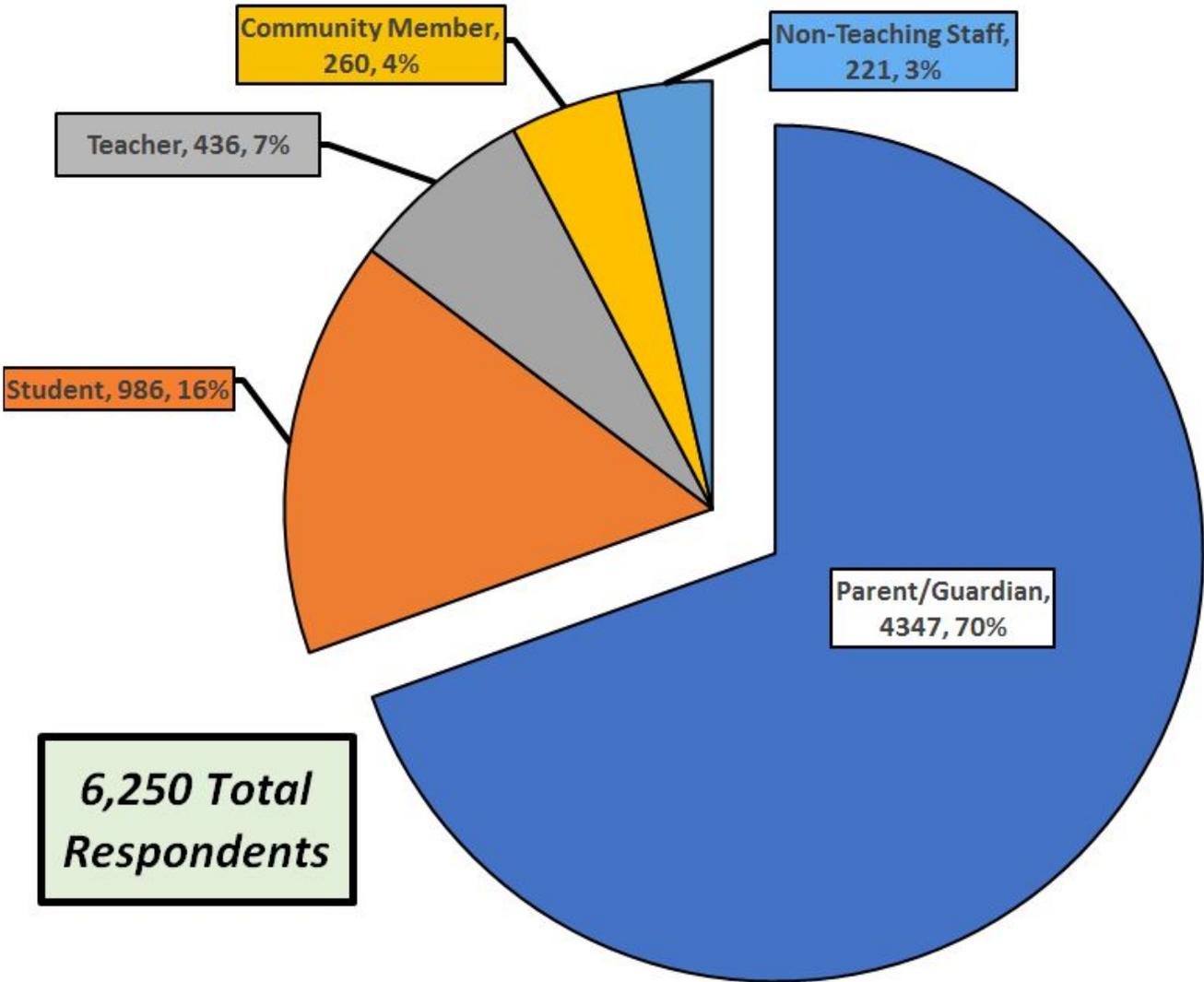
- (Parent) “I don’t think it is reasonable to require students to wear masks for 6-8 hours a day”
- (Parent) “How would you realistically get kids to wear masks for the entire day if that is the route that is chosen?”
- (Teacher) “As a special ed teacher I’m particularly nervous going back to brick and mortar since our kids will not tolerate wearing masks, will get very anxious and won’t be able to maintain 6ft distancing.”
- (Teacher) “My concern is that students are not going to keep on their masks.”
- (Student) “Masks should not be worn during heavy physical activity times in PE. If everyone has a mask covering their mouth & nose at all times, I think less social distancing is necessary.”
- (Student) “Have masks for teachers and open normally, students do not transmit the disease and need to go back to their routines.”
- (Community Member) “I do not believe masks or social distancing is needed with a 99% recovery rate.”
- (Community Member) “Masks should not be mandatory for students”
- (Non-teaching staff) “I have concerns about the preschoolers as many of them don’t yet understand the concept of social distancing, keeping a mask on and not sharing body fluids.”
- (Non-teaching staff) “No Masks. They don’t stop viruses anyways”

### Links:

1. [Click here for Google Data Studio site for survey results](#)

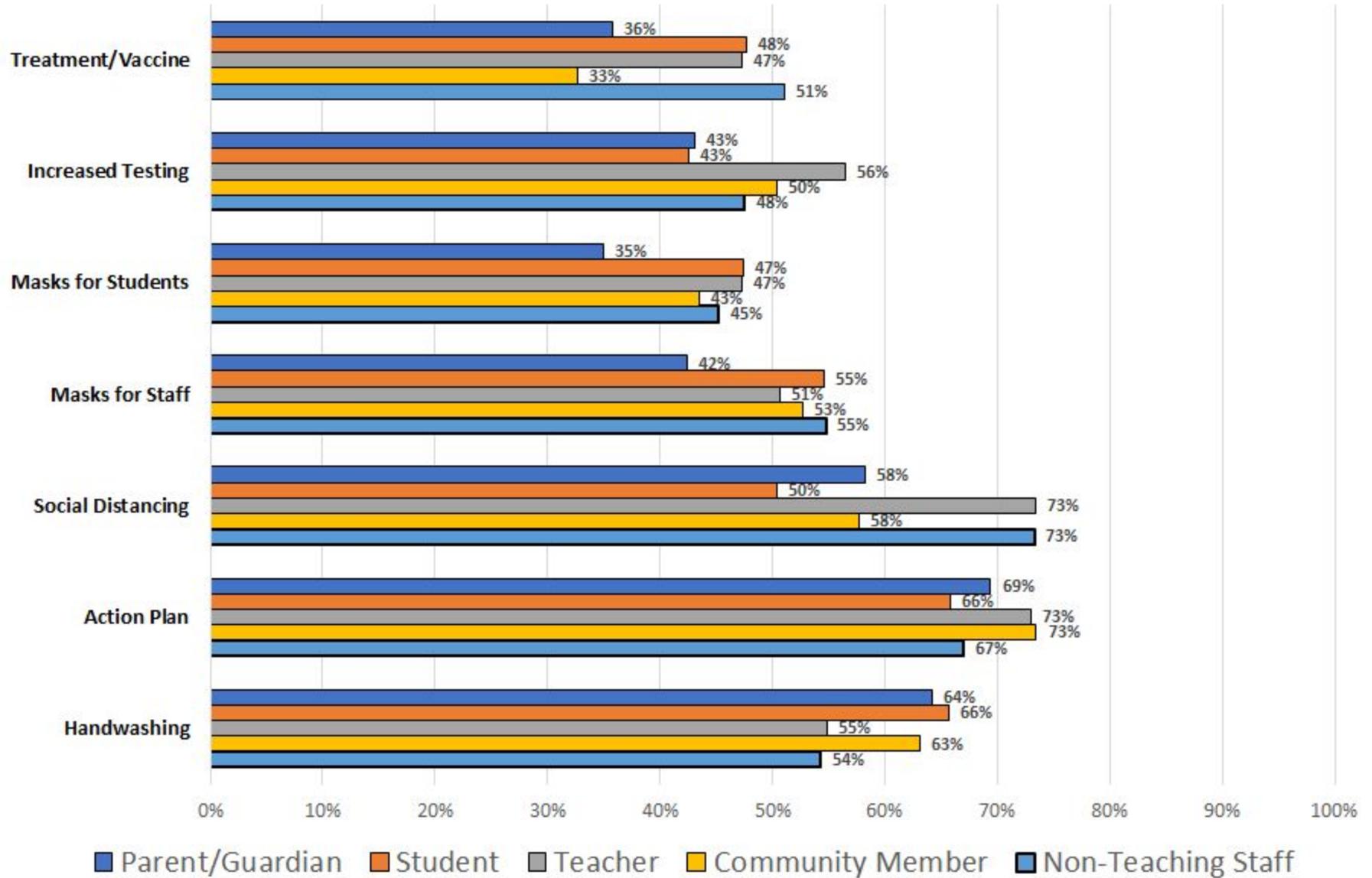
# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

Summary Charts from Survey Results:



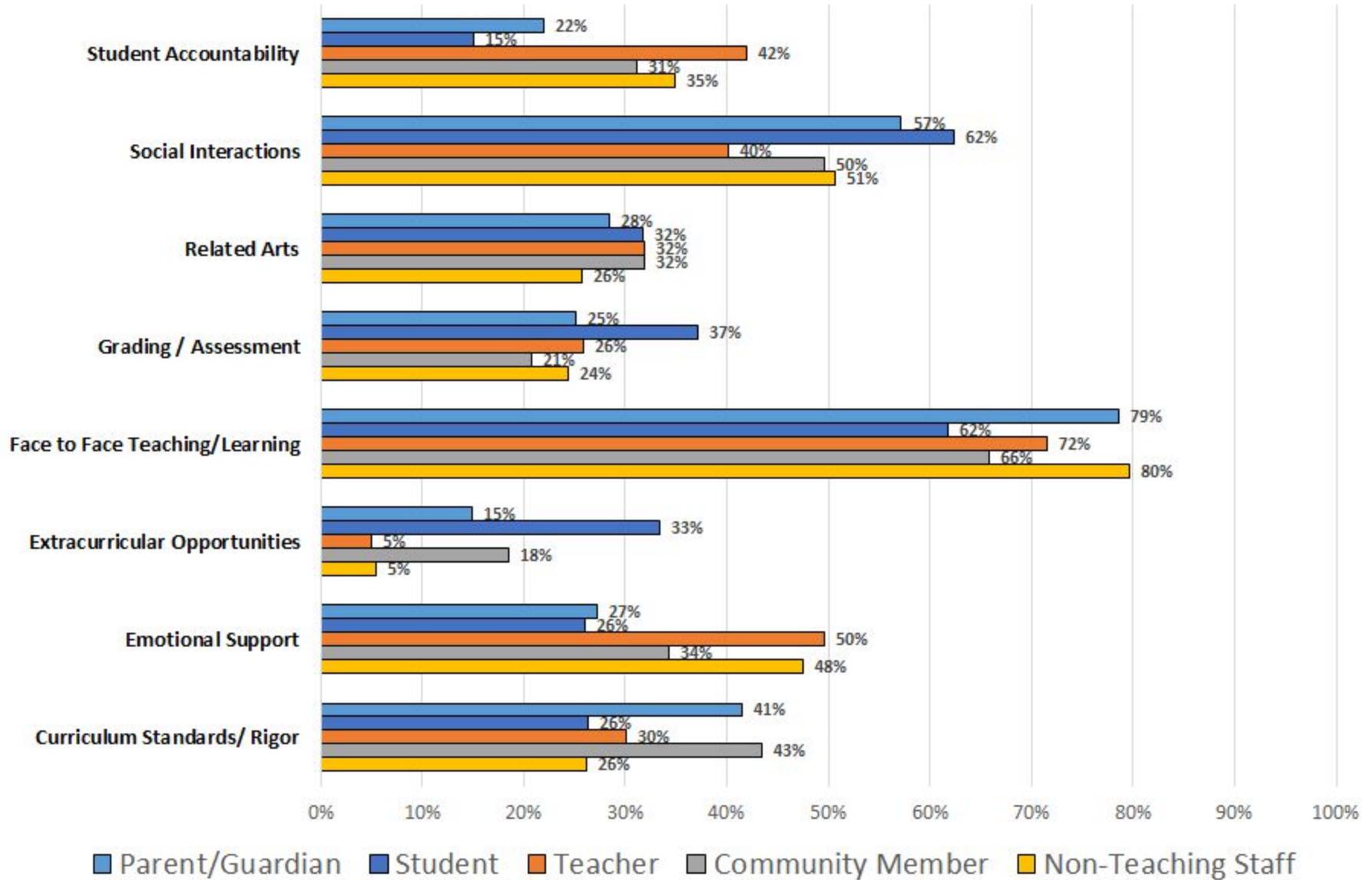
# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

*Which conditions do you feel are important to have in place in order to facilitate a return to in-person schooling?*



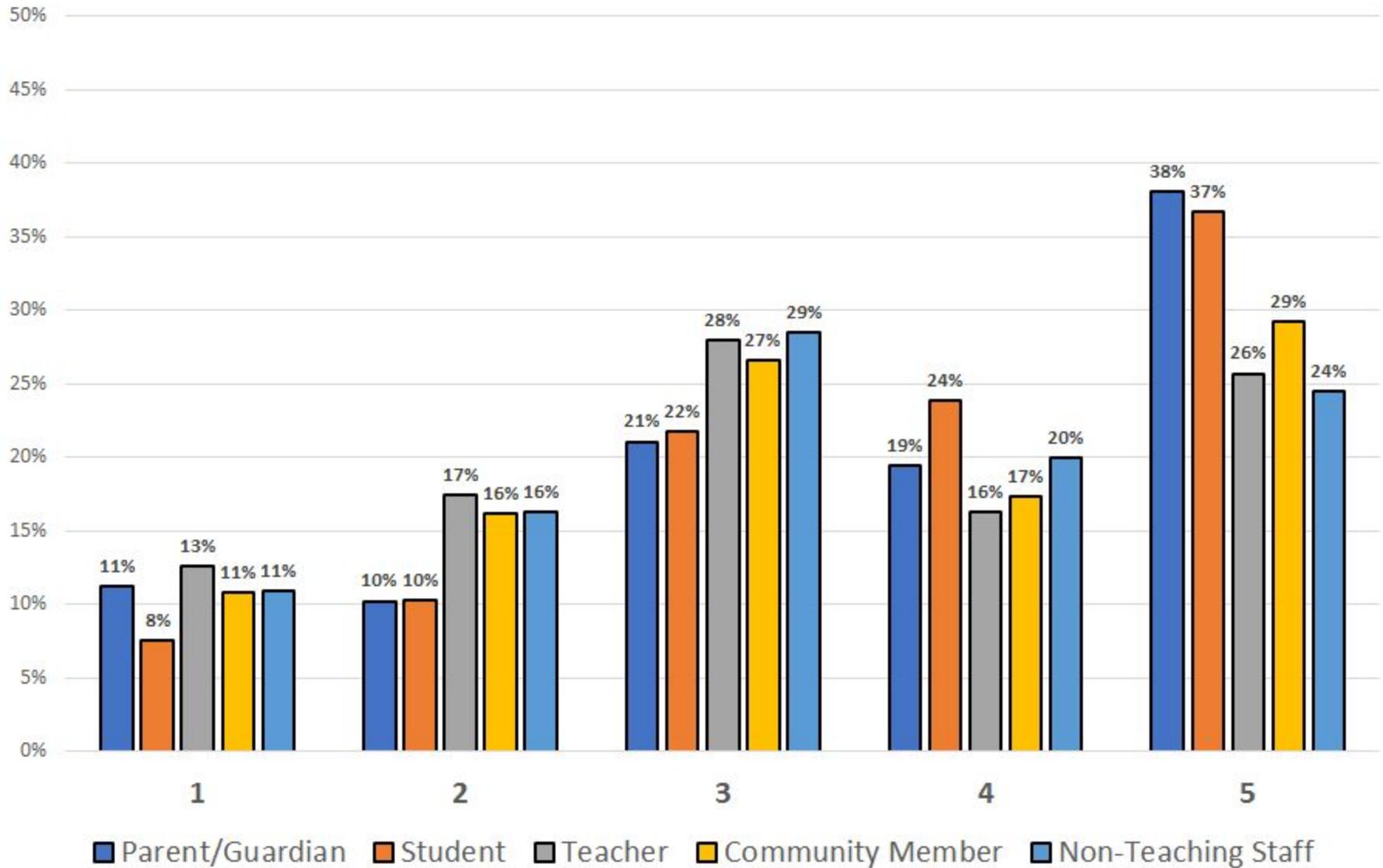
# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

*Which elements do you believe are most essential for educating students as we respond to guidance from Massachusetts state authorities? PLEASE SELECT ONLY 3.*



# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

**Readiness scale: At this time, how ready are you to support a return to regular school routines, including in-school teaching and learning?  
(1 = Not at all ready, 5 = Very ready)**



# WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

## Group 5: Technology

### Group Members:

1. Sherrie Haber
2. Barry Sclar
3. Dawn Sulmasy
4. Kayla Sanko
5. Christine Smith
6. Brendan Keenan

Sub-Domain	Remote Learning Only <i>Lowest risk</i>	Hybrid (remote learning & in-school) <i>More Risk</i>	In-School Only <i>Highest Risk</i>
<i>Hardware</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continuation of 1:1 WRHS Chromebook program</li> <li>● Chromebook loan program for PreK-8 students in need</li> <li>● Maintain staff devices</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In-school hardware subject to cleaning reopening protocols</li> </ul>
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Support</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Additional time for teacher PD/training</li> <li>● How-to resources linked to helpdesk</li> <li>● Live support sessions w/ WRSD IT staff</li> <li>● Mojo Helpdesk</li> <li>● Teacher technology survey to gauge support needs</li> <li>● Technology support resources for parents</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traditional tech support model</li> </ul>
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Software</i>	<a href="#">Approved Online Tools</a>		
	Remote Learning Only	Hybrid	In-School Only
<i>Classroom</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google Classroom</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google Classroom</li> </ul>

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

<i>Management</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Meet</li> </ul>		
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Special Ed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cameras/mics for ABA program</li> <li>• iPads as needed for specific support tools in Special Ed</li> </ul>		
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Attendance Monitoring/ Tracking</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple check-in assignment in Google Classroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PS Attendance (in school) Classroom assignment (remote)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PS Attendance</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panorama Student Success or other attendance tracking software</li> </ul>		
	<b>Remote Learning Only</b>	<b>Hybrid</b>	<b>In-School Only</b>
<i>Instruction for students who are out of school for extended periods of time</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Google Meet for class participation</li> <li>• Live-streaming options for classroom instruction</li> <li>• Recorded teaching/instruction videos</li> </ul>		

## WRSD Reopening Health & Safety Advisory Task Force Recommendations Report (July, 2020)

### References:

1. [Task Force Compiled Resources & Guiding Documents](#)
2. [DESE Initial Guidance document \(link here\)](#)
3. [CDC Considerations for Schools \(link here\)](#)
4. [School Decision Tree \(link here\)](#)
5. [CASEL- SEL & Reopening \(link here\)](#)
6. [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Considerations for Schools \(link here\)](#)
7. [Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education \(link here\)](#)
8. [Lexington Public Schools: Back-To-School Blueprint Document](#)