



July 15, 2020

Dear Methuen Families:

I hope this note finds you healthy and enjoying the summer. Our administrative team has been diligently working through fall reopening plans based on the [DESE Initial Fall Reopening Guidelines](#) that were shared with us on June 25, and then shared with you in an email to families on June 26. The Reopening Guidelines call for all districts to submit plans for three reopening scenarios on July 31st: (1) a return to full-time in-person learning, (2) a continuation of full-time remote learning, (3) a hybrid that involves some in-person and some remote learning. However, he is strongly recommending that districts not make a final decision about which model to use to open schools until August. Please see his [letter dated July 10, 2020](#) explaining this. He also sent a [FAQs document](#) to share with our communities. Consistent with DESE guidance, we are continuing to plan for all three models for returning to school with a priority on student and staff safety, as well as the academic, social, and emotional needs of all students.

Our planning team met for four full days July 7-10 and consisted of administrative staff and teachers. It was an intense week of work and included analysis of all survey data collected in June from families and staff and reviewing the DESE Initial Reopening Guidelines for all three models. We began framing models around Methuen's specific schools and needs. While the outcomes from the week were not final models to share, we feel confident we have solid foundations for all three plans. We also expect critical additional reopening guidance from DESE on topics including transportation, protocols for positive COVID-19 cases in schools, sports and extracurriculars, and several others. Once those are shared we will add details to each model.

What we do need is your feedback at this point to continue planning. I anticipate needing to communicate frequently with families and staff from this point forward. I will be working with our parent leadership structures and will likely need to send periodic requests for your feedback in the coming weeks to make sure your voices are heard throughout the reopening process. As a critical step, I am asking every Methuen Public Schools family to please fill out the survey linked below **by Sunday July 19**. The survey provides more information about the three reopening scenarios and asks for your reactions and preferences. We appreciate your responses and, again, the information we glean from this survey will allow our team to continue planning more accurately. We will have this survey on the website and ask for your help to spread the word to neighbors and friends and urge them to fill out the survey.

[SURVEY LINK](#)

Respectfully,

Brandi L. Kwong, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Methuen Public Schools