Hopkinton School District Reopening and Reconnection Plan
2021-2022 School Year

This draft is required by the NH Department of Education/US Department of Education to access ESSER grant funds. This draft may change through continued reopening of school planning.

**Guiding Principles**

Educational model decisions, procedures, and protocols will follow NH Department of Education, NH Department of Health and Human Services, and the Center for Disease Control guidance.

The Hopkinton School District Reopening and Reconnection Plan is based on the foundation belief that in-person school in the least restrictive, safe environment is what is best for students. Reconnecting with families, students, and learning will be most effective in an in-person setting. As with all District work, the mission of care will guide the development and implementation of protocols, procedures, and practices.

**Reopening and Reconnecting**

Transitioning the school community to the 2021-2022 school year will be done in a purposeful/deliberate way.

Following the Maple Street School model, a survey will be distributed in early August to understand members of the school community’s concerns about reopening and reconnecting at school. The school counseling staff at all schools will be available to address the circumstances of the families and students [Possibility of a additional per diem days funded by ESSER III].

**Communication**

Continued communication through the pandemic is critical. Revisions to the reopening reconnecting plan will be communicated through building newsletters and emails. A new platform that will increase the efficiency of communication will be in place before the school year. [Possibility of Funding the communication tool through ESSER III]

A status update of confirmed positive tests in the schools will be provided to the community weekly. School administration/nursing staff will work with the NH Department of Health and Human Services to determine the extent of contact tracing and communicate directly with impacted families as soon as possible.

**Model Determination**

With the continued implementation of the vaccine and community spread at a safe level, the expectation is that school will be open fully for in-person learning. A change in the model will be based on data and guidance.

**Remote Learning**

The ability to effectively manage remote opportunities while instituting complete in-person learning is problematic. Course or grade level synchronous learning is contraindicated for the start of the 2021-2022
school year. When requested, the District will assist families in utilizing regional or state-wide remote programs. [VLACS]

Quarantining/Isolation
Students who are required to quarantine will be provided with academic support. In addition, synchronous learning will be implemented to support students when feasible.

Social Distancing and Mask Recommendation Requirements
The social distance and mask recommendation/requirements will be influenced by two factors: the vaccination availability/implementation and community spread.

With the continued implementation of the vaccine and community spread at a safe level, masks will be recommended for unvaccinated school community members but not required. The shift to required mask-wearing will be based on a significant increase in the level of community spread.

Social distancing will be implemented where the vaccination has not been available for the age group.

Hand Washing/Hand Sanitization
Hand washing and hand sanitation practices will remain an important mitigation strategy. Students will be educated on the importance of handwashing/hand sanitizing. Multiple opportunities for handwashing/hand sanitation will be provided throughout the day.

Building Use and Access
The goal is to open the schools to the community. Community organizations may be asked to fund HSD staff to clean and sanitize the spaces before the school opening. Organizations who formally lease the space will determine the social distancing and mask requirements for their events.

Health Screenings and Protocols
While the vaccination implementation increases and community spread is low, health screenings will be recommended for students and staff but not required. However, if the level of community spread increases significantly, health screenings may be necessary.

Cleaning, Sanitization, and Ventilation
The cleaning and sanitization processes will focus on food delivery and bathroom spaces. The cleaning of educational services after each use will be suspended during high vaccination low community spread conditions.

The District will continue the following practices established during the 20-21 school year:

Implementing the MERV 13 filters
Utilizing exhaust fans in classrooms
Utilizing specifically designed disinfectant tools

Proper ventilation is critical to a healthy building. By July 31, the District staff will measure the airflow in all ventilated spaces and record the readings. The District will review the results with the HVAC vendor to determine if additional recommissioning or analysis needs to take place.

Food Service
The Hopkinton School District will follow state/federal guidance. The goal will be to return to pre-pandemic procedures as soon as possible, continuing work on reducing single-use plastics. Additionally, the schools will continue implementing outdoor eating (utilizing purchases made during the 2021-2022 school year), weather permitting.
Transportation
With the continued implementation of the vaccine and community spread low, transportation is projected to return to pre-pandemic procedures, eliminating between route sanitation. The windows will be recommended to remain open, weather permitting.

Student Wellness and Support Services/ Transition Back to School
A continued effort will be made to connect with families throughout the year, emphasizing September. Assessment during the beginning of the year will include both academic and social-emotional areas. The feedback received will guide the implementation of micro (family) and macro (grade level/school) services. The District will utilize the Hopkinton School District Family Support Team to aid in program planning.

Student Services
The District will ensure the continuity of services supporting student academic, social, and emotional needs throughout the 21-22 school year. The work will continue the effort made during the 2020-2021 school year. Individual and school-based teams are charged with overseeing the successful implementation of student support services.

Athletics and other outdoor activities
The schools look forward to returning to pre-pandemic athletic and outdoor activity procedures. The increasing implementation of the vaccine and low community spread will support participation without masks for the athletes and spectators. A review of data will be completed before the winter season to guide the recommendations for in-door sports.

Contingency Planning
Contingency planning will be the responsibility of the Leadership Teams with guidance from the school nurses and building-level committees. Significant changes will be brought to the school board.

Staff Training
All staff will be trained on new or updated safety protocols related specifically to COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted,

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Superintendent of Schools