

# NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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**John A. Provost, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

**Camie Lamica, CPA.**  
Business Administrator

November 6, 2020

Dear Community Members,

We are writing to share updates regarding the District's move towards a hybrid learning plan. An alternative plan for the Pre-K and Elementary School levels has been proposed by NASE in response to the 6 school-level hybrid plans developed by the administration. These plans came out of the School Committee's and NASE's shared desire to offer more robust learning for our students who remain all-remote during the full day hybrid model that had been voted on by the School Committee. The School Committee has received feedback from all sides regarding educators' and the overall community's strong desire to be able to offer a hybrid model that supports both in-person and synchronous remote learning for those for whom it is best while not disrupting fully-remote learning for those who need or prefer it. All community members, from caregivers to teachers to administrators, have strongly voiced the importance of students remaining with their current teachers when possible, as well as a model that is logistically feasible for teachers and administrators.

Whichever model is selected by the School Committee will allow the District to maximize the number of students who remain with their current teacher in our younger grades. However, we know our employees have a variety of individual situations, and not all of them will be able to teach or work in-person, potentially resulting in some students needing to change teachers regardless of the model selected. Under both models, full-time or part-time remote teaching positions created at each grade level would allow families that want to keep their current all-remote schedule to do so. However, the remote classroom, including the peers, the teacher and staff support may be different.

No plan is perfect; each presents different pros and cons. At a special meeting scheduled for this coming Monday, November 9th, at 6:45pm, the School Committee will discuss the two following models, hold public comment so that it can get community feedback, and then vote to either adopt the half-day hybrid plan or maintain the full day hybrid plan for the Pre-K and Elementary grades. Both plans are outlined below. It is due to community input that we are considering an alternative model, and so are seeking community input as to which could best meet the articulated needs of the district. If you want to participate in the meeting here is a link to the website where the agenda (with the zoom login info) will be posted: <http://www.northamptonma.gov/AgendaCenter/Northampton-School-Committee-58/>

Here are the two models being considered by the School Committee at this time:

**Amended Full Day Hybrid Model for Pre-K to 5: Two days of fully in-person learning for hybrid students.** Remote-only students can stay with their assigned class or be assigned to a remote-only class to stay on the same remote-only schedule they have had from the start of the school year. Those included below are those who opt to stay with their current class.

Sample Schedule, Teacher #1

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
All students choosing <b>in person</b> for class #1.  Full Day - some students may split time between classroom teacher and ESP	All students choosing <b>in person</b> for class #1.  Full Day - some students may split time between classroom teacher and ESP	O Day  At least 1 hour synchronous with all students.	Same schedule that we have now—full day remote with all students.	Same schedule that we have now—full day remote with all students.
Morning Check in for Remote Students (with directions/schedule for the day)	Morning Check in for Remote Students (with directions/schedule for the day)			

Sample Schedule, Teacher #2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Same schedule that we have now—full day synchronous remote with all students.	Same schedule that we have now—full day synchronous remote with all students.	O Day  At least 1 hour synchronous with all students.	All students choosing <b>in person</b> for class #2. Full Day - some students may split time between classroom teacher and ESP	All students choosing <b>in person</b> for class #2. Full Day - some students may split time between classroom teacher and ESP
			Morning Check in for Remote Students (with directions/schedule for the day)	Morning Check in for Remote Students (with directions/schedule for the day)

**NASE’s proposed plan for Pre-K to 5: Two half days of fully in-person learning for hybrid students** - High risk students receiving in person instruction will maintain their current schedule.

Depending on the numbers, additional high risk students may be able to come for four half days. As with the above plan, remote-only students can stay with their assigned class or be assigned to a remote-only classroom to stay on the same remote-only schedule they have had from the start of the school year. Those included below are those who opt to stay with their current class.

Sample schedule:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm	Group A in person	Group A in person	Entire class synchronous up to 2 hours	Group B in person	Group B in person

	Group B asynchronous Remote only asynchronous	Group B asynchronous Remote only asynchronous		Group A asynchronous Remote only asynchronous	Group A asynchronous Remote only asynchronous
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)
12:45pm - 2:20pm	Remote only synchronous Group B synchronous Group A asynchronous	Remote only synchronous Group B synchronous Group A asynchronous		Remote only synchronous Group A synchronous Group B asynchronous	Remote only synchronous Group A synchronous Group B asynchronous
2:20pm - 3:00pm	Teacher prep	Teacher prep	Teacher prep	Teacher prep	Teacher prep

Sample Schedule accounting for remote-only students with remote-only teachers:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm	Group A in person Group B asynchronous	Group A in person Group B asynchronous	Entire class synchronous up to 2 hours	Group B in person Group A asynchronous	Group B in person Group A asynchronous
12:00pm - 12:45pm	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)	Lunch (not in school)
12:45pm - 2:20pm	Group B synchronous Group A asynchronous	Group B synchronous Group A asynchronous		Group A synchronous Group B asynchronous	Group A synchronous Group B asynchronous
2:20pm - 3:00pm	Teacher prep	Teacher prep	Teacher prep	Teacher prep	Teacher prep

While there are still numerous details to iron out, our hope is to provide as much information at the present moment as we can so you may weigh the pros and cons of these hybrid models for you and your elementary level students. We look forward to hearing from you, either via email or during Monday's public comment period to help inform the School Committee's final determination.

Sincerely,  
The Northampton School Committee

