



July 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians for Harvard Students,

I hope that your family has enjoyed the summer so far. While Independence Day did not include local fireworks and parades, many of you may have enjoyed outside fun in the warm weather. Now that the holiday is over, we are busy planning for the potential opening of school in the fall. We continue to attend meetings with the Commissioner, other districts, and our own working groups. At this point, we are following the Commissioner's guidance to prepare for three possible opening scenarios from the (1) prioritized full in-person schooling, to (2) hybrid – ½ of the students in at a time, with ½ remote, or (3) full remote schooling. Based on the data being reviewed weekly, the Department of Education will provide updated guidance in the weeks ahead.

Much of our planning is focused on the safety measures detailed in the Commissioner's [guidance](#) provided on June 26th and previously sent to you. One example of our preparations includes the investigation of pre-ordering the desks for the new elementary school to allow us to switch from tables in classrooms to individual desks spaced further apart. We are ordering plexiglass shields, cleaning equipment, masks, and gloves. We are evaluating room furniture and removing items to increase floor space and facilitate student movement. Finally, working groups are reviewing class schedules and lunch procedures all in an effort to produce the best draft plans for our district. Once these plans are ready for review, we will send them out to you for further input.

To help with our planning, we are sending you an initial survey. (contact us for the link) Please take a few minutes to complete this survey for each of your school-age children. We will consider this a snapshot of your thoughts at this time in the summer as we recognize that your decisions may change based on new information. I will share the results of the survey when we meet again at 7 PM on July 14th. Please contact us at 978-456-4140 for the Zoom link for this meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,

Linda G. Dwight, Superintendent