



The Amherst Pelham Education Association and Amherst Regional Public School District are pleased to announce areas of tentative agreement as a result of ongoing negotiations. We know that there is significant public interest in the phasing schedule for in-person education and the health/safety metrics that would guide the decisions on the return to buildings, and we would like to share the tentative agreements in both areas. We hope that the information below will provide a road map for students, staff, and families regarding the beginning of the school year.

Phasing schedule for in-person start dates:

Preschool, Kindergarten, First Grade, Special Populations	October 1	Elementary: 5 days per week (9:50 am - 3:10 pm) Secondary: 5 days a week (9:00 am - 2:20 pm)
Second Grade, Third Grade	October 19	5 days per week (9:50 am - 3:10 pm)
All ARPS students	November 16	Grades 4-6: either 2 days per week or 5 days per week*(9:50 am - 3:10 pm) Grades 7-12: 1 day per week (expanded to two days in February) (9:00 am - 2:20 pm)

**Depending on transportation and space; to be determined once binding family surveys are sent and results are analyzed (early October)*

Health/Safety

The ARPS Districts and the APEA have agreed to the following public health and safety metrics that will guide our student and staff transition into in-person learning as listed above. In person-school will begin provided there are:

- a. fewer than 28 new cases per week per 100,000 (using a 7-day rolling average) in Hampshire, Franklin and Hampden counties, with a weighting of .8 for Hampshire County, .1 for Franklin County, and .1 for Hampden County,
- b. **and** the positive test rate (using a 14-day rolling average) in Hampshire, Franklin, and Hampden, with a weighting of .8 for Hampshire County, .1 for Franklin County, and .1 for Hampden County, is less than 2.5%

Additionally, the reopening of school will be tied to our facilities meeting or exceeding guidance set by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). We are grateful for the mutual dedication of all individuals involved in ensuring an equitable and safe return to learning for our community and are excited to work with our families and students to ensure the best school year possible. More details will be forthcoming.