



Timothy L. Sneed
Executive Director

Joretha Lewis
Principal

July 22, 2020

Greeting Baystate Academy families:

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far, given the circumstance we currently find ourselves in. I wanted to provide you with an update on the activities we are engaged in to develop a School Re-Opening Plan to start the new school year.

We have been meeting and having discussions with the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to determine the best approach for opening school, **with the first priority being the safety of our students and staff.** These discussions have produced some guidelines that will inform how schools will move forward in the fall.

Schools have been asked to prepare a "Preliminary Re-Opening Plan" and submit to DESE by July 31st. This plan will outline our approach to re-opening school in one of three ways. 1. Totally remote learning, 2. School 100% in person and 3. A hybrid of the two where students will alternate between being in school for part of the week and learning remotely from home the other part of the week.

In all three of these models, we have outlined six focus areas:

1. Academic Systems and Supports for students
2. Family Engagement and Supports
3. Health and Safety Operations
4. Educator Professional Development
5. Social Emotional Learning and Supports
6. Stakeholder engagement (input from families, students, teachers, board of directors and community partners)

DESE will review our preliminary plan, offer feedback and may provide additional guidance. We will prepare a final plan and submit to the Commissioner of DESE by August 11th. That final plan will be communicated to families and posted on the BACPS website.

We have asked families to provide their input on the schools re-opening via an on-line survey at <https://forms.gle/QbiRqH7FejLqTuB2A> . You may also direct your questions, comments and concerns directly to me at tsneed@bacps.net or 413-366-5103.

We look forward to having your scholar back in school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy L. Sneed".

Timothy L. Sneed
Executive Director