



## WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future*

ABIGAIL C. HANSCOM  
Director of Student Services

June 22, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing today for two purposes; to invite your feedback on Remote Learning as we close out the year and to share information related to the Extended School Year (ESY) programming the District is offering this summer.

Please consider sharing your feedback and reflections on the provision of Student Services support during Remote Learning via the survey linked [HERE](#). It will be open for the next month and your input will be included as the District's fall reopening working groups begin in July.

The District has received preliminary guidance and information from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) that WPS is encouraged to provide ESY services both remotely and in person this summer. While the District continues to await the final DESE guidance documents, we have been informed that ESY services may be able to begin after July 6th. Given this information, we are actively planning and preparing for ESY programming in both remote and in-person formats. As of today, our goal is to have ESY staff report to work on Monday, July 6th for a full day of training and preparation. Students would then begin ESY services the following day, Tuesday, July 7th. With this date in mind, we are planning the following:

The District has identified two locations for ESY services in order to create a manageable footprint for cleaning and disinfection of student work spaces. Preschool, Middle School and High School in-person programming will be based at the High School building and preschool location attached to the High School. Elementary in-person programming will be based at the Downey Elementary School. The District has partnered with the Town Recreation Department and all Recreation programming will occur separately at the Martha Jones Elementary School location.

Using the current guidance from DESE, the District has purchased Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for ESY staff to use. This is in addition to the larger PPE order for the entire school District for September. [The DESE document that informs ESY planning and PPE ordering can be found HERE and is a helpful resource if you have questions related to PPE.](#)

Using CDC information and Guidance from DESE, the District has created training materials for ESY staff. These materials are informed by the guidance shared by DESE for programming specific to students with disabilities and for young children from the Department of Early Education and Care.

The School District's Facilities Department has created a cleaning protocol and staffing plan to prepare and maintain the two ESY locations both prior to and during ESY programming to standards dictated by the State for cleaning and disinfection. We are very appreciative of their hard work and are collaborating with them on entry/exit, signage, room layout and other logistical planning.

The District has surveyed parents and expects to offer both remote and in-person ESY services until August 14th. At that time, ESY services will cease and the two buildings will undergo an intensive cleaning to prepare them for school on September 2nd.

The District has also surveyed parents regarding ESY transportation and is working with our specialized transportation vendor, VanPool, to review their cleaning, disinfection and seating arrangements. They have indicated that they can begin service the week of July 6th.

Based on guidance from DESE, the District has identified additional students for ESY programming (both in person and remote) in response to a student's limited participation with remote learning during the Spring or other areas of vulnerability. We have offered additional support services this summer beyond the students for whom we traditionally provide ESY services based on IEPs.

While program dates may be shorter this year than in previous summers, the District is working hard to prepare appropriately for both ESY and September and will continue to communicate directly with parents of students who are eligible for ESY going forward about ESY specific information such as transportation plans, entry/exit protocols, and students for whom wearing a face covering presents specific difficulty. Contacts for each level of ESY programming are:

PreSchool and Elementary:	Lisa Freedman	<a href="mailto:lfreedman@westwood.k12.ma.us">lfreedman@westwood.k12.ma.us</a>
Middle School:	Edith Graichen	<a href="mailto:egraichen@westwood.k12.ma.us">egraichen@westwood.k12.ma.us</a>
High School and WPS Transition Program:	Robin Fabiano	<a href="mailto:rfabiano@westwood.k12.ma.us">rfabiano@westwood.k12.ma.us</a>

We very much appreciate the community's support and flexibility as we continue to respond and adjust to each new update from DESE on the topic of ESY and will continue to provide more information as we proceed.

Thank you,



Abby Hanscom  
Director of Student Services