



**SOUTH PORTLAND
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

**Planning for the 2021-22 School Year:
South Portland Schools Full In-Person
Learning Plan**

School Board Workshop

June 9, 2021



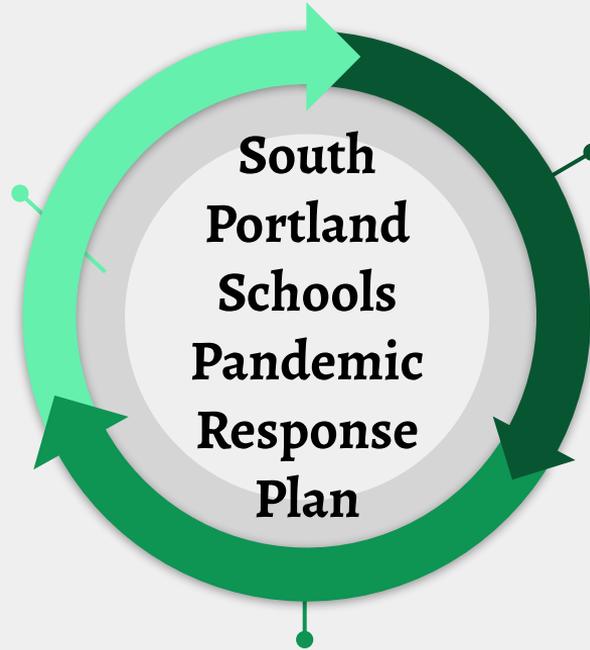
“Enriching lives through quality learning for ALL” means a South Portland Schools plan for 2021-22 that...

- Holds the **health and safety** of students, staff and community as the primary consideration
- By design strives to ensure **equitable access** to opportunity for ALL of our students
- Is built to be **flexible** and to address multiple possible scenarios



A planning cycle...

Public Input &
School Board Approval
Family & community input;
School Board consideration &
action



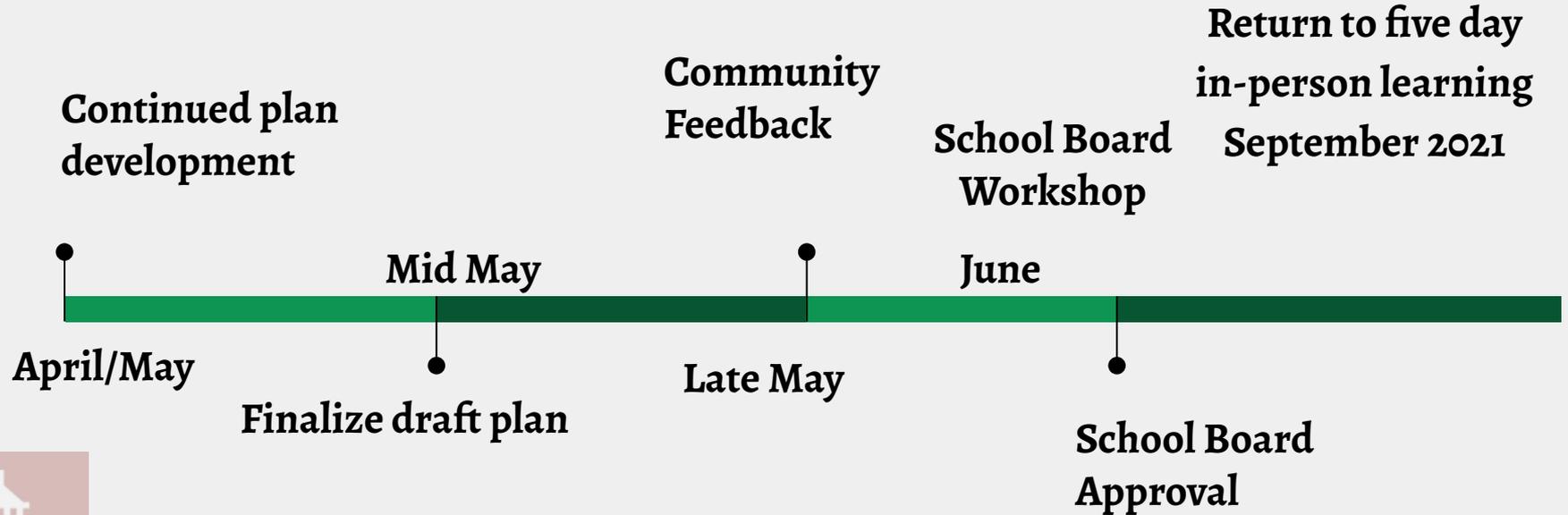
Research & Development
Study by District Health,
Operations and Educator
Leadership Teams; Conduct
Family & Staff surveys

Plan Development
District leadership team develops plan; Broadly
representative Advisory Group reviews plan



South Portland School Department

Planning for 2021-22 - A Timeline



A Lens for Decision Making

As we review possible plans we are considering the follow lenses for thinking about all of the possible options:

1. By design strives to ensure equitable access to opportunity for ALL of our students
2. Practices and protocols as outlined by the CDC and our health staff will be in place and can be followed
3. Students will receive in-person instruction five days per week
4. Plans for periodic remote or hybrid if public health advisories dictate
5. The plan must be doable and sustainable



Family Surveys

We surveyed SPSD families in late April and received 1388 responses with each response representing one student. The surveys were sent out in English (1356 responses), Portuguese (10 responses), French(9 responses), Spanish (11 responses) and Arabic (2 responses).

- As of the date of the survey 83.6% (1161) felt very comfortable or comfortable returning to full time in-person learning in September and only 2.4% (31) felt extremely uncomfortable/worried
- While 70% of those responding indicated that hybrid learning has gone Ok (34%) or very well/great (36%), comments indicated a strong desire to return to full time in-person learning
- Families provided a broad range of comments that assisted in planning



Staff Surveys

We surveyed SPSD staff in late April and received 448 responses out of approximately 650 full, part time and substitute staff.

- 97% of staff responding indicate they are or will be vaccinated by September
- 96% note that they feel safe/comfortable or relatively safe/comfortable returning to in-person instruction full time in the fall
- Staff provided many useful ideas that supported ongoing planning for 2021-22



South Portland Schools: Reopening Fall 2021

Highlights of the [SPSD Reopening Plan Draft](#)

School Highlights:

- Reopen all schools to in-person instruction five (5) days per week for all students with regular school hours.
- We will not be offering a distance learning option for 2021-22.
- Utilize federal funding for additional staffing, facility improvements related to health and safety, furniture, supplies as needed.
- Utilize federal funding to ensure services to provide equitable access to opportunity and to accelerate learning through additional in-school, after school and summer learning programs and supports.



School Highlights (continued):

- Students will continue to be in cohorts that will be expanded from single classroom cohorts to grade level or grade span cohorts in the fall.
- In order to create additional classrooms due to increasing enrollment at Skillin and to meet distancing requirements, the three fifth grade classes at Skillin will be placed at Memorial, the two fifth grade classes at Brown will be placed at Mahoney and Skillin PreK placed at Brown. Other schools are projected to have adequate space.
- Return to our highly valued extracurricular and co-curricular activities following the then applicable Maine CDC and MDOE guidance. We anticipate a much more normal and joyous level of activity across our schools with music and athletics.



Health & Safety Highlights:

- Continue to follow all [Maine CDC guidance](#) and [Maine DOE Six requirements](#) for safely reopening school.
- The 3-foot classroom distancing guideline for students will be followed district-wide.
- The 6-foot distance requirement for unmasked students while eating and drinking will be followed district-wide.
- Maintain current level of nursing staff, with one full time nurse in each elementary and middle school and two nurses at the high school.
- **Strongly encourage COVID-19 vaccination for all staff, students and community members as it becomes available.**



Transportation

- We will need families' help with transportation for one more year if guidelines do not change for the fall. With limited numbers allowed on buses our fleet is stretched beyond capacity.
- During the summer SPSD will contact all families eligible for transportation to determine if they require bussing.
- Special Education students who have transportation written into their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will receive transportation as specified in their IEP. We would however welcome parents transporting students when and if feasible. Please reach out to your child's case manager if you are not sure if transportation is in your child's IEP.



Questions and Board discussion

We have administrators representing all levels and departments available to answer questions from School Board members. Public will have the opportunity to make comments or ask questions during the public comment period of the workshop.

