



# NASHOBA

## Regional School District

50 Mechanic Street Bolton, Massachusetts 01740

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing you today to provide you with an update regarding extended school year services (ESY). Given the pandemic and the extended time our students have been away from school, the district has remained committed to planning for in-person services. Recently at the June 5<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting, I outlined the potential plans for ESY services with the continued intent for in-person ESY. Earlier this week the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released Initial [Summer School Re-Opening Guidance](#). The guidance indicates that districts must complete the following tasks prior to summer school opening:

1. *Identify high-priority students most at need for in-person summer services and communicate with families.*
2. *Identify, hire, and onboard appropriate staff.*
3. *Identify and purchase necessary protective equipment.*
4. *Develop situation-specific protocols as indicated in this document and in the additional resources provided. Modify any existing health and safety plans and/or school protocols as needed due to COVID-19.*
5. *Develop a training plan that includes identification of the staff needing to be trained, procurement of resources and trainers, and a system to confirm all necessary training is completed prior to in-person instruction.*

We are pleased to inform you that given we begin planning for services in December each year, we already have hired all of our teachers and related service providers who will work with our students this summer. In addition, we anticipated the need to alter our site locations and have already devised a plan to account for social distancing and providing outdoor spaces for each ESY site. We are also using the data from the survey we sent regarding students' ability to tolerate mask wearing to establish schedules and timeframes for programming and offering breaks outdoors. In addition, we hired a second nurse who will be onsite to support our programs.

We are prioritizing services based upon DESE guidance, and fully intend to offer in-person services to students who participate in our district programs. In addition, we also have planned for in-person services for students who require intensive academic supports as well. Please know we are in the planning stages of how to services all of these students, keeping in mind the requirement of social distancing, the need to purchase medical equipment and creating a health and safety plan and training with our school nurse leader, and the extensive DESE guidance that we are required to follow. This means that we will be implementing a hybrid model of in-person and remote services to account for needs of students and classroom sizes for students in our district programs. Please know we used our creativity of how to provide remote services, by planning themes and remote activities bags while students are home. For students who typically receive drop in services for academics and related services we will be providing these services remotely.

While we had expected to open ESY on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, this likely will be delayed. Although we have the majority of the plan in place, we need to be sure that all the necessary medical supplies are on-site prior to opening. Our hope is to open the program on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, provided we can meet the requirements.

In terms of transportation, currently our contractor does not have an established plan to safely transport students. This year, we are asking that parents transport students to and from their assigned location, and the district will be reimbursing parents for mileage. I know this likely is a burden on some families and if in extreme circumstances you are unable to transport your child please reach out to my office. I will do my best to work on a solution with you.

The following is a list of locations that have been identified for services this summer:

Little Friends- Mary Rowlandson Elementary

Friends I- Mary Rowlandson Elementary

Friends II- Mary Rowlandson Elementary

PACE Middle School- Luther Burbank Middle School

PACE High School- Nashoba Regional High School

Transitions-Emerson Building

Learning LAB-The Emerson Building

Early RISE and RISE-Nashoba Regional High School

CLASS and Middle Connections-Nashoba Regional High School

In the next week, you will be receiving an ESY schedule for your child. Please know that in the event you do not wish to take advantage of our services, you can elect to continue with remote learning. We respect the individual decisions families will make during this unprecedented time.

I hope this finds you all well and safe.

Sincerely yours,

*Joan M. DeAngelis*

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Director of Pupil Personnel Services









