



The Milton Public Schools



STUDENT LEARNING TIME
January 6, 2021

New student learning time (SLT) regulations

- Adopted by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on December 15th
- New regulations are effective January 19, 2021
- Regulations are legally binding and non-compliance without a waiver will result in needing to make up the necessary structured learning time by the end of the school year



Amended SLT regulations for hybrid models

- **Hybrid model SLT regulation #1:** all hybrid models must provide a minimum of 35 hours of live instruction over a 10-school day period averaged across the grades in the hybrid model
- **Hybrid model SLT regulation #2:** a daily live check-in with students is required on all school days
- A grade level within a school will be considered as hybrid if **all students have the opportunity to attend school in-person some of the time** (some might have chosen to opt-out)

Synchronous Learning

- Definition
 - "learning that is directed by a teacher and that happens in real time with other students, such as during live, whole-class instruction, and small group work"
- Counts as synchronous instruction
 - Live online classes
 - Livestreaming
 - Small group instruction
- Does not count as synchronous instruction
 - "Office Hours" or other optional check-in opportunities



Waiver Process

- Waiver requests will be considered based on the following circumstances:
 - High level of student engagement in asynchronous instruction
 - Alternative education
 - Operational constraints in a hybrid learning model
 - Synchronous methods are reaching a meaningful number of students during scheduled asynchronous time, even if these methods do not reach all students
 - Family satisfaction
- Submitted from Superintendent or Charter School Leader to the Commissioner by email to SLTsupport@mass.gov
- DESE will respond by close of business on 1/12/21 to waivers received by 5pm on 1/7/21 or sooner
- Prepare for all outcomes with waiver request

Summary of the Elementary Hybrid Model

Students will be divided into two groups- **Group A** and **Group B**:

Group A is at School Learning (3 hours): Monday, Thursday, and every other Wednesday.

Group B is at School Learning (3 hours): Tuesday, Friday, and every other Wednesday.

At School Learning will focus on instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies

At Home Learning includes:

Live sessions with the Classroom Teacher(s) and Service Providers (if an “at home learning” day)

Live sessions with Specialists

Live sessions with the Spanish teacher (English Innovation Pathway)

Well planned, connected independent and collaborative learning experiences that include practice, extension, and application

Summary of the Middle School Hybrid Model

Students will be divided into two groups- **Group 1** and **Group 2**:

Group 1 is At School Learning for 4 class periods on Day 1 and Day 3

Group 2 is At School Learning for 4 class periods on Day 2 and Day 4

On the days opposite those noted above, students are At Home Learning

At School Learning will be planned to capitalize on students being in-person

At Home Learning includes: well planned, connected independent and collaborative learning experiences that include practice, extension, and application

Summary of the High School Hybrid Model

Students will be divided into two groups- **Group 1** and **Group 2**

Group 1 is At School Learning for 4 class periods on Day 1 and Day 3

Group 2 is At School Learning for 4 class periods on Day 2 and Day 4

On the days opposite those noted above, students are At Home Learning

At School Learning will be planned to capitalize on students being in-person

At Home Learning includes: well planned, connected independent and collaborative learning experiences that include practice, extension, and application

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December 10, 2020

Based on the data submitted in the November Student Learning Time (SLT) survey, Milton is preliminarily **not cleared** to meet the new SLT standards set by DESE. Per these standards,

- Remote districts must provide an average of at least 40 hours of synchronous instruction over 2 academic weeks and have no fully asynchronous days in their schedule
- Hybrid districts must provide an average of at least 35 hours of live* instruction over 2 academic weeks
- Blended districts (some combination of In-person, Hybrid, and Remote at various grade levels) must meet the regulation that corresponds with each grade level's instructional model

*Live instruction is defined as the sum of in-person and remote synchronous instruction.

Please see below for additional information related to the data submitted in your November SLT Survey response. As a reminder, this data reflects your instructional model and schedule as of the week of November 2, 2020. Blank data indicates no survey response.

While this report indicates a preliminary clearance determination based on the four grades collected in the SLT survey, districts are responsible for ensuring that SLT requirements are met across all grades served for the appropriate instructional model.

DESE SLT Survey Report

Preliminary Status:	Not Cleared
Preliminary Reason:	Hybrid live hours less than 35
Hybrid additional minutes needed per day over two weeks:	15

Additional Detail:

Instructional Model as of November 2, 2020				
Grade 1	Grade 4	Grade 7	Grade 10	Overall Model
Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid

Live Instructional Hours as of November 2, 2020				
Grade 1	Grade 4	Grade 7	Grade 10	Average per 2 Academic Weeks
30	30	35	35	33

FAQ

Why can't we eat lunch in school, especially since we are 6 feet apart in the hybrid model?

Eating in person was associated with higher covid rate and higher percent positive. We are also using portions of the cafeterias, libraries and gymnasiums to support us in the hybrid model.

Why are we not doing 3' if DESE said 3 feet in school is ok?

DESE stated “the distance of 6 feet is preferred whenever feasible but that the minimum acceptable distance is 3 feet”. Remember, when schools opened, there were so many unknowns and the district put safety first.

Why aren't we renegotiating the MOA for more in person time?

Please note, Milton's Educators' Association **did not** negotiate the current model. Subsequent to the School Committee's vote the MEA engaged in impact bargaining around the approved model. We are currently discussing with the MEA our three options that were discussed at the School Committee meeting on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

Why are connection time, office house and advisory counted in the hours to meet the required hours? Why do we have those classes at all in this environment, when kids have so much down time?

These hours were not counted to meet these requirements. Remember, this survey conducted in November without the knowledge that this information was being used to assist in the development of new expectations that would announce on December 31, 2020.

FAQ

Why is my child dismissed from online class after 10, 15, 20 min on a regular basis? If your child is dismissed 10 minutes after a class starts, you should communicate directly with that teacher or School Principal. There is a difference between students being officially dismissed and a teacher assigning asynchronous work during a scheduled class session.

Why did the district switch from all day hybrid to ½ day hybrid back in August? Mary and RTS group came up with full day hybrid, Mary retired and James Jette switched us to ½ day hybrid and immediately disbanded the RTS task force? I was fortunate to be appointed Superintendent on Wednesday night, August 26th. The current plan was submitted to DESE and emailed to families on Friday, August 14th. Yes, I made incremental changes however; those changes incorporated some live streaming and on November 30th, our students on IEPs in some of our sub-separate programs started to come to school for a full day.

Based on what we know now, what would be the time we could implement more time in school? Considering the Health Metrics and where we are in the next couple of weeks, we are looking to February.

How much time are we truly short on live learning? Can we do better than the minimum? We are short by approximately five (5) hours across the elementary schools. Many districts are short at the elementary levels but due to live streaming with Middle and High Schools, their district “average” made up for their elementary shortfall.

What does the next step for more in person time look like at each level? We will meet the DESE expectations by November 19th and we are also looking at a plan for early February.

FAQ

Are we truly in the bottom 5th percentile for in-person learning among 242 school districts in the Hybrid/In-person MA schools? Did we fall short of this news guidance? We need to make up a minimum of 5 total hours at the elementary level but as a district we were short by an average of 15 minutes/day. (See the SLT Report in slides 9 & 10)

Can older students stream in on a regular basis instead of starting their school day at 1pm on remote days? Yes, this is a possibility and something we are currently working on!

Why aren't we reinstating the RTS task force? Why did it disband to start with? The Return to School Task Force (RTS) was established back on May 21, 2020. This group and its subcommittees met regularly throughout the spring and more so throughout the summer. As part of this committee myself, there was never any discussion about this group continuing throughout the school year.

Why isn't MPS more transparent with numbers of cases and if there is spread in school? The school has been very transparent about cases. I report this information to DESE every Wednesday afternoon and it becomes public on DESE's website every Thursday. Unfortunately, there have been discrepancies. I stated in my most recent communication that I will be sharing that same information on Thursdays in my weekly email.

- Navigation
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- COVID-19 Cases
- COVID-19 Testing
- Hospitalization
- COVID-19 Deaths
- Higher Ed & LTCF
- Patient Breakdown
- City and Town
- Resources
- Data Export

Cases

Confirmed Cases
Today there were 4,178 new, confirmed cases reported bringing the total to 379,633 total confirmed cases.

Probable Cases
Today, there were 456 new, probable cases reported bringing the total to 17,569 total probable cases.

Estimated Active Cases
There are an estimated 79,406 currently active COVID-19 cases.

Cases by age during the last two weeks
*Data updated weekly

Age Group	Cases
0-19 Years	9,814
20-29 Years	9,907
30-39 Years	8,822
40-49 Years	7,895
50-59 Years	8,695
60-69 Years	6,156
70-79 Years	3,121
80+ Years	2,441

Testing

Tests Reported
There were 59,718 new COVID-19 molecular tests reported, bringing the cumulative total to 11,206,212 tests.

Turn Around Time
The current turn around time for a molecular test is 3.10 days.

Percent Positivity
The 7-day average of percent positivity is 8.57%.

Hospitalizations

Hospitalizations
There are 2,428 patients hospitalized for COVID-19.

ICU & Intubated Patients
There are 425 patients in Intensive Care Units (ICU) and 264 patients are intubated.

Average Age of Patients
The average age of patients currently hospitalized for COVID-19 is 73 years old.

Deaths

Confirmed Deaths
There were 63 new, confirmed deaths reported. There have been 12,464 confirmed deaths in total.

Probable Deaths
There were 0 new, probable deaths reported. There have been 270 probable deaths in total.

For details on the definitions of each indicator hover over the box or graph. All data included in this dashboard are preliminary and subject to change. Data Sources: COVID-19 Data provided by the Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences and the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics; COVID-19 Hospitalization Data provided by the MDPH survey of hospitals (hospital survey data are self-reported); Created by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences, Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services.