



**DOVER SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

DOVER SCHOOL BOARD – AGENDA

Meeting Type:	Special Session
Meeting Location:	McConnell Center, Room 306
Meeting Date:	Monday, February 19, 2024
Meeting Time:	To immediately follow the 6:00 p.m. School Board Workshop

- A. CALL TO ORDER**
- B. ROLL CALL**
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. CITIZENS' FORUM** *(Limited to Agenda Items Only)*
- E. RESIGNATIONS**
 - 1. Courtney Jennings – Grade 5 Teacher – Dover Middle School – Resignation
 - 2. Katelyn Maroon – Grade 3 Teacher – Garrison Elementary School - Resignation
- F. DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT 2023-2024 RE-ENTRY PLAN**
- G. ADJOURNMENT**

All meetings conducted by the School Board are open to the public except for times when the School Board enters non-public session.

Citizens, residents of the City of Dover, property owners in the City of Dover, and/or designated representatives of recognized civic organizations or businesses located in the City of Dover and/or residents of sending school districts, are invited to all public meetings, and shall be given an opportunity to speak. Time shall be set aside for citizen statements, Citizen's Forum, at all public meetings, unless a vote to the contrary is taken by the School Board.

Citizens shall identify themselves by name and address for the record, address comments to the presiding officer and the Board as a body and not individual members.

Citizen's Forum will ensure citizens have the opportunity to speak to all other items on a meeting agenda and/or matters pertaining to the business of the School Board. At workshop meetings and special sessions, Citizens' Forum will be restricted to items on the meeting agenda. Statements shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless otherwise extended by the chairperson, with the approval of the School Board.

All citizens are permitted to place items on the agenda through written application to the Superintendent at least one week prior to the meeting date. Citizen items will require a formal motion and a second by seated members to bring the item to the floor for debate.

From: Courtney Jennings <C.Jennings@dover.k12.nh.us>

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 12:16 PM

To: William Harbron <w.harbron@dover.k12.nh.us>

Cc: Christine Boston <c.boston@dover.k12.nh.us>

Subject: Letter of Resignation

Dear Dr. Harbron,

Due to unforeseeable health issues, I will be unable to continue my employment as a teacher through the city of Dover. My day-to-day life has been greatly impacted by my chronic illness, and it has been extremely difficult. I am so thankful for the opportunity that was given to me and the experiences I had working in Dover, even though it was for such a small amount of time. I wish you the best in your retirement, and I appreciate your help in this matter.

Thank you,
Courtney Jennings

From: Katelyn Maroon <K.Maroon@doover.k12.nh.us>

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 12:21 PM

To: William Harbron <w.harbron@doover.k12.nh.us>

Cc: Christine Boston <c.boston@doover.k12.nh.us>; Beth Dunton <b.dunton@doover.k12.nh.us>

Subject: Letter of Resignation

Dear Dr. Harbron,

As you know, I have taken time off to take care of a family medical emergency. This has been extremely difficult on my family as this health issue is ongoing and chronic. I ask that you consider my resignation from Garrison Elementary School so I can continue to support my family in the best way I can. I have had an amazing two years working in Dover Public Schools under great leadership, and in my immediate team at two of the schools. I appreciate your help and consideration, and I hope to one day work with you all again.

Sincerely,
Katelyn Maroon



DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMPOWERING ALL LEARNERS!

2023-2024 RE-ENTRY PLAN

Originally Adopted and Approved by Dover School Board - August 9, 2021

Revised – Board Approved December 13, 2021

Revised – Board Approved August 22, 2022

No Revisions – Board Approved February 13, 2023

Revised - August 14, 2023

No Revisions – February 19, 2024

NOTE

The 2023-2024 Re-Entry Plan has been reviewed and revised to reflect the least restrictive COVID-19 protocols. School and community spread will continue to be monitored. If there is an increase in spread, the district will need to take the necessary measures permitted to mitigate the risk of further spread. The district will strive to continue in-person learning throughout the entire school year.

THE 2023-2024 OPENING OF SCHOOL PLAN

Recommendations in this plan are based on the review and guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) in conjunction with current local and state COVID data. Both organizations continuously update their guidance. Adjustments may be made in the plan based on community spread of COVID-19 or variants of COVID-19.

<u>POLICY-like: Directed or Approved by School Board</u>	<u>PROCEDURE-like: Responsibility of Superintendent</u>
▪ Any reduction in school occupancy (except an immediate, short-term shift). ▪ Process and considerations for changing these decisions. ▪ Budget and staffing changes.	▪ Hours and schedule within the school day. ▪ Transportation scheduling. ▪ School meals – breakfast and lunch. ▪ Recess/breaks. ▪ Cleaning and disinfection routines. ▪ Nursing and health screening. ▪ Precautions related to activities such as music or athletics. ▪ Student spacing, and PPE required.

For the purposes of this document, the following goals are considered:

- Provide guidance that the school community, including parents/guardians, students, staff, and administrators, can rely on with confidence knowing they will have the support of the School Board.
- Create an environment where students can physically attend school, in-person 5 days per week, with full academic and extracurricular offerings.
- Minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the schools.
- Provide guidance for staff and the community when the district would consider further relaxing or tightening the protocols indicated in the Protocols Applied to Pandemic Education (PAPE).
- Make decisions based on the latest scientific and medical guidance while adhering to state regulations.

The following are the guiding principles for the Re-Entry Plan:

- Preserving in-person learning is prioritized.

The Re-Entry Plan will change and evolve as needed:

- COVID-19 remains a dynamic situation. Recommendations are based on current data and trends. It should be noted if data and trends indicate a need to increase mitigation efforts, the district will respond accordingly with what is permitted to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, if approved.
- Guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be used to make informed decisions regarding school operations related to COVID-19.
- Families should have back-up plans in place in the event there is a need to shift to remote learning and/or a closure at some point during the school year.

Mitigation steps based on community transmission levels:

- It is beyond the ability of the district to prevent anyone in our community from getting COVID-19. However, steps can be taken to mitigate the risks while at school and work. These steps will depend on community transmission levels. **COVID-19 policies are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk.**
- The past three years have offered challenges as the Dover community and schools have had to respond to COVID-

19. The district needs to be clear as to the plans and expectations of the 2023-2024 school year. **The primary goal is to maintain in-person learning for students at all grade levels.**

- The district recognizes the state has restricted the safeguards related to masking and the closing of schools.
- School transmission reflects (but does not drive) community transmission, communities need to take all necessary measures to limit community spread of SARS CoV-2 to ensure schools can remain open and safe for students.
- It is important for the surrounding community to help protect schools and childcare programs; maintain operations; and protect children, students, teachers, and staff.
- Increasing COVID-19 in the community will translate to an increase of COVID-19 in schools and childcare programs, which will have multiple potential downstream consequences.
 - More children and staff out sick.
 - More children and staff with viral symptoms requiring testing.
 - Parents/guardians needing to take time off work.
 - School and childcare staff shortages.
 - Increased risk to people who are immunocompromised.
 - Increased risks of adverse outcomes.
- COVID-19 prevention strategies remain necessary to protect people who are not fully vaccinated. To reduce the spread, the following is recommended:
 - Masking is not required unless one falls under certain stipulations in the Isolation or Quarantine guidelines of the NHDHHS' *Response to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools*. There are individuals that may want to take preventive precautions by wearing a mask in a school environment.
 - Face masks are intended to protect the wearer and serve as "source control" to prevent someone with COVID-19 from spreading it to others.
 - Face masks have become an important mitigation tool because the CDC has estimated (JAMA article) that 50-60% of COVID-19 transmissions occur from people who are asymptomatic.
 - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has recommended universal face masks for everybody 2 years of age and older at school.
 - Wear a high-quality mask.
 - Another preventive measure is to be fully vaccinated. (NOTE: The district cannot require universal masking or COVID-19 vaccinations. It is recognized that these two actions can assist in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.) HB220 (Medical Freedom Bill) was signed by Governor Sununu. There are no vaccine mandates for public facilities in New Hampshire.
 - Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette
 - Wash or sanitize hands frequently.
 - Teach and practice good respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes).
 - Staying Home when Sick and Getting Tested
 - NH DPHS recommendation: Continue to have a low bar for excluding and testing people with new signs/symptoms of viral syndrome (e.g., fever, chills, body or muscle aches), or respiratory viral infection (e.g., sinus congestion, sore throat, runny nose, cough).

- Sick, symptomatic persons should not be allowed into schools or childcare programs.
- A symptomatic person should be tested for COVID-19.
- A fully vaccinated person with new viral symptoms should-test for COVID-19.

CORE RECOMMENDATION

The goal for the 2023-2024 school year is to open school in the fall to as close to normal as possible with minimal COVID-19 disruption.

In-person School Day: The district's definition of "minimal COVID-19 disruption" for school openings is the operation of in-person classes, five days per week, adhering to the School Board approved academic calendar. The goal is to have the majority, if not all, children attending classes in their respective classrooms. The district's schools will adhere to a traditional five-day per week schedule.

Virtual School Option: If a family elects to continue with virtual education, they will have the option to participate in the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS).

Those families desiring a virtual environment will need to enroll in VLACS as full-time students. There is also an option to take some courses in person at Dover High School and elect some courses through VLACS. Contact your high school counselor to fully understand the implications of VLACS and to learn how to enroll.

Protocols Applied to Pandemic Education (PAPE): The district is advancing through the COVID-19 Pandemic based on the guidance of NH DHHS. Currently, NH DHHS is recommending that schools use the following document and associated links within it from the CDC to guide school districts for the foreseeable future: [CDC Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#)

Health Screening: The use of a health assessment screener remains important. Individuals are asked to self-screen at home prior to arrival at school.

Masking: The wearing of masks will not be a requirement throughout the district unless one falls under certain stipulations in the Isolation or Quarantine guidelines of the NHDHHS' *Response to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools*. Although, as masks are the most effective mitigation strategy, wearing a mask while in the buildings will be an individual choice and optional unless one falls under certain stipulations in the Isolation or Quarantine guidelines of the NHDHHS' *Response to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools*.

Athletics: A full range of athletic programming for Dover Middle and Dover High School is recommended unless transmission levels change, and adjustments are needed. Individual activities may need to be adjusted to meet health and safety guidelines or New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) rules and procedures. The district will continue to monitor and to modify guidelines into the fall unless the pandemic is declared over, in which case, we would return to normal pre-pandemic rules.

Large Group Gatherings: Large group school-sponsored gatherings outside of the school day (concerts, athletics, events) will be allowed. Athletes and performers will follow the same procedures as in their classes/practices related to the event. If community and/or school spread increases, the district may place restrictions on large group gatherings.

Visitors: Non-symptomatic visitors will be allowed into school buildings. If a visitor is presenting symptoms of illness, they will not be allowed to enter. This helps to protect students, faculty, and staff.

Isolation:

- Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting testing, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms, will need to isolate.
- People who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must still isolate at home until they have met criteria for discontinuation of isolation. ***At the time of this writing, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test must isolate for 5 days. If they are***

fever-free and symptoms are improving, they may end their isolation starting on day 6 by wearing a high-quality well-fitting mask around others on days 6-10.

- All others should self-observe and monitor for symptoms.
- In an outbreak situation, NH DPHS or NH DHHS may choose to expand a quarantine to other non-household contacts to control the outbreak.
- Quarantine of an entire classroom will no longer be conducted. This could change if community spread increases to a level where public health officials, NH DPHS, or NH DHHS decide if the quarantine of an entire classroom is necessary.
- Non-household contacts will be asked to self-observe and monitor for symptoms.

Accommodations for Health and Safety Protocols:

- The district will make necessary and reasonable accommodations to health and safety protocols for students with disabilities. As needed, such determinations will be made through the established Special Education and 504 processes.
- Employees should inform their principal if there is a need for accommodations.

School Board Conditions: Following consultation and guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the following are conditions where the School Board would consider increasing restrictions and precautions:

- Unable to maintain staffing due to COVID-19 cases.
- Changes in FDA or CDC guidance regarding vaccination limitations (i.e., need for a booster injection or emergence of a variant that renders vaccines ineffective).
- Local active COVID-19 cases rise significantly.

COVID Related Challenges to Monitor: Assuming COVID-19 continues to be active, it can be predicted that some of the challenges the district may face in 2023-2024:

- Students in isolation
- Program closures
- Classroom closures
- School closures
- Athletic program pauses
- Staffing capacity issues
- Vaccine availability
- Because we have no way to verify vaccinations, truthfulness of reporting will be a challenge

Summary: The recommendations in this plan are based on the review of current CDC and NH DPHS guidance in conjunction with current local and state COVID-19 data. Both organizations continuously update their guidance on a regular basis. Community and school spread of COVID-19 and variants will determine the restrictions that need to be in place as determined by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.