



Dr. Brenda Cassellius, Superintendent  
Boston Public Schools  
Bruce C. Bolling Municipal Building  
2300 Washington Street, 5th Floor  
Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119

October 16, 2020

Dear Superintendent Cassellius:

At your request, we are providing you with our recommendation regarding Boston Public Schools' tentative plans to expand in-person learning to the high priority students with their teachers and other staff on site from two to four days a week starting Thursday, October 22, 2020.

Based on Boston Public Schools attendance data your team shared with us, you are currently providing in-person learning to approximately 1,100-1,400 students per day in a two-days a week schedule. Your proposal to increase in-person learning to four days a week will increase the number of students in school per day to approximately 1,700-1,900. This will result in an additional 500 students on a given day distributed over all Boston Public Schools, which will average less than 10 additional students per school. This seems like a relatively small number of students that this expansion will add to the BPS system.

Given the safety, prevention and public health protocols BPS has adopted and physical facilities preparation that have been put in place, the Boston Public Health Commission has determined that schools can expand offering in-person learning to the high priority students with their teachers and other staff on site to a four-days a week schedule.

As you know, we are monitoring citywide data and our Boston-specific metrics to assess if additional restrictions are needed or if the spread is too great to continue in person education for the high priority students. If at some point the data indicates a significant increase in the level of risk and we determine in-person learning is no longer safe, we will notify you immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you should have any questions or need additional guidance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rita L. Nieves".

Rita L. Nieves, RN, MPH, LICSW  
Interim Executive Director  
Boston Public Health Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer J. Lo".

Jennifer J. Lo, MD  
Medical Director  
Boston Public Health Commission