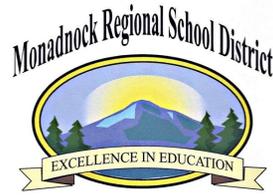


## Fall 2021 Reopening Concept

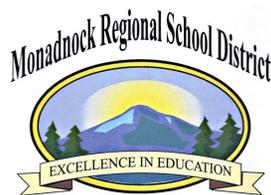
**MRSB Approved 6/15/2021**

**Update Approved 12/28/2021**



## Fall 2021 Reopening Concept

<b>Table of Contents</b>	
Executive Summary	<b>1</b>
Timeline and Team	<b>3</b>
Guiding Principles and Beliefs	<b>4</b>
Student Services	<b>5</b>
Guidance	<b>7</b>
Mitigation	<b>9</b>
Buildings and Grounds	<b>11</b>



## Executive Summary and Recommendations

### **The 2020/21 Year in Review**

We have navigated the 2020/21 school year under the guidance of our original Reopening Concept. We opened in a Hybrid Model in the fall, and on May 3rd, 2021, we transitioned back to in-person learning at all grade levels. Throughout the school year, we had between 80-85% of our students engaged with in-person learning (first in hybrid and then fully in-person), with the remaining 15-20% accessing the Remote Support option outlined in our Reopening Concept. On occasion, we shifted classrooms, cohorts, or entire schools to fully Remote Learning as warranted due to COVID-19 related issues. With some modifications and restrictions, students were able to engage in extracurricular and athletic activities throughout the year, including prom. While this year has been different and difficult, our community has been unwavering in its support and commitment to the health and safety of our students, families, and employees.

Finding the good in the midst of the not-so-great can be a challenge, and this year's prom theme of 'Silver Linings' encouraged everyone to pause and do just that. As we look back and reflect on the past year and a half, some of the things we have identified as best practices to continue as we move forward include:

### ***Soft Opening***

We started the 2020/21 school year with four 'soft opening' days, in which families would make appointments with the child(ren)s teacher(s) and principal to visit the school and have 1:1 time to ask questions, tour the building, and simply spend time in the school environment. Participation by families was very high (over 90% in all of our elementary schools) and exceeded attendance at traditional Open House by a wide margin at all grade levels. We will continue this practice in the fall of 2021/22 and for years to come.

### ***Leveraging Technology***

Technology was a critical component of the Remote Support model we were able to maintain for the 2020/21 school year. While that learning mode will not be an elective option for the future, we will continue to leverage certain aspects of the model to assist students who must be absent from school for extended periods of time.

### ***Social and Emotional Support***

For students, families, and employees alike, balancing life and school in the midst of the pandemic was no easy task. As a District, we started the school year with a focus on social and emotional well-being with a kick-off workshop for our employees with Lynn Lyons, a leader in the area of self-care and social emotional needs of children and adults. We increased the number of school counselors for students at the elementary level, and increased our outreach to families and employees to provide information and resources throughout the pandemic. Moving forward, the District will maintain the increased level of school counselors at our elementary schools and continue to provide resources and support for the social and emotional wellness needs of our community.

**Summer 2021 and the 2021/22 Year to Come**

While we would like to say everything will be 'back to normal' for our return to school in the fall of 2021, the reality is that we don't really know for sure what 'normal' is going to look like in the future. Any plan we make must be fluid and adaptable, as updated guidance seems to be issued almost daily with local and state governments shifting policies and rules just as frequently. A key element of the Fall 2021 Reopening Concept is a commitment to follow prevailing guidance issued by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) unless the Monadnock Regional School Board (MRSB) takes action to adjust elements of that guidance to best meet the needs of the Monadnock community.

The following pages address four broad categories related to school operations.

**Student services** includes models for instruction, student support, nutrition, and student activities.

**Guidance** includes policies for prevention related to COVID-19.

**Mitigation** includes strategies for reducing the risk of illness and general best hygiene practices.

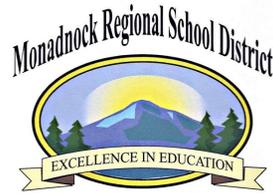
**Buildings and grounds** includes policies for facilities (including busses and transportation).

"Back to normal" has yet to be defined - and it will be moving target for some time to come. Perhaps saying 'we will return to as normal as possible' would be a more accurate way to approach the upcoming school year. No matter how we define it and no matter what happens, over the past year and a half we have demonstrated that no matter what happens, the Monadnock community will rise to the challenge. #celebrateMRSD

[MRSD Reopening Concept - Approved August 4, 2020](#)

[NH DHHS Resources for Schools](#)

[NHIAA Guidance](#)



## Timeline and Teams

- May 30th - Community survey closes
- June 1st - School Board review of survey input, first draft
- June 3rd - Full Administrative Team review of first draft
- June 7th - Second draft shared with School Board and posted on webpage
- June 15th - School Board review of second draft, discussion and vote
- June 23rd - Approved plan due to the New Hampshire Department of Education
- December 23rd - Due date for required readoption of plan per ESSER grant requirements

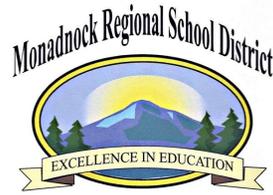
### SAU Leadership Team

Lisa A. Witte, Superintendent of Schools  
Jeremy Rathbun, Assistant Superintendent  
Catherine Woods, Director of Student Services  
Janel Morin, Business Administrator

### Full Administrative Team

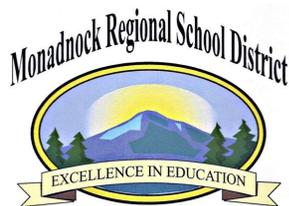
Lisa A. Witte, Superintendent of Schools  
Jeremy Rathbun, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment  
Catherine Woods, Director of Student Services  
Janel Morin, Business Administrator  
Tony Breen, Director of Facilities  
Tom Walsh, Director of Nutrition Services  
Frannie Ashworth, Director of Project Beyond the Bell  
Chris Czifrik, Director of Technology  
Linda Health, Assistant Director of Project Beyond the Bell

Deb Davis-Young, Special Education Coordinator  
Kathryn Schnare, Special Education Coordinator  
Lisa Spencer, Principal  
Melissa Suarez, Principal  
Audrey Salzmann, Principal  
Lori Stevens, Principal  
Kevin Stone, Principal  
Taylene Givetz, Teaching Principal  
Tom Cote, Athletic Director



## **Guiding Principles/Beliefs (Adopted in August, 2020)**

- ✓ Safety First - Prioritizing the health and safety of our students and families, our employees, and our community.
- ✓ Recognizing the need for face-to-face interaction and communication for social and emotional connections and direct instruction.
- ✓ Addressing the myriad of emotions and reactions that accompany the current pandemic situation, creating a level of comfort and feeling safe for our students and families, our employees, and our community around returning to school.
- ✓ Developing appropriate expectations and accountability structures for learning.
- ✓ Implementing consistent expectations for learning platforms and communication.
- ✓ Understanding that the current pandemic situation continues to evolve and that we may need to adjust plans or modify models as things change.



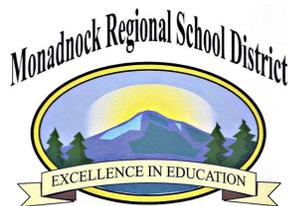
## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Student Services

<b>Instructional Model</b>	<p>All students will return to full, in-person learning.</p> <p>The District will no longer provide Remote Support (as defined in the August, 2020 reopening plan).</p>
<b>Students with Disabilities</b>	<p>Student needs will be addressed on an individual basis as determined by their IEP teams and within the guidelines of the NH Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities. Students with disabilities will receive specially-designed instruction, related services and accommodations/modifications as prescribed in their IEPs or 504 plans, within the school building and in-person.</p>
<b>Chorus, Band, and Music</b>	<p>Chorus, Band, and Music programs will resume during the 2021/2022. Groups will be distanced as much as possible and, when appropriate, rehearsal and other performances will be held outside. Care will be taken to ensure shared materials and space are cleaned and sanitized to the extent possible and appropriate.</p>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<p>Physical Education activities have already resumed. Special care and effort has been taken to ensure any shared equipment is cleaned and sanitized to the extent possible and appropriate. Social distancing practices are used throughout classes to the extent possible and appropriate.</p>
<b>Classroom Supplies</b>	<p>Classroom supplies may be shared between students provided necessary cleaning and/or sanitizing occurs between classes or cohorts to the extent possible and appropriate.</p> <p>Individual supplies will be provided when cleaning and/or sanitizing is not feasible.</p>
<b>Outdoor Activities (School Day)</b>	<p>Students will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer before and after recess.</p> <p>Weather permitting, the use of outdoor space for educational purposes will be encouraged.</p>
<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<p>All extracurricular activities will strive to maintain social distancing in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p> <p>All students and employees may be required to wear face masks outdoors when social distancing in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance when social distancing cannot be maintained.</p> <p>Whole school physical assemblies and other large group activities may occur with the approval of the school Principal. All activities are subject to modifications and guidelines to ensure appropriate social distancing and include the potential mandatory use of face masks.</p> <p>Performers in drama may be allowed to participate without the use of face masks or approved facial covering in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance. All audience members should strive to maintain social distance in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance. Face masks may be required when social distancing in accordance current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance cannot be maintained.</p>



## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Student Services

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Athletics</b></p>	<p>The Principal will make recommendations to the Superintendent and Board regarding seasonal sport offerings. The School Board reserves the right to limit athletic offerings based on COVID-19 impact and current guidance.</p> <p>MRSD will align with NHIAA recommendations regarding the wearing of face masks during athletic competitions.</p> <p>MRSD will align with NHIAA recommendations regarding the wearing of face masks during practices and when not actively engaged in an athletic contest or competition.</p> <p>Student athletes and coaches may be required to wear face masks on busses while traveling to/from events if social distancing cannot be maintained in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Wellness - Anxiety, Trauma, and Mental Health</b></p>	<p>Host several 'soft opening' days in the fall for parents and students to have individual time to visit schools and meet with teachers and administrators to ease anxiety.</p> <p>Continue to implement social emotional learning opportunities at all grade levels, leveraging our internal capacity (e.g. school counselors, social workers, psychologists) and wrapping around with outside agencies as appropriate.</p> <p>Share information with families regarding available resources for families and children.</p> <p>Maintain increased level of school counselors at our elementary schools.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Food Service</b></p>	<p>Pre Prepared/pre packaged meals based on menu options will continue to be provided.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer use will be encouraged when entering the lunch space/cafeteria.</p> <p>Social distance will be observed while eating in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance. If this is not feasible, dividers or shields may be utilized.</p> <p>Students may be required to eat meals in their classroom, alternative space, or an outdoor space when necessary.</p>



## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Guidance

<p><b>Quarantine Provisions</b></p>	<p>In the event of a student’s need for quarantine related to COVID-19 infection or exposure, the District will support student learning remotely in times of absence from in-person learning if quarantine is indicated in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p> <p>While differing classrooms and grade levels may be able to provide a range of potential instructional options for students in quarantine, instruction for those in quarantine or isolation is not to be considered or expected to be synchronized learning. Students engaged in remote participation may be required to complete alternate activities or receive additional instruction to develop their knowledge and understanding or demonstrate their learning competency</p>
<p><b>Social Distancing and Mask Requirements</b></p>	<p>We will follow NH Department of Health and Human Services guidance pertaining to COVID-19 with any duly voted local decisions or exceptions made by the Monadnock Regional School Board as noted below.</p> <p>Social distancing protocols will continue to be followed in accordance with NH DHHS guidance unless a local decision/vote has been made.</p> <p>All students and employees may be required to wear face masks indoors only when social distancing cannot be maintained in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p> <p>Visitors may be required to wear masks in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p> <p>Any student, employee, and/or visitor may elect to wear a face mask at their personal discretion.</p> <p>We will provide face masks as needed or requested.</p>
<p><b>MRSB Voted Decisions/Exceptions to NH DHHS Guidance</b></p>	<p>MRSB voted to To adjust the reopening plan matrix for universal indoor mask wearing while the county is in the moderate transmission level or above. 8/17/2021</p>

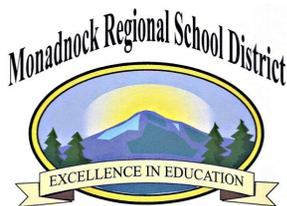
	<p>If a student or employee shows symptoms of COVID-19, the individual may be isolated and sent home as soon as practicable in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance. The individual may need to either provide documentation of a negative test or complete quarantine in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p>
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## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Guidance

### Illness Response

If a student or employee reports a positive test for COVID-19, they will provide documentation to the School Nurse or Principal. The School Nurse or Principal will report the positive case on the report form for the Superintendent who will update the local tracker. The School Nurse or Principal will contact NH DHHS to report the case. Individuals identified as close household contacts cannot test out of quarantine - the entire quarantine period must be completed unless otherwise indicated in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.



## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Mitigation

<p><b>State Ordered or Recommended Closures</b></p>	<p>In the event of an increase in positive cases that results in a state-recommended closure or a shortage of employees to safely operate a building, the District will shift to a temporary remote learning environment.</p> <p>Students will be issued a technology device to be used for learning (if one is not already assigned) in the event of a state-recommended closure.</p> <p>Students will receive instruction at the beginning of the year to assist them to fully utilize online learning tools in the event a closure and temporary shift to remote learning becomes necessary.</p> <p>Monadnock educators will continue to identify essential curriculum and competencies which will be essential components in the event of a closure and temporary shift to remote learning.</p>
<p><b>Hand Washing/Hygiene</b></p>	<p>Frequent hand washing and/or the use of sanitizer will be encouraged.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer stations will be readily available.</p>
<p><b>Cleaning and Sanitization</b></p>	<p>High-traffic and high-touch surfaces will be cleaned on a regular schedule.</p> <p>Training for buildings and grounds employees will occur prior to the start of the new school year.</p> <p>Students will be asked to use sanitizer prior to leaving the classroom.</p>
<p><b>Indoor Air Quality and Ventilation</b></p>	<p>Weather permitting, the use of outdoor space for educational purposes will be encouraged.</p> <p>Weather permitting, opening windows to improve air flow and exchange will be encouraged.</p> <p>HVAC systems will utilize the highest level of filtering that the individual unit can accommodate.</p>
<p><b>COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination</b></p>	<p>The District will conduct on-site testing or diagnosis of either staff or students for COVID-19. As part of the process of self-assessing symptoms, parents and staff will continue to be required to report any positive test results to their school nurse.</p> <p>The District will continue to work with our health partners and refer individuals for testing at area locations as appropriate.</p> <p>The District may hold on-site COVID-19 vaccinations in a fashion similar to our flu shot clinics, dependent on provider and vaccine availability.</p>

	<p>The District will maintain a local COVID-19 trend tracker that includes a record of current/active cases and total cases to date for the school year.</p>
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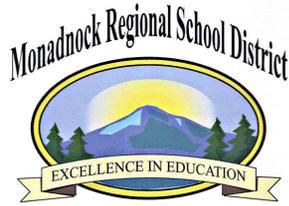
## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Mitigation

### Community Notification

Once weekly while school is in session, the building Principal will send a letter home with a summary of that week's reported new cases. The letter will include a link to the District tracker.

In the event NH DHHS identifies a cluster within a school, the building Principal will notify the families of those students associated with the cluster via a phone call.

In the event NH DHHS identifies a school as having an outbreak, the building Principal will notify all families of students within the affected school by letter.



## 2021/22 Reopening Concept - Buildings and Grounds

<p><b>Indoor Facility Access</b></p>	<p>Signs identifying the symptoms of COVID-19 will be posted at all entrances.</p> <p>Employees should self-assess their health prior to reporting to work each day. No screening attestation will be required unless in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p> <p>Parents and guardians should self-assess their/their child(ren)s health prior to reporting to school each day. No screening attestation will be required in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p>
<p><b>Facilities Use (Indoor and Outdoor)</b></p>	<p>Requests for facilities use by outside groups will be considered. Additional fees or restrictions may apply based on social distancing requirements and/or cleaning requirements.</p>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>We will continue to work collaboratively with First Student to maximize social distancing on school busses and internally on District-owned transportation.</p> <p>All bus occupants may be required to wear face masks while on busses if social distancing cannot be maintained in accordance with current and prevailing NH DHHS guidance.</p> <p>Weather permitting, bus windows will be kept open to maximize air flow and exchange.</p>