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*A school and community partnership that provides an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative learning environment
where all stakeholders are engaged in the development of the whole child.*

PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) set forth extremely challenging circumstances when it required school districts to approve school reopening plans by the beginning of August. The Wilmington School Committee voted to approve a reopening plan in early August centered around a phased in hybrid plan leading to the implementation of a full hybrid learning model beginning on September 28, 2020.

School districts throughout the Commonwealth have been asked to work through a number of complex issues pertaining to staffing, health and safety and operational logistics within a very short period of time. DESE's requirements on reopening school obligated school districts to resolve a number of issues before school could open, including but not limited to ensuring that all buildings are safe for students and staff; thoroughly cleaning all buildings; and, modifying the manner in which education will occur this fall. The District has been working seven days a week to prepare for the start of the school year and this has included working with its employees to address the myriad issues that impact working conditions for all employees.

The District is still working collaboratively through a number of remaining issues with all of our stakeholders. These issues include staffing, related HVAC improvements and other impacts on working conditions. As a result, we have been forced to adjust our original plan from a late September hybrid opening to full remote with the hybrid plan opening taking place in mid-October. We will begin operations under a fully remote model as we continue to work through these issues.

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Notice of Non-Discrimination

All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Wilmington Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, homelessness, age and/or disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.