



*News from Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley & the  
MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

## **On the Desktop - March 9, 2021**

### **Guidance on In-Person Learning Requirements**

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, and Leaders of Collaboratives,

On March 5, 2021, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education adopted amendments to the Student Learning Time regulations on an emergency basis. These amendments provide me with the authority to determine when hybrid and remote models will no longer count toward meeting the required student learning time hours. 603 CMR 27.08(2)(d). Consistent with these amendments, and following consultation with medical experts and state health officials, I am exercising that authority as follows:

- **Elementary school phase (grades K-5):** For **elementary schools**, hybrid and remote learning models will no longer count towards meeting the required student learning time hours as of **Monday, April 5, 2021**. As a result, districts and schools are required to shift their learning model for **elementary school** grade levels to full-time, in-person instruction five days per week effective **Monday, April 5, 2021**.
- **Middle school phase (grades 6-8):** For **middle schools**, hybrid and remote learning models will no longer count towards meeting the required student learning time hours as of **Wednesday, April 28, 2021**. As a result, districts and schools will be required to shift their learning model for **middle school** grade levels to full-time, in-person instruction five days per week, effective **Wednesday, April 28, 2021**.
- **High school phase (grades 9-12):** We will announce the details and timing of the high school phase of the plan in April. Districts will be provided with at least two weeks in advance of the date for high school students to return to full-time, in-person instruction, but should start making such plans now.

Accompanying this message is a guidance document that provides detailed information to support districts in the transition to full in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley  
Commissioner