

PLYMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PROCEDURES RELATED TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY EPIDEMIC & PANDEMIC

The School Committee recommends that during a Public Health Emergency certain procedures, policies and other standard educational traditions and actions will need to be modified in order to promote public safety, and specifically, the safety, health and well-being of our students, their families and our faculty and staff. To that end, the following procedural adjustments can be applied:

1. Superintendent actions following and during State of a Public Health emergency as declared by the Governor and/or other Federal, State, County and Local officials:
 - 1.1 Superintendent may propose modifications or suspensions of district policies regarding attendance by students;
 - 1.2 Superintendent may limit or suspend admission of the public into school buildings and attendance at other school affairs such as sporting events, performances, art presentations, assemblies, and other similar programs or events;
 - 1.3 Subject to law, regulations and other standards established by legitimate regulatory body, such as the MIAA, the Superintendent may propose changes to district policies and protocols regarding student participation in extra-curricular activities and athletics;
 - 1.4 Superintendent shall report to the School Committee any and all changes in the status of the SRO and the impact that the Public Health Emergency may have on the MOU before Plymouth Police Department and Plymouth Public Schools;
 - 1.5 When necessary, the Superintendent can make modifications to the requirement of mask wearing for certain student cohorts;
 - 1.6 Subject to current law, regulations and guidance from Federal, State, County and/or Local officials, the Superintendent may suspend or modify policies or procedures related to the transportation of students;
 - 1.7 Subject to provisions in the law, guidance from Federal, State, County or Local officials and collective bargaining agreements the Superintendent may suspend or amend current

policy and procedures or norms in order to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the business functions and maintenance of school buildings and other such offices the district maintains;

- 1.8 Contact tracing and testing protocols as necessary and appropriate shall be established by the Superintendent;
- 1.9 Subject to the guidance from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Superintendent may suspend or revise the school calendar with the approval of the School Committee;
- 1.10 Subject to the guidance from DESE, the Superintendent may suspend or revise the assignment of students to schools, including assignment of new students for such a period as the Public Health Emergency is in force;
- 1.11 During the period of the Public Health Emergency and following approval of the School Committee, the Superintendent can modify the policies, procedures and norms relating to the grading and retention of students;
- 1.12 In accordance with guidance from DESE and subject to approval of the School Committee, the Superintendent may make modifications to the policies, procedures and norms pertaining to the graduation requirements;
- 1.13 The Superintendent may revise job descriptions for the district staff considering the provisions of the current collective bargaining agreement. The potential changes shall be related to the health and safety of all students and staff. These changes include but are not limited to student transportation, food services and materials and specific job descriptions. The Superintendent will inform the School Committee of any such changes. Any changes to job descriptions shall expire at the end of the Public Health Emergency as determined by the Governor and/or State, County and Local Public Health officials; The Superintendent will identify and designate the most appropriate staff members to oversee the implementation of policy and procedures to be enforced during the Public Health Emergency;
- 1.14 Subject to the guidance from DESE and the provisions of collective bargaining agreements, the Superintendent may suspend or amend requirements for the time-on-learning for the duration of the Public Health Emergency.

2 Privacy & Confidentiality

2.1 During the Public Health Emergency, the rights to privacy held by our students and their families shall not be abridged by the Plymouth Public Schools. However, confidential conversations between the Administration of the Plymouth Public Schools and specific teachers are permitted when the teacher has a need to know. The sharing of protected information between Administration and teachers is only permitted when the health and safety of students and staff could be compromised by not sharing the information.

2.2 DELETED THIS PARAGRAPH (REDUNDANT)

3 Student Discipline

3.1 The Superintendent will make recommendations regarding the policies, procedures and protocols regarding the disciplining of students during the Public Health Emergency. In some cases, the Superintendent may set aside the district Code of Discipline and related consequences.

4 Back to School Plan

4.1 The School Committee will authorize the Superintendent to continually reevaluate develop, and modify as necessary, a back-to-school plan;

4.2 During a Public Health Emergency, Plymouth Public Schools under the recommendation of the Governor and/or other State, County, and Local public health officials and subject to guidelines from DESE, the School Committee shall authorize the Superintendent to create for approval a back-to-school plan in the most safe and efficient manner possible.

4.3 According to the Superintendent's recommendation and in keeping in line with guidelines from DESE, the back-to-school plan can be modified or suspended for those students with specific educational and/or social-emotional needs.

Reviewed:

Policy Committee Meeting Date: December 10, 2020; February 16, 2021

School Committee Discussion: 2/22/2021

School Committee Discussion: 3/1/2021

School Committee Approval: