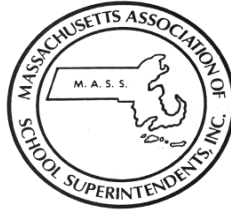


## MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS, INC.



During the past several days, many superintendents have expressed concerns with the Governor's press conference on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, when he set expectations that schools in communities designated as grey, green or yellow return student learning fully, in person, if feasible.

Clearly, the words "if feasible" are key to any possible return of in person options.

Based on the guidance provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the decision of the Administration to have each school district determine its return to school plan, the better part of Spring, and Summer, were spent by local districts to develop plans, negotiate agreements with local unions, and abide by the health and safety protocols.

While superintendents have been strong advocates for as much in school learning as possible, there are several realities which require the Governor's help before many months of planning can be altered.

- 1.) Convincing evidence that less than 6' of distance is safe. We need medical experts to explicitly coalesce around safe distancing which allows for increased student capacity in classrooms.
- 2.) School bus transportation must allow for significantly larger student bus capacity. We are limited right now with bus availability and the significant costs to expand bus usage.
- 3.) Help with collective bargaining provisions since there is no way to make unilateral changes in previous agreements with local unions. Superintendents have already negotiated extensively on return to school plans.

M.A.S.S. and Superintendents across Massachusetts would welcome any statewide efforts to address these issues, that are beyond a local community's power to impact. With that assistance and support, we look forward to the time when more in-school learning is both feasible and achievable.