



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

On the Desktop - July 24, 2020

Guidance on Courses Requiring Additional Safety Considerations and Remote Learning

Dear Superintendents, Charter School Leaders, Assistant Superintendents, Collaborative Leaders, and Leaders of Approved Special Education Schools,

As a supplement to DESE's [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance](#) (*download*), we are providing districts and schools with the attached remote learning guidance and the attached guidance for the following in-school classes that require additional safety considerations this fall:

- Arts: Chorus, band, theater, dance, and visual arts
- Physical education

The arts, physical education, and other enrichment courses are an integral part of the learning experience for every student at every grade level, and we strongly encourage schools and districts to continue providing these classes to students this fall. Adaptations to these courses, however, are necessary to ensure the safety of students and staff. Please note that this guidance may be revised as we continue to monitor COVID-19 trends and the latest medical research.

The remote learning guidance provides additional detail on remote learning expectations, program models districts may consider, and considerations for implementing various models.

The document includes:

- **Important information about policy requirements and related guidance for remote learning** this fall
- Criteria for meeting **foundational technology needs**, and
- Conditions and considerations for **selecting an appropriate remote learning option for your school or district.**

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner