

January 6, 2021 Program and Services meeting

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Mon 1/4/2021 10:19 AM

To: Deborah Youngblood <dyoungblood@newtonma.gov>

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Commissioner Youngblood,

I thought it would be helpful to share questions with you in advance of Wednesday's meeting of the Programs and Services Committee. If you and my colleagues have not yet done so, I suggest that you take a look at the recent Rockefeller Foundation report on testing:

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Taking-Back-Control-a-Resetting-of-Americas-Response-to-Covid-19.pdf>.

Here are some initial questions regarding testing in our public schools:

- Who will be tested in our public school system and how often will each person be tested?
- How long should we keep testing?
- Who will be responsible for running the testing program?
- What method of testing are you planning on using and what is the basis for that decision?
- What are you doing now to get us ready for a resumption of full, in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year?
- Who is advising you in making your decisions and why does the administration continue to oppose forming an advisory committee of scientists and medical experts when other communities, including Brookline and Wellesley, have done so successfully and we have such a wealth of talent in our community?

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these issues. I look forward to our meeting on Wednesday.

Marc