

REOPENING PLANS AND SCHEDULING

Per the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) **StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)** from June 8, 2020, all public schools are directed to have three plans in place to ensure continuity of educational services should the state's COVID-19 metrics change significantly requiring additional restrictions to control the spread of the disease. These Reopening Plans will be the foundation for a successful and agile academic school year. The three required Reopening Plans are:

- **Plan A:** Minimal Physical Distancing
- **Plan B:** Moderate Physical Distancing
- **Plan C:** Remote Learning Only

Operationalized for all Public School Units from the most recent version of the NCDHHS StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit Pg. 3 and NC Session Law 2021-4.

No later than **April 1, 2021**, the following guidelines shall apply:

- **Kindergarten – 5th Grade Students** **Public school units must provide in-person instruction at least 4 days a week** while following all public health protocols in the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit with one exception: Schools serving children kindergarten – 5th grade do not need to adhere to the Six Feet Physical Distancing Requirements detailed on page 6 of the Toolkit. (Plan A).
- **6th – 12th Grade Students** **Public School units must provide in-person instruction either in Plan A at least 4 days a week (minimal physical distancing) or Plan B to the maximum extent possible (six -feet physical distancing)** while following all the other protocols in the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit. **All local school boards that choose to return under Plan A for 6-12 students must participate in the ABC Collaborative and also must notify the Department of Health and Human Services and describe the unit's plan, as required by NC Session Law 2021-4, Section 2.(1)b.2.**
- **Remote Learning Option:** All schools must also offer full-time remote instruction for higher-risk students, and for families opting for remote learning for their children.
- **Local Flexibility and Planning for Different Scenarios:** Schools have flexibility in how they choose to operationally implement the public health requirements in this toolkit. Further, school leaders should continue to maintain plans for three different potential scenarios, depending on what restrictions are necessary at any time in the school year to control the spread of the disease.
 - **Minimal Physical Distancing (Plan A):** All public health requirements in this toolkit, **except** the Six Feet of physical distancing required. See page 6.
 - **Moderate Physical Distancing (Plan B):** All public health requirements in this toolkit, including the six feet of physical distancing, **including** the six feet of physical distancing. See page 6.

- **Full Remote Learning (Plan C): Full remote learning is no longer an option for daily instruction.**
 - **Local school boards - have the authority to make day-to-day decisions concerning whether shifting individual schools or individual classrooms that are providing in-person instruction to remote instruction is necessary due to COVID-19 exposures that result in insufficient school personnel or required student quarantines. All local school boards shall report any shift by a school or classroom from in-person to remote instruction to the Department of Public Instruction within 72 hours of the shift. See Session Law 2021-4 and G.S. 115C-218.75(a). Local boards shall provide to the Department of Public Instruction all documentation from the local health department regarding required quarantines of students and/or staff.**
 - **Charter schools - If the governing board of a charter school determines that additional remote instruction is needed to ensure the health and safety of students it may provide for additional remote learning days. Session Law 2020-49, PART III, Section 3.(b)(3).**

- **Exercising the Right to In-Person Instruction. Any student opting to return to in-person instruction shall be permitted to do so no later than April 1, 2021.**