



Connecticut State Department of Education

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together



@CTDepartmentOfEducation



@EducateCT

We are in a health pandemic and education emergency

Health and safety, as well as access and equity must inform our efforts

Developing a plan required input

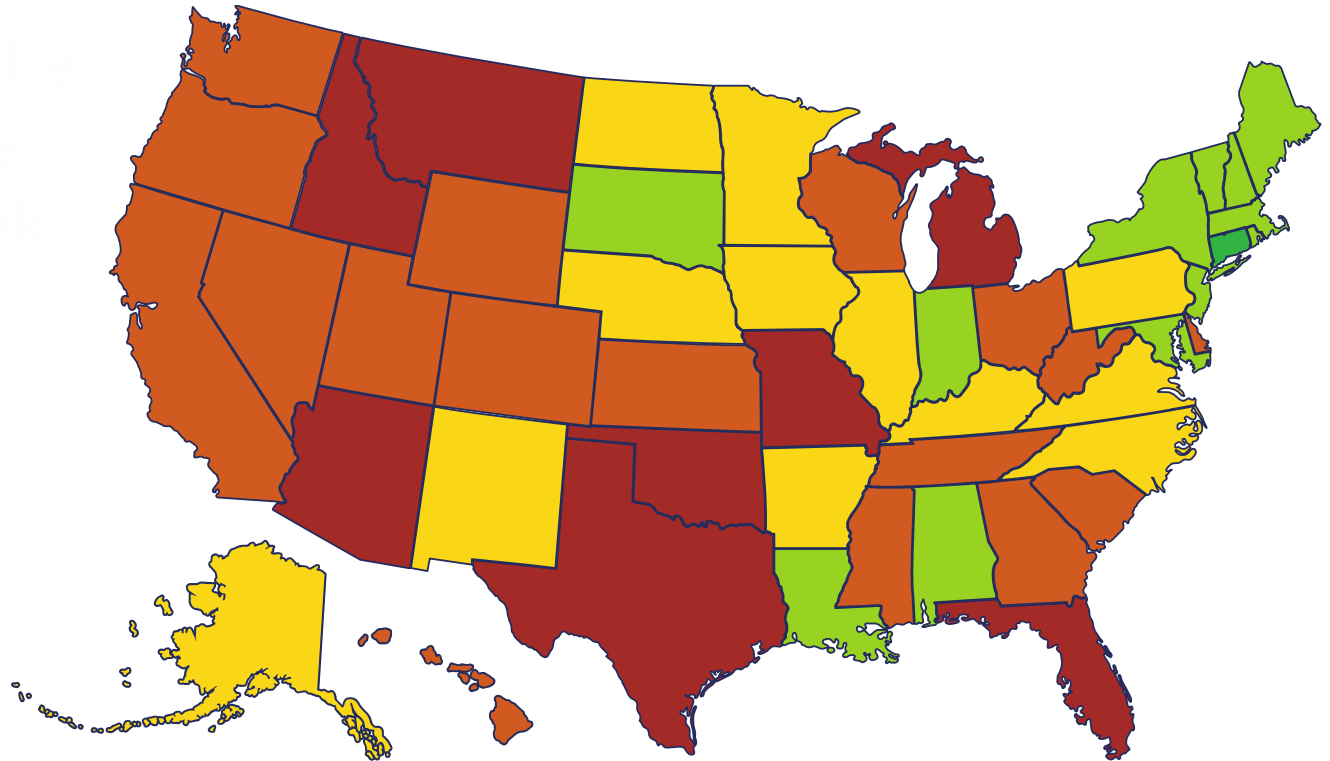
- Over 23,000 citizens
- Over 16,000 students
- ReOpen Task Force
- Regional Advisory Teams

What we consistently heard:

- Emotional well-being must be considered
- Schools are a structured, safe place in many cases
- Students missed school



Connecticut's Progress





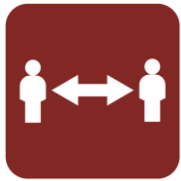
Guiding Principles

- Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
- Allowing all students the opportunity to return into school full time starting in the fall;
- Monitoring the school, students, and staff and, when necessary, potentially canceling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
- Emphasizing equity, access, to support the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
- Fostering strong two-way communication with partners; and
- Factoring the physical safety, social-emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students when they are not in school.



Operational Considerations

- Districts should plan for fall reopening with in-school return for all students, every day.
- Health and safety guidance protocols and infection mitigation strategies will be emphasized:



Maximize
Social Distancing



Frequent hand
washing/use of hand
sanitizer



Face coverings that
completely cover the
nose and mouth



Enhanced
cleaning/disinfection
of spaces/surfaces

- Plan subject to change based on developing health conditions



Classrooms and Buses

CLASSROOMS

- Cohorting
 - Strongly encouraged, Grades K–8
 - Encouraged where feasible, Grades 9–12
- Maximize social distancing
- Facial coverings – mandatory for staff and students during school day when inside the school building
- Frequent handwashing
- Enhanced cleaning

BUSES

- Facial coverings – mandatory for drivers and students
- Monitors encouraged for fall, particularly for younger grades
- Social distancing activated based on COVID community spread
 - **No Spread**
Full Capacity
 - **Minimal Spread**
Full Capacity, Heightened Health & Safety Protocols
 - **Moderate Spread**
Reduced Capacity and Social distancing



Ramping Up, Ramping Down

- CT data trends positively; we can plan optimistically for fall reopening
- Districts should prepare plans for full reopening
- Alternative plans should be prepared (hybrid model with fewer students and enhanced remote learning) in the event of future increases in community spread
- COVID-19 Community Spread will determine Ramp Down to promote health and safety regionally and throughout CT





Adapt, Advance, Achieve

- This is the first step to reopening
- Plans will change based on COVID spread (or developing health conditions)
- Flexibility will be the only constant
- Comprehensive Plan details will be publicly released Monday
- Updates & supplements will be informed with input from partners

**CT students deserve the
best opportunity for success!**