

PRESS RELEASE

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KCPS Delaying In-Person Classes Due to Increasing COVID-19 Rates

District will provide in-person classes for a small number of Special Education students who need additional support

Kansas City, October 26, 2020: Kansas City Public Schools shared the following message in English and Spanish to staff and families this evening following a Special Board Meeting:

As you know, we have been planning and preparing for a possible return to in-person learning in our hybrid model. We reinforced that we would bring groups of students back for in-person learning only if the pandemic data demonstrated it is safe to do so. After some weeks of declining positivity rates, we are now seeing data that is trending upward again – particularly within our attendance boundaries.

The data indicates that we are not below the 10% positivity rate within our boundaries. Thus, we will not be returning to in-person learning in our hybrid model for PreK-Grade 3 students on Nov. 9.

For now, students will remain in their distance learning or Kansas City Virtual Academy classes. However, we commit to continuing to look at the data daily and communicating any possible return to in-person hybrid learning in two-week increments. These discussions will continue during our Board of Directors meetings.

We do, however, have a plan for in-person learning for our Special Education students who need additional support. We have almost 200 Special Education students who will be returning to in-person learning on Nov. 9. This plan will help us support our Special Education students according to state statute. Our teachers and principals are already in the process of working with these families to assist in our re-entry plans.

Lastly, again, we are continuing to prepare and plan for bringing back some groups of students who need alternative scenarios for some in-person learning. Between principals, teachers, families and leadership, we are constantly inviting conversations about what in-person learning could look like for some of our students who need it the most.

As we slowly try to start bringing students back in-person, stay tuned to our COVID-19 reopening webpage for information about our gating criteria for re-entry, new data dashboard and opening procedures (<https://www.kcpublicschools.org/reopening-kcps/re-entry-plan>). We will remain in communication with you along the way.