

SCHOOL: Governor has adjusted metrics for classroom returns

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A basic snapshot of the new metrics says that counties that have 50-100 cases per 100,000 residents over 14 consecutive days can employ the hybrid model of onsite and distance learning. If the rate lowers to fewer than 50 cases, schools are eligible for full-time onsite learning.

Sisters Elementary School Principal Joan Warburg is overjoyed at the prospect of having the fourth-graders return.

"We are thrilled to have our fourth-graders return to the building!" she said. "It has been hard for our fourth-graders, especially those with younger siblings, to not be able to join the rest of the school the last few weeks for in-person learning.

"I am very proud of the amazing effort of our fourth-grade teachers to teach our students in the Comprehensive Distance Learning model, mixing in fun with the core subjects," she said.

But nothing compares to being taught in person and Warburg caught a glimpse of that last week.

"Last week we had most of our fourth-graders participate in limited in-person instruction by coming in to conduct a science experiment with solar ovens,"

she explained. "One parent shared that just coming into school for that hour transformed her daughter's day. She was joyful and excited all day because she was able to come to school for a short while. I know that our fourth-graders will thrive once they are able to return to in-person learning."

The success over the last few weeks with preschool through third grade being instructed in person gives Warburg confidence that students returning will be well cared for and as safe as possible.

"We are very careful to adhere to all COVID protocols and are pleased that we have had five strong weeks of in-person learning and are hopeful that we will continue to be healthy as a school community," she said. "Having our fourth-graders back in the building will make us complete once again."

Sisters Middle School Principal Alison Haney also looks forward to having the fifth- and sixth-graders return to the middle school.

"Personally, I'm very excited that there's a greater possibility of us returning to school with the changing of the metrics," she said. "The ramifications of students being out of school for so long is extremely concerning to me as we fulfill a myriad of roles that support holistic development for students."

According to Haney, the district administrators


GENERAL METRICS FOR RETURNING TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION THROUGH THE ON-SITE OR HYBRID MODEL Version 10/28/2020

For a school to fully return to in-person instruction through ODE's On-Site or Hybrid instructional models, the criteria below must be met, including the metrics table that follows:

If a school draws >10% of students or >10% of staff from a given county where case rates or test positivity put them in the "Transition" column (see metrics table below) they should consider delaying a return to in-person instructional models until these counties also meet the required metrics, unless after discussion with the local public health authority a collaborative decision is made that the neighboring county community spread does not pose significantly higher-risk.

METRICS & MODELS	ON-SITE	ON-SITE AND DISTANCE LEARNING	TRANSITION	DISTANCE LEARNING
County Case Rate per 100,000 People Over 14 days	<50.0	50.0 to <100.0	100.0 to ≤200.0	>200.0
County Case Count Over 14 days (for small counties ¹)	<30	30 to <45	45 to ≤60	>60
County Test Positivity ²	<5.0%	5.0% to <8.0%	8.0% to ≤10.0%	>10.0%
Instructional Model	Prioritize On-Site or Hybrid (as needed to maintain small cohorts) instructional models.	Prioritize careful phasing in of On-Site or Hybrid for elementary schools (starting with K-3 and adding additional grades up to grade 6). Middle school and high school primarily Comprehensive Distance Learning with allowable Limited In-Person Instruction. Over time, if elementary schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment*, transition to On-Site or Hybrid.	Consider transition to Comprehensive Distance Learning with allowable Limited In-Person Instruction. For counties with an upward case/positivity trend (entering from a lower risk category), school officials should discuss with their local public health authority (LPHA) and consider the spread of COVID-19 within schools and the local community in deciding whether to return to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). ³ Schools in counties with downward case/positivity trend must remain in CDL until they drop into the Moderate Risk category or lower.	Implement Comprehensive Distance Learning with allowable Limited In-Person Instruction only.

1. Counties with <30,000 residents.
2. If statewide testing volume decreases by more than 10% in the week prior compared to the previous week due to external factors (such as due to a natural disaster or acute decrease in testing supplies), then OHA and ODE will consider temporarily suspending the use of percent positivity in the reopening considerations.
3. In considering community spread, public health should take into consideration the cases in the community, COVID-19 test availability in the community, recent percent positivity of tests, capacity in the community to respond to cases and outbreaks and the regional hospital capacity available for those with severe disease.
4. As a measure to monitor limited introduction or spread, local public health should look for an average outbreak size of 3 or less, excluding outbreaks with only one case, over the prior 4 weeks.

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were set to meet Monday, November 2, "to chart out different paths for returning students to school if and when we meet the

metrics. We will need to wait for Monday's metrics to come out before we can do any official planning. Concurrently we will also

involve our SMS families and staff in a discussion on next steps."

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