



PreK-12 Second Semester Updates

WCPSS Board of Education - Work Session

March 16, 2021



Desired Outcomes

- Review considerations for in-person instruction during COVID-19
- Unpack new legislation, Senate Bill 220: *An Act To Provide Access To In-person Learning For Students In Grades Kindergarten Through Twelve*
- Define and describe NC Plan A (minimal social distancing) requirements
- Provide implementation overview for students with IEPs and 504 Plans
- Outlining staff proposal

Considerations for In-person Instruction During COVID-19

1.



State Restrictions

Governor's Executive Orders
NC DHHS Guidance

2.



State/County Data

Positivity rates
Community spread

3.



District Indicators

Staffing & attendance
Spread within schools

These considerations have been used for all decisions about returning to in-person instruction since the fall of 2020. There is no single metric that can be calculated from these three areas that automatically triggers a return for students.

All three are used and given the weight needed based on the circumstances.

Considerations for In-person Instruction During COVID-19

1.



State Restrictions

Governor's Executive Orders
NC DHHS Guidance



Senate Bill 220 was passed unanimously by lawmakers and signed by the governor with the support of NC DHHS, the State Board of Education and the state superintendent.

2.



State/County Data

Positivity rates
Community spread



State and local rates are holding steady after meaningful declines following a post-holiday increase

3.



District Indicators

Staffing & attendance
Spread within schools



Vaccination rates are exceeding expectations. Secondary transmission rates on campus remain very low.

Senate Bill 220, Reopen Our Schools Act of 2021

Key Components:

- Districts will provide Plan A in-person instruction for grades K-5
- For grades 6-12:
 - Local Boards have the option of operating under Plan A, Plan B, or a hybrid of both
 - Plan A instruction for students with IEPs and 504 Plans is required
 - For districts that will operate in Plan A, submission of a plan to DHHS is required
 - For districts that will operate in Plan A, collaboration with the ABC Science Collaborative is required
 - Continuation of an option for remote instruction is required
 - Local Boards may reschedule existing school calendar workdays



Defining Plan A, Minimal Social Distancing

Plan A is “Minimal Social Distancing.” All public health requirements provided by DHHS must be followed. Plan A requires:

- Social distancing protocols to the extent possible and as practicable
- Cloth face coverings
- Cleaning and hygiene protocols
- Protecting vulnerable populations
- Conducting regular screening and ongoing self-monitoring of symptoms
- Appropriate steps to address suspected, presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19

Implementation Overview for Students with IEPs and 504 Plans

To implement SB 220 in terms of the requirement to provide Plan A in-person instruction to students with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) & 504 Plans, WCPSS middle and high schools will:

- Immediately begin communicating with families to ensure that they are aware of this opportunity for their students.
- Once individual family plans are known, schools will make necessary preparations for students reporting to school.
- Students with an IEP or 504 Plan who opt to report to school in-person will begin doing so no later than the first instructional day either on or following April 1, depending on the school's assigned calendar.



District Focus Moving Forward

Senate Bill 220 requires:

- K-5 Plan A in-person
- 6-12 either in Plan A, Plan B or a hybrid
- Students with IEPs and 504 Plans have the option of attending Plan A in-person

WCPSS currently provides:

- PreK-5 grades Plan A in-person
- K-12 Regional Programs Plan A in-person
- Grades 6-12 Plan B in-person three-week cohort rotation
- PreK-12 virtual instruction option

WCPSS is planning for:

- Students with IEP and 504 Plans to begin Plan A in-person
- Return option for all students in grades 6-12 Plan A in-person



Staff Recommendations

- All students return in Plan A on the following dates:
 - April 5: Modified Calendar and Early College
 - April 8: Traditional Calendar
 - April 14: Year-Round
- Revise existing school calendars to reschedule teacher workdays

Dialogue and Questions