



State and federal health officials have laid out coronavirus benchmarks, known as “gating criteria,” that individual states should accomplish before people can return to work and school. Kansas NEA recommends that school district officials use the following “gating” guidelines and indicators in order to ensure safe teaching, learning, and working conditions for all. Each level within the guidelines reflects **MINIMUM** interventions and districts should consider additional measures to ensure safety. These guidelines are based upon recommendations from federal and state health experts but focus on the needs of Kansas public schools.

Key to these guidelines is the distinction between **criteria** and **indicators**. The **criteria** outlined herein provides specific recommendations for safety protocols and policies to be implemented at each indicated phase. The **indicators** are a range of factors that should be used to help determine placement within a phase. Where there is overlap between phases, we recommend that the highest indicator within the overlap be used.

Kansas NEA supports delayed and phased reopening plans where educators and stakeholders collaborate end-to-end to determine how best to implement these recommendations. Kansas NEA recognizes that local control is important to our districts and our members. However, we must also acknowledge that the safety of our members, all educators, students, and patrons require a unified approach if we are to return to school safely and remain in school without further interruptions.

As Kansas districts prepare for teaching and learning, many lessons are being learned. These lessons have taught us that pandemics- and certainly the COVID-19 coronavirus- don’t recognize borders or boundaries, opinions, or politics. We encourage our members to contact local and state elected school board officials to share insights and concerns. Kansas NEA will continue to advocate for the health, safety, and well-being of our members according to KNEA’s core values.

Visit <https://www.kneaweb.org/covid-19-alerts/> to view a chronological list of dozens of pieces of guidance and alerts provided by KNEA to keep our members informed during the pandemic crisis.

Kansas  National  
Education Association

# Navigating Change 2020

KANSAS' GUIDE TO LEARNING AND SCHOOL SAFETY OPERATIONS



## Kansas Schools Gating Criteria

LEARNING	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
	 <b>On-Site</b> PK-12	  <b>On-Site**/ Hybrid</b> PK-5   6-12	  <b>On-Site**/ Hybrid</b> PK-5   <b>Remote Only</b> 6-12	 <b>Remote Only</b> PK-12
<b>School Activities</b>	On-Site following <b>Navigating Change</b> guidelines. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' social distancing.	<b>No all school activities.</b> Small group activities limited; masks and social distancing required; stable groups with limited group numbers. <b>No high risk activities.</b> No group travel. Conditioning/ practice may continue with modifications	<b>Remote Only</b>	<b>Remote Only</b>
<b>Spectators - audience</b>	On-Site following <b>Navigating Change</b> guidelines. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' social distancing.	<b>Allowed:</b> Distancing by household groups; masked if indoors. 6' social distancing required; total group numbers limited per guidelines	<b>Remote Only</b>	<b>Remote Only</b>
<b>Visitor Access</b>	On-Site following <b>Navigating Change</b> guidelines. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' social distancing.	<b>Limited:</b> by appointment; masks and social distancing required; building access requirements must be met.	<b>Extremely limited: by appointment;</b> masks and social distancing required; building access requirements must be met	<b>None Allowed</b>
<b>Playgrounds</b>	On-Site following <b>Navigating Change</b> guidelines. Facilities should limit capacity to allow for 6' social distancing.	<b>Open:</b> Capacity to allow for 6' social distancing; total group numbers limited per guidelines	<b>Open:</b> Capacity to allow for 6' social distancing; masks required if less than 6' social distance maintained; total group numbers limited per guidelines	<b>CLOSED</b>

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## Gating Criteria

	Additional Gating Criteria	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
<b>Building Gating Criteria*</b>	Student Absenteeism based on building level Average Daily Attendance in 2019-20 (i.e. 95%)	<3.0% above baseline building level ADA	3.0-5.9% above building level ADA	6.0-9.9% above building level ADA	>10% above building level ADA
<b>Community Gating Criteria</b>	2 week County percent positive case rate (% positive tests/all tests performed)	< 5%	5.1-9.9%	10-14.9%	> 15%
<b>Community Gating Criteria **</b>	2 week cumulative County incidence rate (# new cases/100K over prior 2 weeks)	0-50 new cases	51-100 new cases	101-150 new cases	> 151 new cases
<b>Community Gating Criteria</b>	Trend in County incidence rate	Decreasing	Stable	Stable	Increasing
<b>Community Gating Criteria</b>	Local/referring hospital capacity	> 30% available capacity	29.9-20% available capacity	19.9-10% available capacity	< 10% available capacity

\*increase of absenteeism rate should trigger conversation with local health officials regarding next steps.

\*\*for example, 15 cases for 50,000 would equal 30 per 100K or another example 1 case for 4,000 would equal 25 per 100K

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## Strategies to consider to promote full time onsite learning for K-5 students:

### 1. Students should be grouped together in cohorts of less than 15 students per group.

A) Either have class sizes with < 15 students per class.

B) OR have separate cohorts within classes of < 15 students per cohort with adequate physical distancing between cohorts and no mixing of groups other than the teacher

### 2. Safe but unused facilities within the district and community should be utilized to spread out students.

A) Middle and high school buildings should be utilized when those students are learning remotely

B) Sports and recreation facilities should be utilized when otherwise not in use

C) Outside areas should be utilized weather permitting

D) Schools should work with their community to utilize additional community locations to space out students for on-site education. This may include community buildings, churches, restaurants, etc.

E) Locations should be consistent between classes/cohorts.

### 3. Nurses, special education teachers, administrators, and other staff should work in teams and be prepared to travel between sites as needed to provide services.