

# Helping Families of Students with Disabilities Understand the Reopening Guidance for Virginia Schools



The following information is summarized from the Governor's school reopening plan and is intended to help parents of students with disabilities. For more information and details on the reopening plan, visit:

[www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health\\_medical/covid-19/recover-redesign-restart.shtml](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/covid-19/recover-redesign-restart.shtml)

\* School reopening phases align with the Forward Virginia Blueprint and phases. If a city/county is in phase 2, their school system may also be in phase 2. But, every public school must submit a *COVID-19 Mitigation Health Plan* to VDOE outlining strategy for reducing public health risk PRIOR to entering Phase II and III. The plan must also be posted online. (Private schools must submit plans to VCPE.)



## Phase 1

### Effective Immediately

- Instruction will be mostly remote/virtual learning.
- School divisions **may elect** to provide in-person instruction for students with disabilities in both extended school year (ESY) services and school year special education services, including private placements, with strict social distancing.
- Students will only attend such programs **if** the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team agrees it is appropriate and the parent provides consent. Virtual instruction **may** remain appropriate for certain students who may be challenged with adherence to the strict social distancing and safety guidelines as determined by the IEP team and the parents' consent.
- With the approval of the local division superintendent, or private school leader, accommodations **may** be offered for students to access the school building for critical instructional needs, such as accessing a secure assessment, if all health, safety and physical distancing measures are adhered to.

## Phase 2\*

### Once school submits plan to VDOE and their city/county is in Virginia's Governor's Phase 2

- Instruction will still be predominately remote.
- ESY and special education services allowed in Phase I may continue to operate.

## Phase 3\*

### Once school submits plan to VDOE and their city/county is in Virginia's Governor's Phase 3

- In-person instruction **can** be offered for all students, however strict social distancing measures **must** be in place. To have social distancing, school plans **may** need to include staggered schedules for students.
- Remote instruction will supplement in-person instruction for students.
- Remote learning exceptions and teleworking **should** be options for students and staff who are at a higher risk of severe illness.
- Some strategies **may** impact school operations and capacity limits. A variety of instructional approaches **may** be in effect.

*Schools **may** be more limited in their in-person instructional offerings than the phase allows based on their approved plan submitted to VDOE.*

Virginia schools will be open for all students in the Fall based on these guidelines, and are required to deliver new instruction to all students for the 2020-2021 academic year.

**EFFECTIVE NOW** - In-person instruction *may* be offered for ESY and special education programs with social distancing measures if all parties agree it is appropriate.

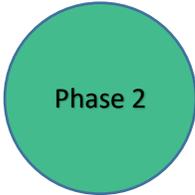
### Face Coverings

Students - Not required to wear masks though it is encouraged for students, as developmentally appropriate.  
Staff - Required when at least 6 feet of distancing cannot be maintained.

### Daily Health Screenings

Should be done for staff and students upon arrival. These should be done safely and respectfully, and keeping privacy laws in mind.

### Social Distancing Measures

 <p>Phase 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A maximum of 10 people per bus or classroom</li><li>• 6 feet of separation whenever possible</li><li>• Restrict mixing groups of students</li><li>• Close communal spaces</li></ul>
 <p>Phase 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Physical distance should be created between children on school buses when possible (e.g. seat children one per seat, every other row) limiting capacity as needed to increase distance between passengers. Children (such as siblings) living together may sit together on the bus</li><li>• 6 feet of separation whenever possible</li><li>• Restrict mixing groups of students</li><li>• 50 person limit on large gatherings, assemblies, graduations, etc.</li><li>• Close communal spaces (like lunch rooms) if possible; otherwise stagger use and disinfect in between use</li></ul>
 <p>Phase 3</p>	<p>On buses and buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 6 feet of separation whenever possible</li><li>• Large gathering limit, subject to updated Executive Order at the time</li><li>• Consider: restricting mixing groups of students, adjusting schedules, transitions, recess options, and instruction to accomplish this</li></ul>

PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.

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