



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

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COVID-19 UPDATE – DECEMBER 4, 2020

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**In-Person Learning Update**

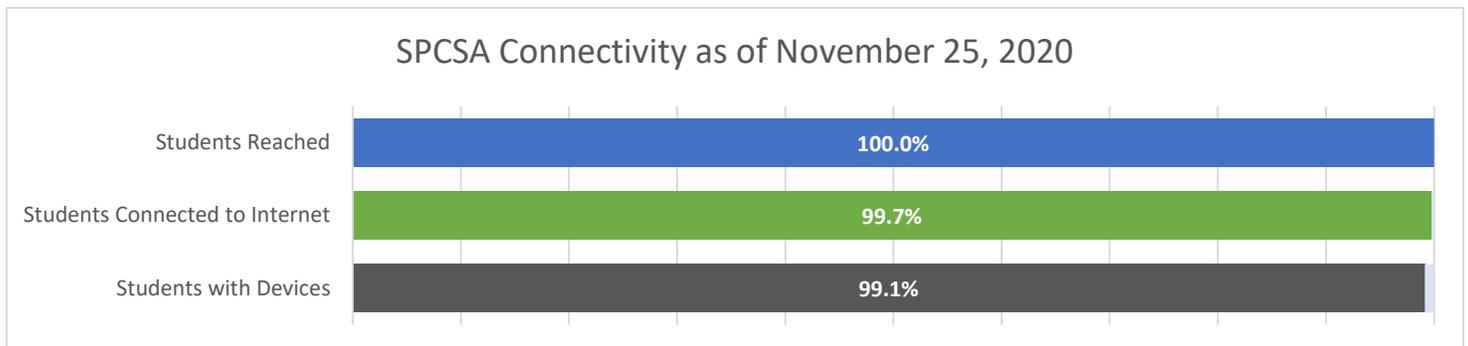
Following the Authority’s action on Friday, November 6, 2020, SPCSA staff issued a document summarizing the [Updated and Revised COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance](#). In addition, following the Governor’s remarks on November 10, 2020 imploring Nevadans to voluntarily stay home, as well as the subsequent order for a *Statewide Pause* effective November 24, 2020, SPCSA staff has repeatedly urged schools to exercise caution with in-person learning due to the increasing test positivity and case rate across the State. As a result, many schools have reduced the scale of in-person learning or temporarily returned to full distance learning.

**Connectivity and Devices**

Along with every school district in Nevada and in line with the [Connecting Kids Initiative](#), the SPCSA is working to get 100% of students online. That requires three steps:

1. Reaching every student to determine their needs
2. Ensuring that they have reliable access to the internet
3. Ensuring that they have consistent access to a device

Below is a summary of where charter school students stand as of November 25, 2020.



**Monitoring the Impact of COVID-19 Cases**

Since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, the SPCSA has been notified of 200 students or staff members at SPCSA-sponsored schools that have tested positive for COVID-19. This includes both individuals that had recently been on a school’s campus, resulting in exclusions, as well as individuals that had not recently been on a school’s campus. As a result

of these positive cases, over 600 students and staff members have been identified as closes contacts and been excluded from school.

SPCSA staff are grateful for the ongoing support from the Southern Nevada Health District, the Washoe County Health District, and the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health. These agencies have been highly responsive and supportive in working with SPCSA-sponsored schools that have been notified that a member of their school community has tested positive for COVID-19.

### **Additional Supports to Schools**

In addition, the SPCSA has

- Sub-awarded over \$7.5 million in federal emergency grant funds to schools.
- Established a contract with Cox Communications to subsidize the cost of internet for students residing in Clark County that do not otherwise have access to internet.
- Worked with the Taskforce Initiative or Educator Safety & Screening to enable free COVID-19 testing and access to a symptom monitoring app for schools and staff members that voluntarily signed up.
- Received from the Department of Emergency Management and distributed emergency supplies, including masks, hand sanitizer, and gloves to schools.
- Provided weekly email communication to schools, including updates on the activity of the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force.
- Continued bi-weekly all-school calls and bi-weekly one-on-one communication with school leaders to ensure two-way access to information.