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## COVID-19 UPDATE – AUGUST 2020

### Reopening for the 2020-21 School Year

Following the Authority's action on Friday, August 14, 2020, SPCSA staff issued a document summarizing the [COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance](#). Based on data from the August 20, 2020 meeting of the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management task force:

- **Three counties with SPCSA-sponsored charter schools are currently under heightened mitigation: Clark, Elko and Washoe Counties.** Charter Schools located in these counties, except with written approval of an exemption from Executive Director Feiden, must operate under a distance education model with an option for limited in person.
- **Two counties with SPCSA-sponsored charter schools remain at baseline mitigation: Churchill<sup>1</sup> and White Pine.** Charter schools in these counties may operate under an in-person or hybrid model as long as they maintain compliance with prevailing directives.

### Supporting Schools, Students, and Families

The SPCSA has undertaken a number of efforts to support schools, students, and families:

- *Addressing Connectivity Needs:* In addition to the efforts at schools, the SPCSA is working with the Governors' Office of Science, Innovation and Technology to deploy 1,000 hot spots and exploring avenues to subsidize internet costs for low-income families.
- *Coordination with Health Districts:* SPCSA staff have been participating in working groups with the Washoe County and Southern Nevada Health Districts to support the development of Outbreak Response Plans, specific to the school context.
- *School Leadership Support:* The SPCSA has leverage Federal Title II funding to provide a four-part professional development series, in partnership with the Achievement Network (ANet) for school leadership teams at SPCSA-sponsored charter schools. The professional development series supports schools with assessing the impact of the loss of in-person instruction on student learning and planning for instructional recovery.
- *Communication:* SPCSA Staff will maintain established communication protocols for the beginning of the school year including (1) SPCSA Update emails sent to schools on Mondays and Wednesdays, (2) COVID Update Conference Calls on Wednesdays, and (3) Weekly 1:1 communication between school leaders and assigned SPCSA staff.

<sup>1</sup> Data released on August 20, 2020 indicate that Churchill County met two of the three criteria for elevated COVID-19 transmission. However, it takes two consecutive weeks of meeting two or more criteria for a county to be moved from baseline mitigation into heightened mitigation.