

Steve Sisolak
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

Rebecca Feiden
Executive Director



STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY

1749 North Stewart Street Suite 40
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2543
(775) 687-9174 • Fax (775) 687-9113

2080 East Flamingo Road Suite 230
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-5164
(702) 486-8895 • Fax (702) 486-5543

GUIDANCE RECOMMENDATION

TO: State Public Charter School Authority
FROM: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Recommendation to maintain COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance
DATE: December 11, 2020

Recommendation

Under the current COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance, which the Authority approved on November 6, 2020, a school located in a county that is subject to Mitigation Level I or II pursuant to the Governor's COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force must operate under a distance education or hybrid model, with the option to provide in-person instruction at a limited scale (less than 40% of the school's enrollment at any given time) and subject to all prevailing directives, including but not limited to Emergency Directives 022 and 028.

In the last month, Nevada has seen a significant increase in COVID-19 cases and the test positivity rate. In response, Governor Sisolak has urged Nevadans to stay home as much as possible and instituted a *Statewide Pause* that imposes additional limitations on gatherings. With this context in mind, 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, some schools have reduced the scale of in-person learning or temporarily returned to full distance learning.

Ultimately, we continue to work towards returning students to in-person learning safely. As schools make preparations for after the winter holidays, it is critical that they have the flexibility to plan for some level of in-person or hybrid learning, even if they are located in counties that are subject to heightened mitigation. Given the current circumstances in Nevada, I recommend that the *SPCSA maintain the current in-person learning guidance as summarized in the table on the following page.*

Mitigation Level (Established by Governor’s Emergency Directive 030 and Road to Recovery: Moving to a New Normal)	SPCSA COVID-19 In-Person Learning Guidance (Established by SPCSA Board on Friday, November 6, 2020)
Baseline Level	A charter school sponsored by the SPCSA <i>may, but are not required to</i> , operate under an in-person or hybrid model in accordance with all prevailing directives, including but not limited to Emergency Directives 022 and 028.
Mitigation Level 1	Except with written approval of an exemption from the Executive Director, all charter schools sponsored by the SPCSA <i>shall</i> operate under a distance education or hybrid model , with the option to provide in-person instruction at a limited scale (less than 40% of the school’s enrollment at any given time) and subject to all prevailing directives, including but not limited to Emergency Directives 022 and 028.
Mitigation Level 2	
In addition, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Executive Director <i>must</i>, open a fast response process to consider appeals by schools for exemptions and <i>may</i> approve and enact individual plans informed by consultation with schools. • The Executive Director <i>may</i>, in unique circumstances require additional restrictions for specific schools and/or counties based on public health data and/or non-compliance with prevailing Emergency Directives. 	

Ongoing Monitoring

The SPCSA will continue bi-weekly all-school calls and bi-weekly one-on-one communication with school leaders to ensure that school leaders have timely access to critical information and the SPCSA is aware of school-based needs and challenges. SPCSA staff will also continue to monitor statewide public health information, including meetings of the COVID-19 Mitigation and Management Task Force. Should a school seek an exemption as described under the current guidance, SPCSA staff will work quickly to schedule a meeting with school personnel to discuss the proposal.

Depending on how circumstances evolve over the coming weeks, SPCSA staff may recommend changes to in-person learning guidance at a subsequent SPCSA board meeting.