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### NC Schools to Reopen in August

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 5:38 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

## July 15, 2020

# Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



## NC SCHOOLS TO REOPEN IN AUGUST

Peace. Yesterday, Governor Cooper announced that North Carolina's 1.5 million public school students are scheduled to return to school on August 17th. The reopening plan requires daily temperature and health screening checks, maintaining 6 feet of social distancing and face coverings to be worn by all school employees and students.

Governor Cooper said school districts can reopen with remote-only instruction if they determine that it's best for students, parents and teachers in that area. He warned that the state may switch to requiring all schools to use online-only instruction if COVID-19 cases spike and they can't safely reopen under the new health protocols.

Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, said that the available scientific evidence indicates that children are less likely to be infected with COVID-19 and are less likely to spread it to others.

Governor Cooper had previously directed schools to develop three reopening plans. Plan A offered minimal distancing where everyone is allowed back in school. Plan B is a combination of in-school and online learning, and Plan C is remote-only instruction.

K-12 public schools will reopen under Plan B, a "moderate social distancing" plan that limits how many people can be on campus, forcing many students to get a mix of in-person and remote instruction.

Though the Governor selected Plan B, he said school districts have the option to reopen under Plan C if they deem necessary.

The new statewide plan could increase interest in online-only programs from families who don't feel comfortable sending their child back to school or who don't want to deal with the rotating schedules.

## **FACE COVERINGS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL**

Governor Cooper announced that the state would provide all schools with at least five reusable cloth face coverings for every student and school employee. He's asking businesses to help schools by donating face coverings.

Face coverings are meant to reduce the possibility of the wearer spreading the illness to other people. Students are required to wear them on the bus and when they may be within 6 feet of another person.

## **POSITIVE TESTS**

Secretary Cohen said that if a student tests positive they will do contact tracing to notify the people who were most in contact with the child, but indicated that would not automatically lead to a school being closed.

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