



CONGRESSWOMAN

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SERVING NEVADA'S 3RD DISTRICT

# School Reopening Principles

I'm eager to reopen schools in the fall. But our families, students, and educators are not guinea pigs and I'm not willing to support policy that unnecessarily puts our communities in harm's way. We must choose science over politics. Reopening schools requires a flexible and adaptive process that responds to the dynamics of each community.

## Safety and wellbeing

Our students, families, and school personnel must have the safeguards and resources necessary to provide for their safety and wellbeing. This includes adequate PPE and sanitation supplies, plans for social distancing and COVID-19 screening/testing, workaround options for high-risk populations, and wrap-around services to address the socioemotional and mental health needs of each school community.

## Equity for our most vulnerable students

The pandemic has further exacerbated deep-seated inequities in our education system. Our most vulnerable students must be prioritized in school reopening plans to assure they receive the resources and attention they require and deserve. This means targeted efforts must be in place to address disparate needs, ranging from academics and health to the digital divide.

## Transparent, consistent, and meaningful engagement of students, families, staff, and other school stakeholders

Schools are complex, dynamic communities that rely on many stakeholders to function and thrive. All of these critical contributors must be involved in the process of making decisions about reopening schools and the manner in which it will be done.

## Strong contingency plans with robust remote learning options

While pursuing a full or hybrid reopening may be desired, well-constructed contingency plans for these efforts must be ready for implementation. This means our schools, educators, students, and families should be prepared to engage in the process of meaningful and effective online/remote learning – which includes the pursuit of academic benchmarks as well as opportunities for social interaction.

## Funding

Calling on our schools to reopen during a pandemic without the proper resources to effectively do so is dangerous. I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues in Congress to help pass the **HEROES Act** and the **Moving Forward Act** – which together provide over \$230 billion in emergency education funding to help schools reopen safely and to repair and modernize school facilities that endanger the health and safety of students and staff.

Unfortunately, the Senate has not felt the need to act on this legislation. Governors and leaders across the country, and from both sides of the political divide, have called on Congress to act. Our children don't have time for partisanship.