

## COLORADO PTA POSITION STATEMENT ON SCHOOL REOPENING AND COVID

Approved on August 8, 2020

PTA advocates for healthy learning environments for all students and school staff. We believe that all school health, wellness, and safety plans should be based on science and factual evidence and should change as new scientifically acquired information becomes available. This approach is why our position is that schools should re-open only in accordance with the initial guidelines outlined by the CDC, CDPHE, and local departments of public health.

Colorado PTA supports federal and state programs that provide additional funding for schools to enhance building safety including ventilation systems, structural improvements that allow appropriate physical distancing, student isolation if infection is suspected or documented, effective PPE for all staff and students, actionable testing for students and staff, hardware and technological access to support students through digital learning, and additional staff to help facilitate small groups and physical distancing. We urge Congress and the state of Colorado to ensure all student have access to reliable broadband internet access.

When in-person learning cannot be achieved safely, schools and districts should provide high-quality remote learning options that are equitably accessible to all students and families. We believe that family and student supports must be maintained both while schools are in-person and using remote learning, including food and nutrition services, mental health support, special education services, and English language learning supports.

Colorado PTA urges all districts, legislators, and the Colorado Department of Education to include parents, educators, and students in all decision-making related to re-opening school plans and to provide clear communication avenues to address concerns before, during, and after plans are developed.

We believe that all plans for school re-opening should include procedures for tracking and tracing transmission of COVID-19 infections, protocols for students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, thoughtful plans for cleaning/ disinfecting schools, best practices for maintaining physical distancing, and other measures that mitigate illness transmission in schools.