



April 30, 2021

TO: Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
Senate Education/Higher Education Committee
House Education K-12 Committee
Department of Public Instruction
State Board of Education
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Governor

Re: "The Reopen Our Schools Act of 2021" (S.L. 2021-4)
ABC Science Collaborative, Interim Report, April 2021

Dear Members,

Enclosed please find the April Interim Analysis of NC Schools Operating in Plan A.

As directed by the legislation, the NC Department of Public Instruction engaged the ABC Science Collaborative (through the Duke Clinical Research Institute) to collate, analyze, and interpret COVID-19 data from middle and high schools in Plan A. We refer to this initiative as the ABCs of North Carolina's Plan A, and we have posted a fact sheet, information about the district reporting process, and other materials at this [link](#) for your reference.

The ABC Science Collaborative will submit our future analysis of aggregate data for all partnering units no later than the last calendar day of May of 2021 and final analysis no later than June 30, 2021.

April Report for NC School Districts and Charters in Plan A

As of April 27, the NC DHHS has notified the ABC Science Collaborative that 98 school districts and 20 charter schools will operate in Plan A. All K-12 North Carolina school districts have signed data use agreements with us and are in compliance with the legislation as of today. Of note, not all districts and schools had been in Plan A for a sufficient length of time to report infections. We therefore report data from the schools and districts that have provided data to us. The charts below show data about district and school policy on physical distancing and the number of students per bus seat as well as COVID-19 primary cases and in-school transmission cases through April 23.

Interpretation

Preliminary data thus far show:

- 1) As anticipated, there were cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina schools; however, there was very limited reported within-school transmission (42 cases of within-school transmission across 751 schools).

- 2) North Carolina Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and charter schools are preventing within school transmission of COVID-19. Their performance to date is outstanding.
- 3) Preliminary data suggest that if LEAs and charter schools follow the NC DHHS StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) and adhere to the mask mandate, they effectively mitigate within-school transmission of COVID-19 in Plan A.
- 4) Based on data from March and April, masking appears to be adequate to prevent transmission on buses regardless of the number of children per seat (1, 2, or 3).
- 5) Based on the data previously presented to the North Carolina General Assembly (August 2020-February 2021), within-school transmission of COVID-19 in Plan A appears to be similar to within-school transmission in Plan B.

We look forward to discussing this with you in the coming weeks.

Regards,

Danny Benjamin, MD PhD
Danny Benjamin, MD MPH PhD

Table 1**NC LEAs in Plan A, LEA Size and COVID-19 Transmission***

LEA Size	Number of Districts	Number of Children	COVID-19 Transmission	
			Primary	Secondary
Small	42	107,094	209	4
Medium	29	243,502	625	18
Large	21	788,815	1380	20
Total	92	1,139,411	2,214	42

* Data submitted by April 23; not all districts reported transmission data.

Table 2**NC LEA in Plan A, Bus Practice and COVID-19 Transmission***

Bus Practice	Number of Districts	Number of Children in LEAs Reporting Bus Practice	COVID-19 Transmission	
			Primary	Secondary
<2	9	28,652	170	12
2	52	573,751	1443	17
3	13	208,812	601	13
Total	74	842,322	2,214	42

* Data submitted by April 23; not all districts reported bus practice and transmission data.

Table Definitions**District size**

Baseline number of individuals attending in-person school:

- Small – < 5000
- Medium – 5000-15000
- Large – > 15000

Bus Practice

Districts will report the number of students permitted to share a seat:

- <2
- 2
- 3

Primary

Initial person (student or staff) identified with or reporting a confirmed or presumptive infection.

Secondary

Persons (student or staff) reporting confirmed or presumptive infections AFTER close contact exposure with a case. If the close contact exposure occurred in a school setting (e.g. classroom) or during school sponsored event (e.g. athletics), these secondary cases are typically described as secondary transmission within the school setting(s).

Appendices

Appendix A - LEAs in Plan A – Bus Seat Occupancy and Physical Distancing

	LEA District	Start Date for Plan A	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
1	Alleghany County Schools	3/29/21	4	1293	2	3
2	Ashe County Schools	3/29/21	6	2813	2	3
3	Asheboro City Schools	4/6/21	8	4418	1	3
4	Avery County Schools	3/12/21	9	1821	1	3
5	Beaufort County Schools	3/22/21	14	5887	2	3
6	Bladen County Schools	4/12/21	13	3868	2	-
7	Brunswick County Schools	4/12/21	19	12060	3	3
8	Buncombe County Schools	3/21/21	44	22031	3	3
9	Burke County Schools	4/12/21	26	11392		
10	Cabarrus County Schools	4/13/21	39	32668		
11	Caldwell County Schools	4/12/21	26	10591	2	3
12	Camden County Schools	3/29/21	5	1758		
13	Carteret County Schools	3/29/21	18	7743		
14	Catawba County Schools	4/12/21	28	15335	2	3
15	Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools	4/12/21	175	138884		
16	Chatham County Schools	4/12/21	18	8614	2	3
17	Clay County Schools	3/22/21	3	1172	2	-
18	Cleveland County Schools	4/12/21	29	13791	3	-
19	Clinton City Schools	4/13/21	5	2891	2	-
20	Columbus County Schools	4/12/21	17	5162	2	3
21	Craven County Schools	4/15/21	25	12460	2	3
22	Cumberland County Schools	4/12/21	87	48185	2	3
23	Currituck County Schools	3/22/21	10	4078	2	3
24	Dare County Schools	4/13/21	11	5031	1	3
25	Davidson County Schools	4/12/21	36	17751	2	3
26	Duplin County Schools	3/22/21	13	9394	2	3
27	Edenton-Chowan Schools	4/12/21	4	1818	2	3
28	Edgecombe County Schools	4/14/21	14	5294		
29	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	4/12/21	13	4749		

	LEA District	Start Date for Plan A	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
30	Elkin City Schools	4/12/21	3	1216	2	3
31	Franklin County Schools	4/12/21	16	7724	3	-
32	Gaston County Public Schools	4/12/21	55	29318		
33	Gates County Schools	4/20/21	5	1456	1	6
34	Graham County Schools	3/22/21	3	1062	Other	3
35	Granville County Public Schools	4/19/21	18	6816	2	-
36	Greene County Schools	4/13/21	3	2700	2	3
37	Guilford County Schools	4/19/21	124	68264		
38	Halifax County Schools	4/19/21	11	2052	2	6
39	Harnett County Schools	4/12/21	28	19256	2	3
40	Haywood County Schools	3/23/21	15	6707	2	-
41	Henderson County Public Schools	3/23/21	23	12927	2	3
42	Hertford County Public Schools	4/15/21	7	2571		
43	Hickory City Schools	4/12/21	9	3882	2	3
44	Hoke County Schools	4/12/21	14	8342	2	6
45	Hyde County Schools	3/15/21	3	514	1	3
46	Iredell-Statesville Schools	4/7/21	37	20001		
47	Jackson County Public Schools	4/5/21	9	3517	2	-
48	Johnston County Schools	4/12/21	45	35906		
49	Jones County Schools	4/12/21	5	950	2	3
50	Kannapolis City Schools	4/12/21	8	5311		
51	Lee County Schools	4/12/21	17	9174	2	3
52	Lenoir County Public Schools	4/12/21	17	8207		
53	Lexington City Schools	4/12/21	7	2962	1	3
54	Lincoln County Schools	3/22/21	23	11019	3	3
55	Macon County Schools	4/5/21	11	4300		
56	Madison County Schools	4/12/21	7	2139	2	3
57	Martin County Schools	4/12/21	8	2636	2	3
58	McDowell County Schools	3/22/21	14	5677	3	3
59	Mitchell County Schools	4/12/21	7	1738	2	3
60	Montgomery County Schools	4/1/21	12	3495		

	LEA District	Start Date for Plan A	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
61	Moore County Schools	3/29/21	24	12363	3	-
62	Mooresville Graded School District	4/7/21	8	5931	2	-
63	Mount Airy City Schools	3/22/21	4	1643	1	3
64	Nash County Public Schools	4/12/21	29	13896	3	3
65	New Hanover County Schools	4/12/21	42	25952	3	-
66	Newton-Conover City Schools	4/14/21	7	24368	2	3
67	Onslow County Schools	4/6/21	36	26864	Other	-
68	Pamlico County Schools	4/12/21	4	1160	2	3
69	Pender County Schools	4/6/21	18	9344	3	3
70	Perquimans County Schools	3/22/21	4	1566	2	3
71	Person County Schools	4/12/21	11	4258	1	-
72	Pitt County Schools	4/13/21	38	22838		
73	Polk County Schools	3/22/21	7	2068		
74	Public Schools of Robeson County	4/12/21	40	20478	2	6
75	Randolph County School System	4/6/21	31	15049	2	-
76	Richmond County Schools	4/12/21	15	6549	1	3
77	Roanoke Rapids Graded School District	3/29/21	5	2573		
78	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	4/8/21	34	18005	3	-
79	Rutherford County Schools	4/12/21	18	7308	2	3
80	Sampson County Schools	4/12/21	18	7555		
81	Scotland County Schools	4/13/21	12	5273	2	3
82	Stokes County Schools	3/22/21	19	5455	2	-
83	Surry County Schools	4/12/21	19	7113	2	3
84	Swain County Schools	4/12/21	5	1845	2	3
85	Thomasville City Schools	4/19/21	4	2070	2	3
86	Transylvania County Schools	4/12/21	9	3181	Other	3
87	Tyrell County Schools	3/22/21	3	541	2	3
88	Union County Public Schools	4/12/21	52	39727	3	-
89	Vance County Schools	4/12/21	15	4954		
90	Wake County Public Schools System	4/5/21	187	157673	2	3
91	Watauga County Schools	4/12/21	10	4468	2	2

	LEA District	Start Date for Plan A	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
92	Wayne County Schools	3/29/21	18	17223	3	-
93	Whiteville City Schools	3/29/21	5	2050	2	3
94	Wilkes County Schools	3/24/21	22	8469	2	3
95	Wilson County Schools	3/29/21	26	10315	2	-
96	Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools	4/19/21	79	50407	2	3
97	Yadkin County Schools	4/6/21	14	4959	2	3
98	Yancey County Schools	3/22/21	9	1889	2	-
TOTAL			2,184	1,262,171		

Appendix B

Charter Schools in Plan A

	School Name	Start Date for Plan A	Number of Schools	Number of Students (per NC School Report Cards)
1	ArtSpace Charter School	4/13/21	1	389
2	Ascend Leadership Academy	4/19/21	1	163
3	Bethany Community School	3/30/21	1	431
4	Catamount School Western Carolina University	4/5/21	1	56
5	Central Park School for Children	4/14/21	1	634
6	Clover Garden School	4/6/21	1	655
7	Commonwealth High School	3/1/21	1	255
8	D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy	4/12/20	1	238
9	Endeavor Charter School	4/13/21	1	512
10	Healthy Start Academy	4/6/21	1	412
11	Lake Lure Classical Academy	4/12/21	1	510
12	Langtree Charter Academy	4/12/21	1	1647
13	Research Triangle High School	4/12/21	1	557
14	Stewart Creek High School	3/1/21	1	180
15	The Capitol Encore Academy	4/12/21	1	489
16	The Franklin School of Innovation, Inc.	4/12/20	1	520
17	The IDYL Charter School	4/1/21	1	336
18	Uwharrie Charter Academy	4/12/21	1	1700
19	Voyager Academy	4/12/21	1	1353
20	Willow Oak Montessori Charter School	4/12/21	1	216
TOTAL			20	11,253

Appendix C

NC School Districts and Charter Schools in Plan A – Secondary to Primary Transmission

LEA Size	Physical Distancing (feet)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Secondary to Primary Transition Ratio	Community Transmission cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days)
Small	3	2	3	>100
Small	3	2	0.14	50-99
Medium	3	3	0.07	>100
Medium	3	3	1	>100
Medium	3	2	0.02	50-99
Medium	-	2	0.29	>100
Medium	-	2	0.03	50-99
Large	3	2	0	>100
Large	3	2	0.02	>100
Large	-	3	0.04	>100
Large	-	2	0.02	50-99
Large	-	Other	0.13	>100
Small	6	2	0	>100
Small	6	1	0	50-99
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	>100
Small	3	2	0	50-99
Small	3	2	0	50-99
Small	3	2	0	50-99
Small	3	2	0	50-99
Small	3	2	0	50-99
Small	3	2	0	50-99

LEA Size	Physical Distancing (feet)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Secondary to Primary Transition Ratio	Community Transmission cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days)
Small	3	2	0	<50
Small	3	2	0	<50
Small	3	2	0	<50
Small	3	1	0	>100
Small	3	1	0	>100
Small	3	1	0	>100
Small	3	1	0	50-99
Small	3	1	0	50-99
Small	3	Other	0	50-99
Small	3	Other	0	>100
Small	2	2	0	>100
Small	-	2	0	>100
Small	-	2	0	>100
Small	-	2	0	>100
Small	-	2	0	50-99
Small	-	2	0	<50
Small	-	1	0	50-99
Small			0	>100
Small			0	>100
Small			0	>100
Small			0	>100
Small			0	50-99
Small			0	50-99
Small			0	50-99
Small			0	<50
Small	Varied	Varied	0	Varied
Medium	6	2	0	>100
Medium	3	3	0	>100
Medium	3	3	0	>100
Medium	3	3	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	>100

LEA Size	Physical Distancing (feet)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Secondary to Primary Transition Ratio	Community Transmission cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days)
Medium	3	2	0	>100
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	2	0	50-99
Medium	3	1	0	>100
Medium	3	1	0	50-99
Medium	-	3	0	>100
Medium	-	3	0	>100
Medium	-	3	0	50-99
Medium	-	2	0	>100
Medium	-	2	0	>100
Medium	-	2	0	50-99
Medium			0	>100
Medium			0	>100
Large	6	2	0	>100
Large	3	2	0	>100
Large	3	2	0	>100
Large	3	2	0	>100
Large	3	2	0	50-99
Large	3	2	0	50-99
Large	3	2	0	50-99
Large	-	3	0	>100
Large	-	3	0	50-99
Large	-	3	0	50-99
Large	-	2	0	>100
Large			0	>100

LEA Size	Physical Distancing (feet)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Secondary to Primary Transition Ratio	Community Transmission cases per 100,000 population (last 7 days)
Large			0	>100
Large			0	>100
Large			0	>100
Large			0	>100

* There were only 42 within-school transmission cases of COVID-19. Given the limited number of cases and the brief reporting period, the secondary-to-primary ratio is heavily influenced by a small number of cases. This is especially influential in small districts that have only 2 or 3 cases of COVID-19.