



May 28, 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, May 2021

Dear Members,

Enclosed please find the May 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 final analysis no later than June 30, 2021.

#### **May Report for NC School Districts and Charters in Plan A**

As of May 24, the NC DHHS has notified the ABC Science Collaborative that 99 school districts and 18 charter schools will operate in Plan A. Some charters have opted out of this reporting. All K-12 North Carolina school districts have signed data use agreements with us and are in compliance with the legislation as of today. 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 May 24.

#### **Interpretation**

Data thus far show:

- 1) **New information for May:** Distancing (less than 3 feet vs. 3 feet or more) does not impact within school transmission while masked.
- 2) **Similar to April report:**
  - a. As anticipated, there were cases of COVID-19 in North Carolina schools; however, there was very limited within-school transmission of COVID-19

- b. North Carolina Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and charter schools are preventing within school transmission of COVID-19. Their performance to date is outstanding.
- c. 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.
- d. Masking is adequate to prevent transmission on buses regardless of the number of children per seat (1, 2, or 3).
- e. Within-school transmission of COVID-19 in Plan A is similar to within-school transmission in Plan B in North Carolina.

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	84,040	596	25
Medium	35	227,507	1,738	99
Large	22	539,485	4,335	192
Total	99	851,032	6,669	316

**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	11	26,008	168	4
2	66	586,633	4,088	192
3	16	199,139	1,874	86
Other	5	39,252	539	34
Total	98	851,032	6,669	316

**Table 3: NC LEA in Plan A, Distance Practice and COVID-19 Transmission\***

Distance Practice	Number of Districts	Number of Schools	Number of Children	COVID-19 Transmission	
				Primary	Secondary
<3 feet	25	633	263,633	2,418	111
3 to ≥6 feet	73	1,660	587,399	4,093	192
Total	98	2293	851,032	6,511	303

\* Data submitted by May 24.

### Definitions

**District size:** small (<5,000), medium (5,000-15,000), large (>15,000) students attending in person

**Bus Practice:** districts report the number of students permitted to share a seat (1, 2, or 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).

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

	LEA	Community Transmission Cases per 100,000 Population (Last 7 Days)	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
1	Alleghany County Schools	99	4	1293	2	3'
2	Ashe County Schools	62	6	2813	2	3'
3	Asheboro City Schools	46	8	4418	1	3'
4	Avery County Schools	57	9	1821	1	3'
5	Beaufort County Schools	94	14	5887	2	3'
6	Bladen County Schools	110	13	3868	2	<3'
7	Brunswick County Schools	38	19	12060	3	3'
8	Buncombe County Schools	41	44	22031	2	3'
9	Burke County Schools	35	26	11392	2	<3'
10	Cabarrus County Schools	48	39	32668	3	None
11	Caldwell County Schools	43	26	10591	2	3'
12	Camden County Schools	74	5	1758	2	3'
13	Carteret County Public Schools	43	18	7743	3	>=6'
14	Catawba County Schools	66	28	15335	2	3'
15	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	54	175	138884	2	3'
16	Chatham County Schools	42	18	8614	2	3'
17	Clay County Schools	98	3	1172	2	<3'
18	Cleveland County Schools	57	29	13791	3	<3'
19	Clinton City Schools	50	5	2891	2	<3'
20	Columbus County Schools	23	17	5162	2	3'
21	Craven County Schools	41	25	12460	2	3'
22	Cumberland County Schools	107	87	48185	2	3'
23	Currituck County Schools	40	10	4078	2	3'
24	Dare County Schools	30	11	5031	1	3'
25	Davidson County Schools	62	36	17751	2	3'
26	Duplin County Schools	24	13	9394	2	3'
27	Edenton-Chowan Schools	43	4	1818	2	3'

	LEA	Community Transmission Cases per 100,000 Population (Last 7 Days)	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
28	Edgecombe County Public Schools	74	14	5294	2	3'
29	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	45	13	4749	3	3'
30	Elkin City Schools	86	3	1216	2	3'
31	Franklin County Schools	82	16	7724	3	<3'
32	Gaston County Schools	78	55	29318	2	<3'
33	Gates County Schools	35	5	1456	1	>=6'
34	Graham County Schools	142	3	1062	Other	3'
35	Granville County Schools	51	18	6816	2	<3'
36	Greene County Schools	76	3	2700	2	3'
37	Guilford County Schools	52	124	68264	2	3'
38	Halifax County Schools	42	11	2052	2	>=6'
39	Harnett County Schools	65	28	19256	2	3'
40	Haywood County Schools	55	15	6707	2	<3'
41	Henderson County Schools	29	23	12927	2	3'
42	Hertford County Schools	17	7	2571	2	3'
43	Hickory City Schools	66	9	3882	2	3'
44	Hoke County Schools	156	14	8342	2	>=6'
45	Hyde County Schools	0	3	514	1	3'
46	Iredell-Statesville Schools	67	37	20001		
47	Jackson County Public Schools	41	9	3517	2	<3'
48	Johnston County Public Schools	86	45	35906	3	<3'
49	Jones County Schools	117	5	950	2	3'
50	Kannapolis City Schools		8	5311	2	3'
51	Lee County Schools	49	17	9174	2	3'
52	Lenoir County Public Schools	141	17	8207	Other	>=6'
53	Lexington City Schools	62	7	2962	1	3'
54	Lincoln County Schools	77	23	11019	3	3'
55	Macon County Schools	42	11	4300	2	3'

	LEA	Community Transmission Cases per 100,000 Population (Last 7 Days)	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
56	Madison County Schools	41	7	2139	2	3'
57	Martin County Schools	67	8	2636	2	3'
58	McDowell County Schools	33	14	5677	3	3'
59	Mitchell County Schools	7	7	1738	2	3'
60	Montgomery County Schools	29	12	3495	2	3'
61	Moore County Schools	33	24	12363	3	<3'
62	Mooresville Graded School District	67	8	5931	2	<3'
63	Mount Airy City Schools	86	4	1643	1	3'
64	Nash County Public Schools	39	29	13896	3	3'
65	New Hanover County Schools	36	42	25952	3	<3'
66	Newton Conover City Schools	66	7	24368	2	3'
67	Onslow County Schools	97	36	26864	Other	None
68	Pamlico County Schools	0	4	1160	2	3'
69	Pender County Schools	63	18	9344	3	3'
70	Perquimans County Schools	22	4	1566	2	3'
71	Person County Schools	76	11	4258	1	<3'
72	Pitt County Schools	98	38	22838	2	3'
73	Polk County Schools	63	7	2068	1	3'
74	Public Schools of Robeson County	48	40	20478	2	>=6'
75	Randolph County School System	46	31	15049	2	<3'
76	Richmond County Schools	76	15	6549	1	3'
77	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	42	5	2573	1	None
78	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	62	34	18005	3	<3'
79	Rutherford County Schools	51	18	7308	2	3'
80	Sampson County Schools	50	18	7555	2	3'
81	Scotland County Schools	46	12	5273	2	3'
82	Stanly County Schools	67	23	8206	2	3'
83	Stokes County Schools	94	19	5455	2	<3'

	LEA	Community Transmission Cases per 100,000 Population (Last 7 Days)	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
84	Surry County Schools	86	19	7113	2	3'
85	Swain County Schools	14	5	1845	2	3'
86	Thomasville City Schools	62	4	2070	2	3'
87	Transylvania County Schools	35	9	3181	Other	3'
88	Tyrrell County Schools	50	3	541	2	3'
89	Union County Public Schools	53	52	39727	3	<3'
90	Vance County Schools	52	15	4954	Other	3'
91	Wake County Schools	55	187	157673	2	3'
92	Watauga County Schools	101	10	4468	2	3'
93	Wayne County Public Schools	55	18	17223	3	<3'
94	Whiteville City Schools	23	5	2050	2	3'
95	Wilkes County Schools	72	22	8469	2	3'
96	Wilson County Schools	22	26	10315	2	None
97	Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools	77	79	50407	2	3'
98	Yadkin County Schools	98	14	4959	2	3'
	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b><u>2,2207</u></b>	<b><u>1,270,377</u></b>		

## Appendix B

### Charter Schools in Plan A

	School Name	Plan A Start Date	Number of Schools	2020-21 School Year ADM (Month 2)	Bus Seat Occupancy	Physical Distancing (ft)
1	ArtSpace Charter	4/13/2021	1	389		
2	Ascend Leadership Academy: Lee County	4/19/2021	1	163	2	<3'
3	Bethany Community School	3/30/2021	1	431		
4	Catamount School	4/5/2021	1	56	2	3'
5	Central Park School For Children	4/14/2021	1	634	<1	3'
6	Clover Garden	4/6/2021	1	655	<1	3'
7	Commonwealth High School	3/1/2021	1	255		
8	D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy	4/12/2021	1	238		
9	Endeavor Charter	4/13/2021	1	512	<1	3'
10	Healthy Start Academy	4/6/2021	1	412	3	3'
11	Lake Lure Classical Academy	4/12/2021	1	510	1	3'
12	Langtree Charter Academy	4/12/2021	1	1647	Other	3'
13	Research Triangle High School	4/12/2021	1	557	Other	>=6'
14	Stewart Creek High School	3/1/2021	1	180		
15	The Capitol Encore Academy	4/12/2021	1	489		
16	The Franklin School of Innovation	4/12/2020	1	520	2	3'
17	The Institute for the Development of You	4/1/2021	1	336		
18	Uwharrie Charter Academy	4/12/2021	1	1700	2	<3'
19	Voyager Academy	4/12/2021	1	1353	Other	3'
20	Water's Edge Village School	4/1/2021	1	38	Other	3'
21	Willow Oak Montessori	4/12/2021	1	216	Other	3'
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>21</b>	<b>11,291</b>		