

# Contextualizing the Response to COVID-19 in St. Louis Schools

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*mySci is a project of*

 Washington  
University in St. Louis  
INSTITUTE FOR  
SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

# What Challenges Accompanied the Shift to Remote Learning?

BISTATE RESPONSE

## Missouri schools closed through end of academic year as deaths continue to rise

Robert Patrick , Kurt Erickson Apr 10, 2020 12



Bill Huber, center, and Khadija Tejan organize a pile of iPads at a distribution point outside the St. Louis Public School District's headquarters on Wednesday, April 8, 2020. St. Louis schools are providing iPads to students to help them with distance learning during the stay at home order that forced schools to close. The district will be contacting parents to coordinate pick ups at different technology distribution sites around the city. The SLPS Foundation's Emergency Response Fund is helping to pay for the effort that should place about 10,000 iPads with students. Photo by David Carson, [dcarson@post-dispatch.com](mailto:dcarson@post-dispatch.com)

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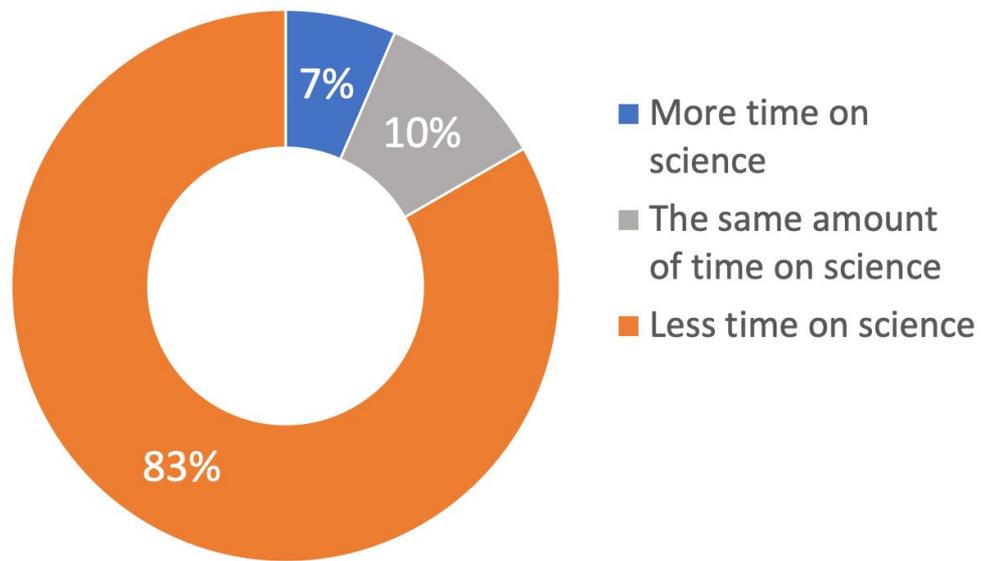
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# Remote Learning Challenges for Science Education in St. Louis

Source: ISP survey of K-8 teachers, May  
2020 (n = 245)

**Compared to last April & May, this year I spent  
or expected my students to spend:**



# Remote Learning Challenges for Science Education in St. Louis

Source: ISP survey of K-8 teachers, May 2020 (n = 245)

## Distance Learning Challenges

<i>Challenge</i>	<i>Teachers Reporting</i>
Many of my students do not have parents/caregivers able to help them complete activities or assignments	75%
My students and I are stressed by the current situation beyond the bounds of school	39%
There are too many resources and it is overwhelming	37%
Caring for children in my home or other family/household commitments	33%
Lack of clear direction from leadership on learning goals or priorities	16%

# Remote Learning Challenges for Science Education in St. Louis

Source: ISP survey of K-8 teachers, May  
2020 (n = 245)

*“Many students do not have proper access to technology to complete assignments.”*

*“The amount of online resources is very limited.”*

*“The mySci curriculum is mostly hands-on which is impossible to teach online.”*

Who provides guidance &  
resources to address these  
challenges?

# K-12 Education Policy in the United States



## **Federal Dept. of Ed.**

*Limited role, but crucial to  
funding schools with many  
low-income students*

Require annual summative testing:

- Math & ELA: every year grades 3-8
- Science: twice between grades 3 & 8

Provide Title I funds to states & districts



## **State Depts. of Ed.**

*Funding, standards, &  
accountability*

Establish learning standards

Conduct summative testing

Fund schools (local property taxes)

Evaluate, rate, & accredit schools

License & certify teachers



## **Local School Districts**

*Day-to-day operations*

Operate K-12 public schools

Hire & manage teachers and school leaders

Provide curricula, materials, instructional support, and professional development



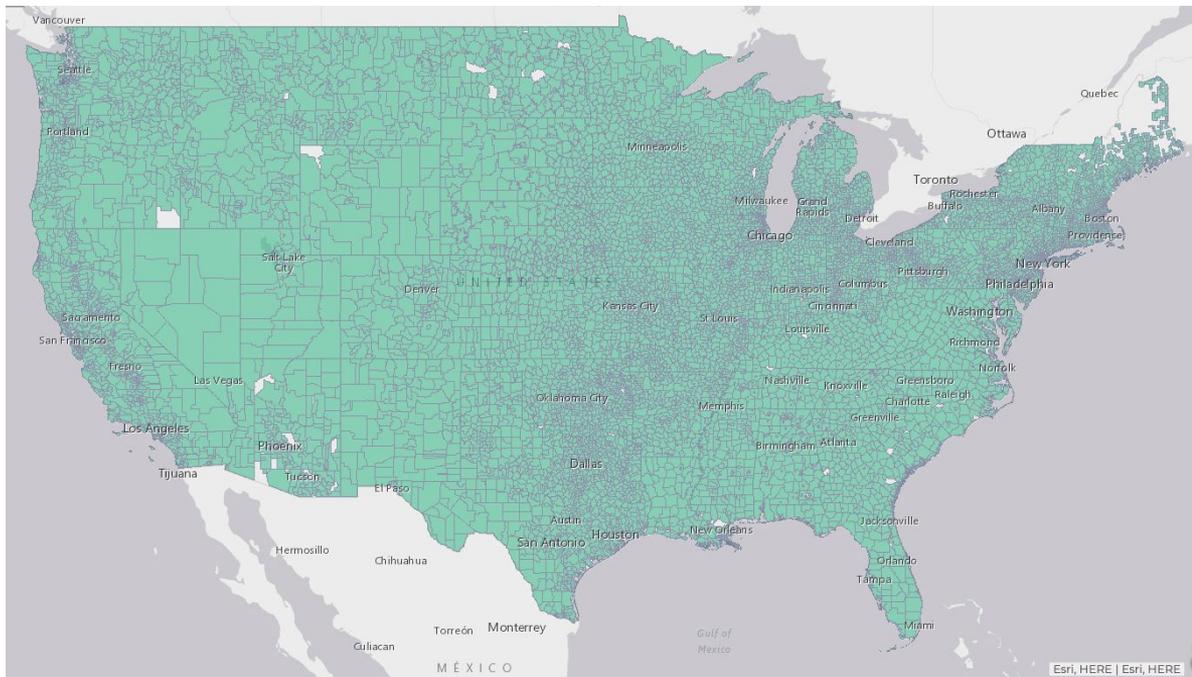
## **Outside Organizations**

*Anything from nice “extras”  
to essential funding,  
services & curriculum*

E.g., foundations, nonprofits, universities, businesses, and professional organizations

Partner with schools, districts, states, and nationally to provide a variety of services & material support

# K-12 Education Policy in the United States



***13,500 school districts  
are largely left to  
make their own  
decisions about how  
to address COVID-19.***

Sources: <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/schoolmap>; <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019106.pdf>

# Federal Response to COVID

March – May 2020

## **School closures**

- State-by-state or district-by-district decision

## **Some federal support**

- Annual testing requirement waived for 2020 (but not 2021)
- Missouri receives \$208.4 million in CARES Act for assistance with operations & transition to remote learning

*□3% of Missouri's 2020 education budget*

# Fall Reopening Plans

June – August 2020

## Public pressure to reopen schools



*“If schools aren't going to reopen...they shouldn't get the funds.”*

– Betsy DeVos,  
US Secretary of Education



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

**SCHOOLS MUST OPEN IN THE FALL!!!**

1:40 PM · Jul 6, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

69.1K Retweets 25.7K Quote Tweets 441.1K Likes



*“These kids have got to get back to school... And if they do get COVID-19, which they will... They're going to go home and they're going to get over it.”* – Mike Parson, Missouri Governor

# Fall Reopening Plans

June – August 2020

## Health and safety concerns



Source:

<https://www.krcu.org/post/how-go-back-teachers-wrestle-thought-returning-school#stream/0>

# Fall Reopening Plans

June – August 2020

## Little public health guidance on school reopening

- Federal gov, Missouri offer “no clear public health criteria to guide reopening decisions”
- Missouri releases suggestions/FAQs for cleaning, social distancing, PPE, screening protocols, and personal hygiene
- Contact tracing required in Missouri schools

Sources:

<https://www.crpe.org/thelens/urgent-action-states-fed-needed-clarify-school-reopening-decisions>,

<https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/COVID-MO-K12-Reopening-Guidance.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0UGF4UhkR1e9gg-LgTeNBcHUWNwWxzz7dkRAMx5kaPeVcKObtIlg18xX2o>

# Fall Reopening Plans

June – August 2020

## Little guidance on remote learning

*“I have spent this whole summer working on adapting the curriculum for my students preparing for the fall. No one was ready for what happened [in the spring]... The teachers were scrambling, the students were in a fog and I don't know how else to describe it other than chaos. I don't want that feeling again and have to work that much harder to prepare for them for what comes next.”*

*– 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

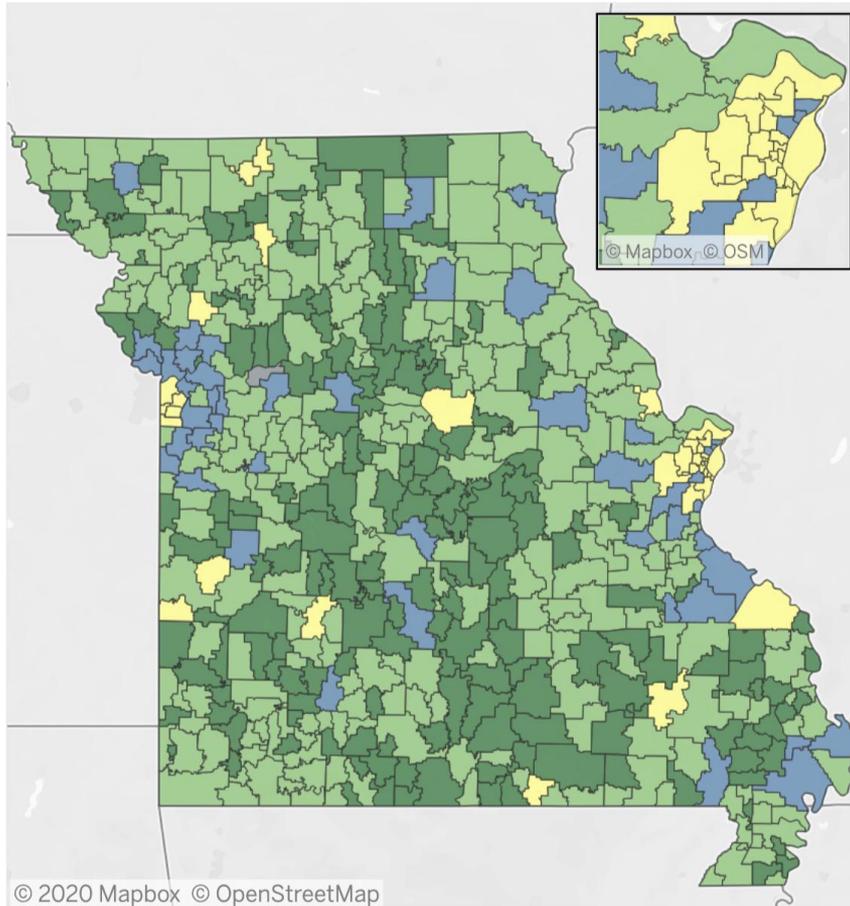
# Missouri School Reopening Status By District

September 08, 2020

Day of Instruction

< September 08, 2020 >

Timeline slider with navigation arrows.



## Number of LEAs

Onsite	179
Onsite w/ Distanced Option	257
Blend Onsite/Distanced	54
Distanced	66
Closed	0

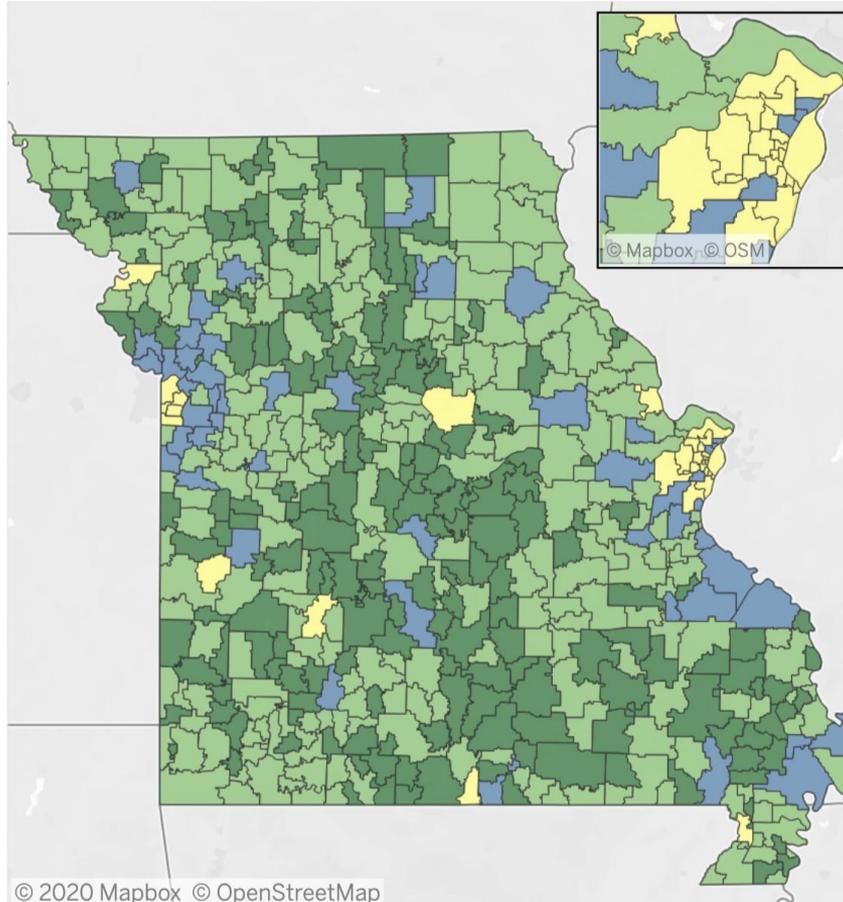
## 2019-2020 K-12 Enrollment

Onsite	97,331
Onsite w/ Distanced Option	330,268
Blend Onsite/Distanced	220,313
Distanced	229,764
Closed	0

## Pattern of Instruction Definitions

# Missouri School Reopening Status By District

September 15, 2020



Day of Instruction

< September 15, 2020 >



Number of LEAs

Onsite		182
Onsite w/ Distanced Option		256
Blend Onsite/Distanced		58
Distanced		61
Closed		0

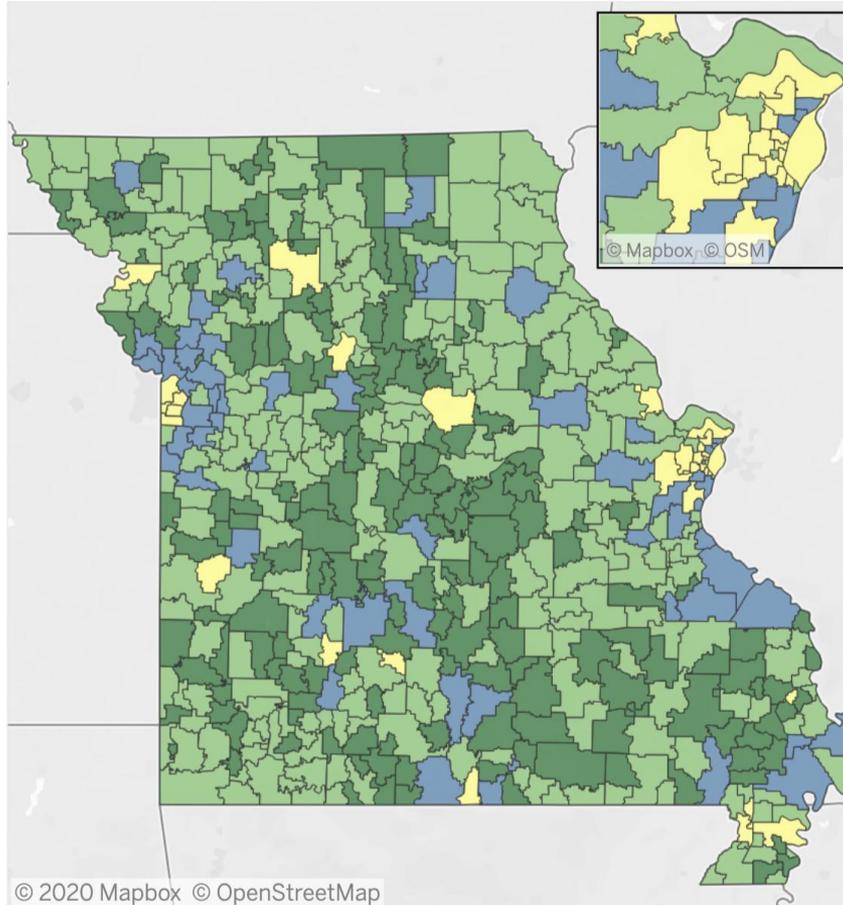
2019-2020 K-12 Enrollment

Onsite		95,779
Onsite w/ Distanced Option		319,944
Blend Onsite/Distanced		226,336
Distanced		236,568
Closed		0

Pattern of Instruction Definitions

# Missouri School Reopening Status By District

September 23, 2020



Day of Instruction

< September 23, 2020 >



Number of LEAs

Onsite		176
Onsite w/ Distanced Option		254
Blend Onsite/Distanced		64
Distanced		63
Closed		0

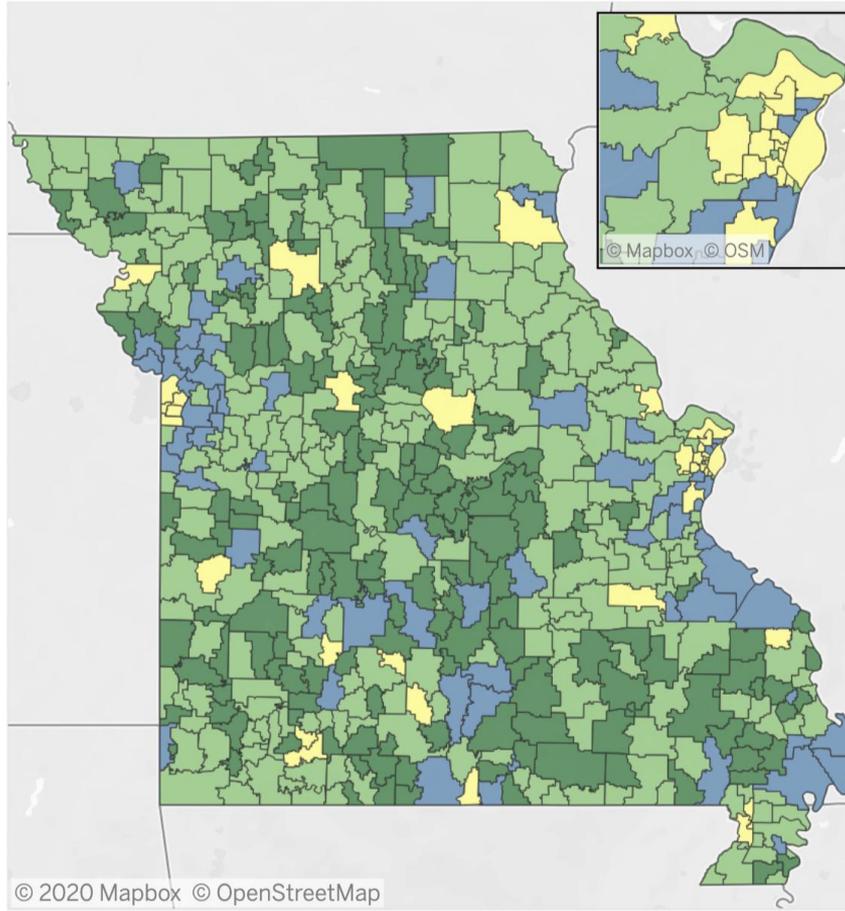
2019-2020 K-12 Enrollment

Onsite		90,957
Onsite w/ Distanced Option		324,414
Blend Onsite/Distanced		243,433
Distanced		219,823
Closed		0

Pattern of Instruction Definitions

# Missouri School Reopening Status By District

October 05, 2020



Day of Instruction

< October 05, 2020 >



Number of LEAs

Onsite		174
Onsite w/ Distanced Option		248
Blend Onsite/Distanced		69
Distanced		66
Closed		0

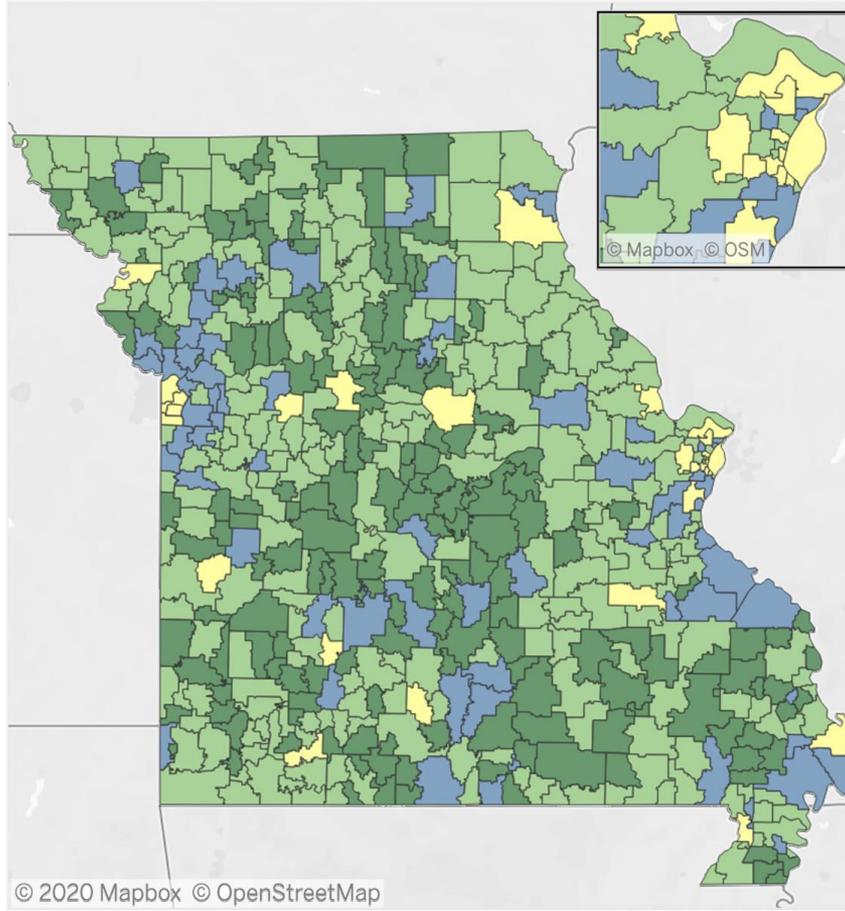
2019-2020 K-12 Enrollment

Onsite		88,978
Onsite w/ Distanced Option		331,147
Blend Onsite/Distanced		255,122
Distanced		203,380
Closed		0

Pattern of Instruction Definitions

# Missouri School Reopening Status By District

October 08, 2020



Day of Instruction

< October 08, 2020 >

◀ ■ ▶

Number of LEAs

Onsite	■	175
Onsite w/ Distanced Option	■	251
Blend Onsite/Distanced	■	73
Distanced	■	58
Closed	■	0

2019-2020 K-12 Enrollment

Onsite	■	88,946
Onsite w/ Distanced Option	■	338,732
Blend Onsite/Distanced	■	263,827
Distanced	■	187,122
Closed	■	0

Pattern of Instruction Definitions