

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

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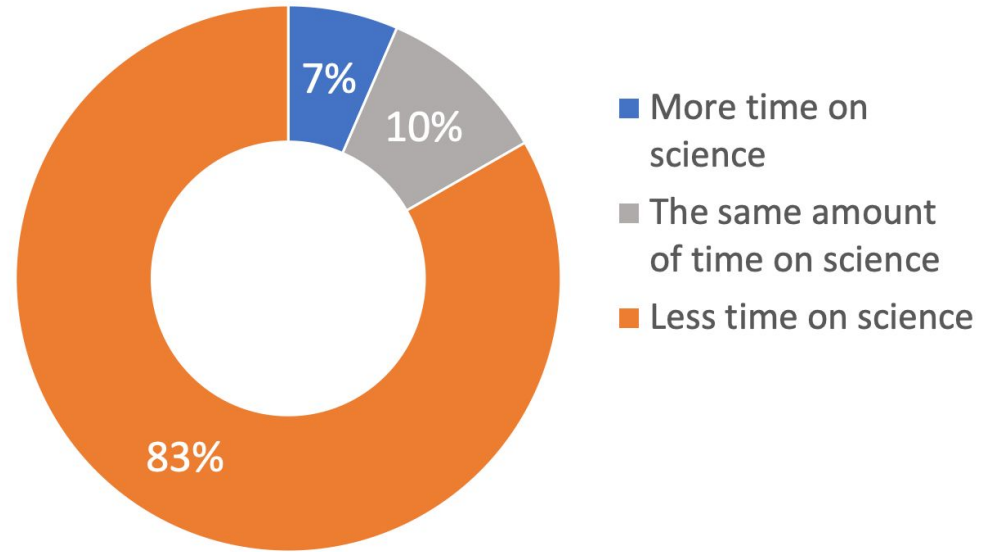
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Remote Learning Challenges for Science Education in St. Louis

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



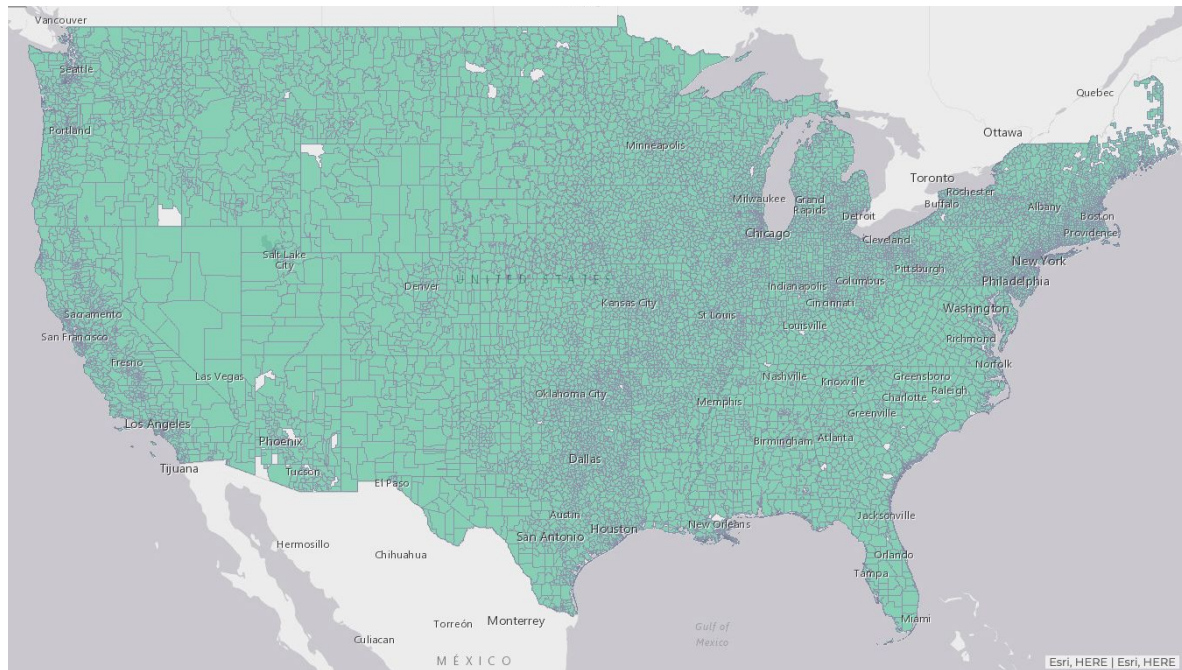
Outside Organizations

*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



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-LgTeNBcHUWNwWxzz7dkRAMx5kaPeVcKObtIg18xX2o>

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.”

– 8th grade teacher

Missouri School Reopening Status By District






September 08, 2020

Day of Instruction






< September 08, 2020 >



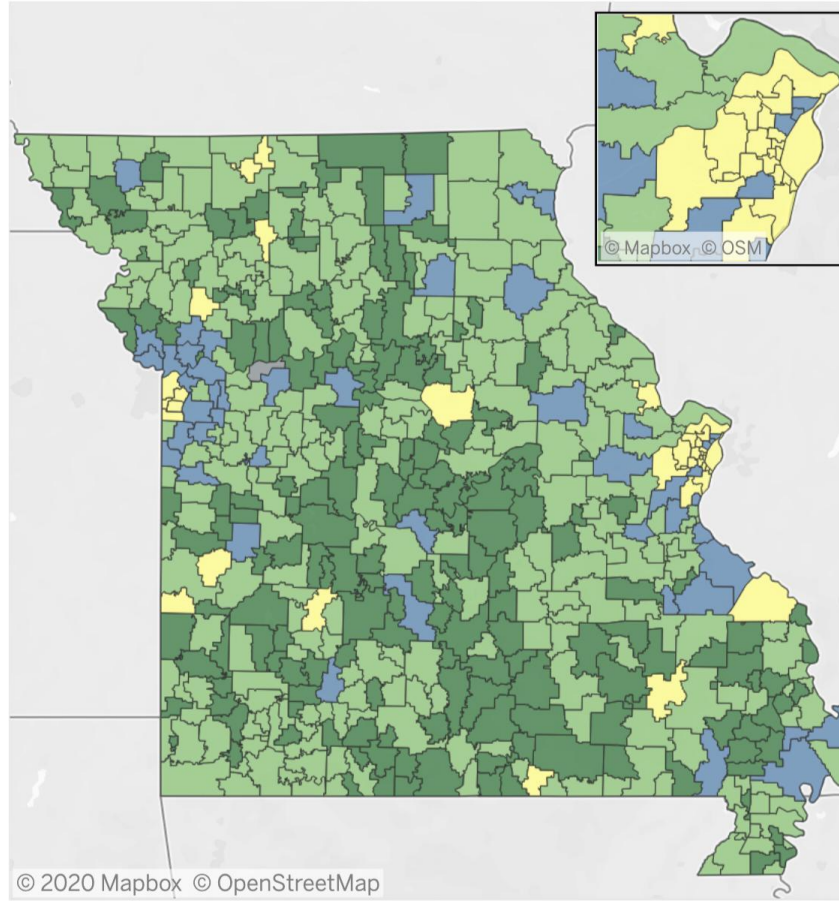
Number of LEAs

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

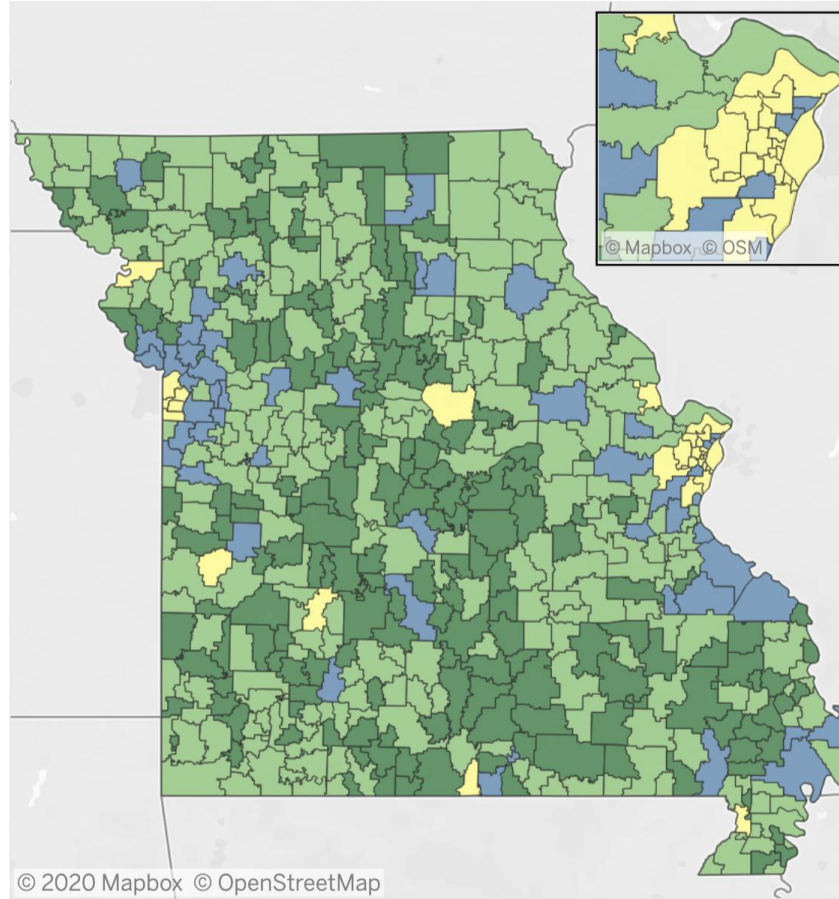


Missouri School Reopening Status By District

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

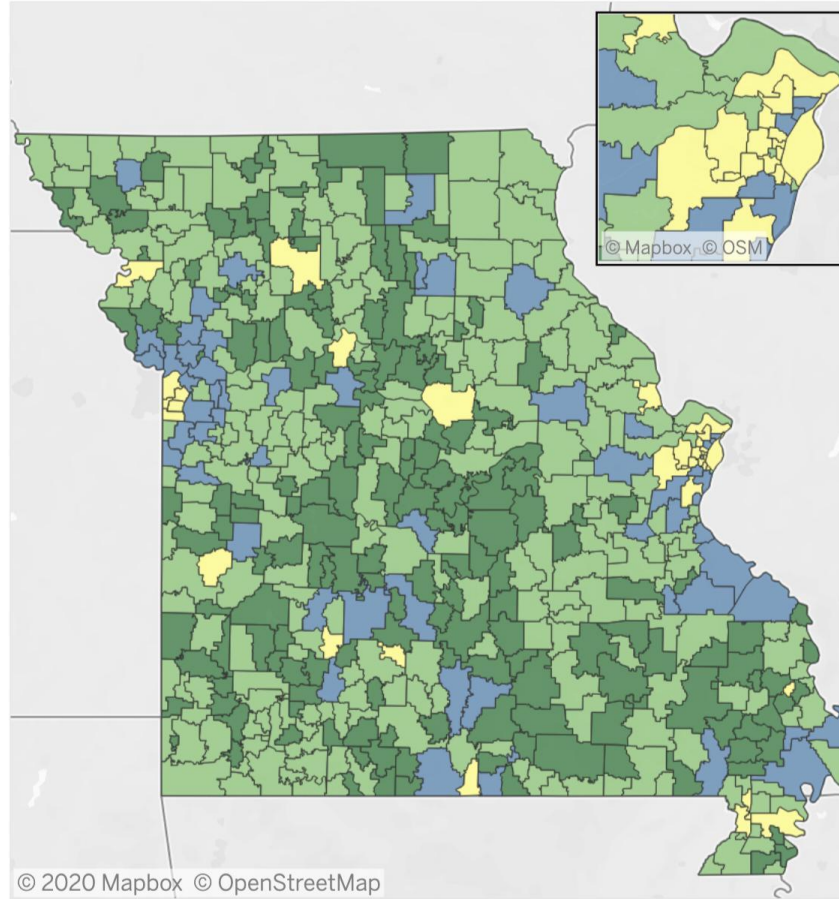
Pattern of Instruction Definitions

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

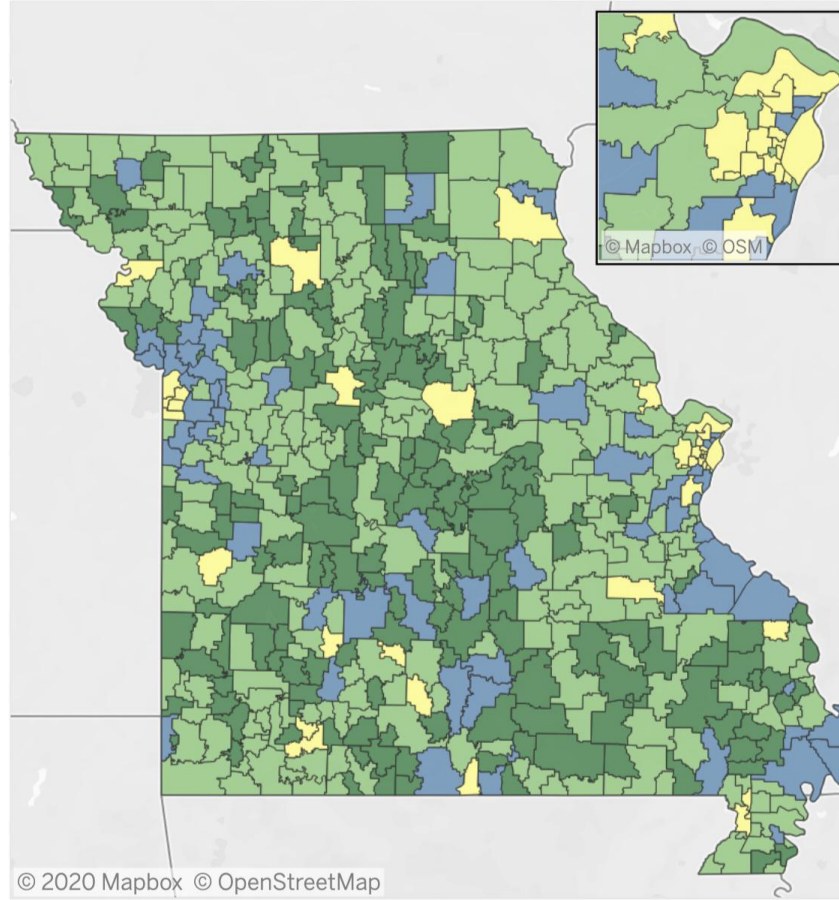
Pattern of Instruction Definitions

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

