

Representative Udall Town Hall Meeting #2 on the 2020-2021 School Year (7/27/2020)

- Most recent EO:
 - Requires DHS to compile public health benchmarks, with the latest release date of the benchmarks being August 7.
 - Directs LEAs to refer to CDC guidelines for mitigation strategies.
 - Mandates distance learning begins on school district's instructional calendar start date.
 - Requires in-person option to begin on August 17.
 - This is **not the same** as in-person instruction. Instead, in-person can mean students practicing distance learning in a safe and secure location provided by the school.
 - Students **cannot** be turned away from in-person option.
- Rep. Udall: If more students ask to be on-site than there are teachers/staff willing to be on-site, what are schools to do? Turn away students, prioritize students with special needs?
 - Governor's Office: Per the EO, students cannot be turned away. Encourages schools to develop partnerships with other schools, Boys and Girls Clubs or LEAs who have capacity. Recommend surveying parents to find out this data.
 - ADE guidance will be clarified to reflect this.
- Rep. Udall: What is going to be in DHS's benchmarks? How far along are the benchmarks?
 - Governor's Office: Benchmarks will be released by August 7. Not entirely sure what the benchmarks will contain.
- Question: If there is no capacity in the school and no option to partner, what is the school district supposed to do?
 - Governor's Office: An in-person option must exist per the EO.
- Rep. Udall: In speaking with the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, increase in the number of kids coming into the ER from attempted suicide. Need to make sure that the state and schools are providing ways for students to safely interact.
- Rep. Udall: How is PPE acquisition progressing?
 - Dr. Casteel: CUSD is not having any problems right now but did have issues about a month ago. CUSD has 30,000 face masks, hand sanitizer installed in each classroom and face shields as backup.
 - Scott Thompson: MUSD same as CUSD. Difficulty with acquiring the proper PPE as CDC guidelines are constantly being updated.
 - Hollis Merrell, Snowflake USD: No problem getting PPE but concern with the benchmark data. Is the benchmark data going to be released by zip code, county, school district? School districts transcend zip codes—need a clear idea what this is going to look like.
 - Governor's Office: Will get these concerns back to DHS.
 - Jacqui Clay, Cochise County: Receiving support from emergency services and county health department. Communication and open relationship are vital.

- Question: Will the DHS benchmarks include guidance if a student or teacher tests positive for COVID?
 - Governor's Office: Not clear on this yet.
 - Rep. Udall: This is important information to know.
 - Jacqui Clay: Each school in Cochise County will have a liaison assigned from the county department of health. In conjunction with the school, the liaison will assist the school in determining best course of action.
- Rep. Udall to Dr. Casteel: What are the most pressing issues to CUSD?
 - The constantly changing information from CDC, shifting guidelines and recommendations.
 - Developing a safe plan to bring SPED students back.
 - Scheduling in-person option for students.
 - Shifting staff/teachers.
 - Determining feasibility and appropriateness of cash programs.
 - Determining when the right time to open in-person instruction.
- Rep. Udall: Recommend reassigning support staff, if possible, to help teachers (such as having support staff call and check in on students, provide reading support, etc.)
- Question: Are LEAs required to provide transportation for in-person option?
 - ADE and Governor's Office: No, but it is highly recommended they do.
 - SPED students must be provided transportation if specified in IEP?
 - ADE will check but believes this to be accurate.
- Rep. Udall: Per CDC contact tracing study, kids under 10 are least likely to be infected with COVID, less likely to suffer severe symptoms and least likely to spread it (none to almost no reports of COVID spreading from those under 10). Safest group to return first is K-3/4...begin with having this group return? These students need the in-person interaction most and are part of the safest group.
 - ADE: Waiver for in-person instruction can be applied for if county health department declare an outbreak.
- Governor's Office: Waiting on action from Congress for liability coverage.
- ADE: School districts must submit distance learning plans, but schools do not need to wait for approval to begin distance learning.
 - Scott Thompson: Expected to provide an estimate of the percentage of time in-person and distance learning; this can be revised later than the 40th day.
 - ADE: For kids that transfer back to in-person instruction: Estimate percentage of online learning, estimate percentage of in-person = aggregate percentage that will be used to calculate ADM.
 - Question: When is ADE going to pinpoint a 40th day?
 - ADE: Going to issue guidance to clarify.
- Catcher Baden, State Board of Education: Advising schools that never had an AOI to go ahead with distance learning plans. AOI funding is different than brick-and-mortar, different rules, etc. With the timeframe, there would be complications.