

Expanded In-Person Learning for Public Schools: The Options

As of February 8, 2021, districts and schools across all counties are eligible for hybrid learning if they meet PED requirements. The new eligibility requirements rely on extensive preparations and protocols to ensure the safety of students, school staff, educators, and families. Districts and schools now have three options for in-person learning.

Once a district/school has met the updated requirements, the decision to return rests with the individual district/school leadership and should be based on local community needs and circumstances. In addition, families may opt to continue remote learning for their child if they so choose.

Expanded in-person learning options include:

Option 1: Hybrid

All schools – elementary through secondary – are eligible to bring back students in the hybrid model. Hybrid allows schools to divide their student population into at least two cohorts, bringing back up to 50% of students at a time. In addition, schools must adhere to the COVID-safe practices (CSPs) outlined in the PED COVID-19 Response Toolkit.

Option 2: Remote with small groups

All schools – elementary through secondary – may remain primarily remote and expand in-person small group instruction. For districts/schools not ready to welcome students into a full hybrid model, they may expand small group instruction to all grades - maintaining cohorts - with up to 50% of students participating at a time.

Option 3: Districts/Schools <100 Students

Districts and/or schools in all counties that have fewer than 100 students participating in in-person learning are eligible to provide in-person instruction for all students – elementary through secondary – in a 5:1 ratio.

Additional expanded in-person learning information and guidance is available at bit.ly/BackToSchoolNM.