Talking Points

# Changes to County Color While Maintaining Current Learning Models

Intended for use by school district’s boards or superintendents

* County color is meant for the community and business – the school is required to have preventive measures in place and can easily increase preventive measures
* Many factors go into the decision on what learning model should be utilized.
  + We weigh the relative health risks of COVID-19 transmission from in-personal instruction against the educational, social-behavioral, and emotional risks, as well as access to school meal programs, social services, extended day childcare services and extra-curricular activities, social-emotional support from peers and educators, and school transportation.
  + Number of preventive strategies in place in school/district – mask use/mandate, social distancing, hand washing, cleaning/disinfecting
  + Current reflection of the county color level within the school district/building
  + Ability to continue delivering learning based on number of teachers/staff in isolation or quarantine
  + Current County color
* Just because a county is high or low, doesn’t mean the community/school district is currently seeing the county levels within their boundaries
* Some school districts have students from multiple counties and need to consider more than just the county level where the school resides
* Color of the county is the cue to the community to increase diligence in preventive measures to keep the school open
* School is already modeling behaviors required during a shift to a more extreme color (mask wearing, social distancing, hand washing)
* Students are more likely to participate in those behaviors in school
* Students are doing a better job than adults participating in preventive measures