

Back Together this Fall

Working together, schools, families, and communities can keep students healthy, safe, and learning in person.

Recently released 2020–21 statewide student assessment data show:

- **Students who learned *in person* lost the least ground academically.** In-person students spent at least seven months in the classroom during the 2020–21 school year.
- **Students who learned *hybrid or remote* showed less academic growth.** Hybrid students were in the classroom between three and seven months of the school year. Remote students spent less than three months in the classroom.
- **Look out for your child's report!** Individual student reports will arrive at school districts in early September, and those reports will then be sent to families.

How this data is informing the 2021–22 school year:

The state test results show that students who learn *in person* are more likely to have mastered grade-level material. **School districts are committing to offer full time, in-person instruction to all students in a safe manner for the 2021–22 school year.** The tests are not being used to evaluate educators or districts.

Students with high needs — English learners, students with disabilities, and/or students from low-income families — were more likely to be remote during the 2020–21 year. A return to in-person instruction in 2021–22 is even more important for them.

How can we work together to support safe, in-person learning?

We know students learn best in person with their educators and friends. Being in person also ensures that students have access to all that schools provide — from extracurricular activities to nutritious meals.

CSDE is working closely with the Department of Public Health to provide [guidance](#) to districts so that schools are as safe as they can be. Steps being taken include

masking indoors, keeping students at least three feet apart in classrooms, hand washing, and more. Combining these layers of protection creates an effective strategy for keeping students and staff safe in school.

Families can join us in supporting safe, in-person learning by:

- **Encouraging your child to attend school in person, every day,** unless they have COVID-19 symptoms; follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [guidance for staying home when sick and getting tested](#).
- **Getting yourself and your children, if they are age 12 or older, vaccinated against COVID-19.** [Find a vaccine clinic in your community](#).
- **Watching for signs of stress in your children.** Try some simple and fun [activities](#) to de-stress at home, or find out what extracurricular activities are offered by your school or community. If the feelings persist, speak to your child's school counselor, pediatrician, or another medical professional.
- **Taking care of yourself.** It is natural to feel stress, anxiety, grief, and worry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Engaging in [healthy coping activities](#) relieves stress and is also good role modeling for children.
- **Continuing to practice [COVID-19 prevention strategies](#)** such as handwashing and vaccination of eligible persons.
- **Seeking out facts and information from reliable sources** such as the [CDC](#).

For more information:

[COVID-19 pandemic: Helping young children and parents transition back to school](#)

[Pandemia de COVID-19: cómo ayudar a los niños pequeños y los padres a hacer la transición para volver a la escuela](#)



Connecticut State Department of Education