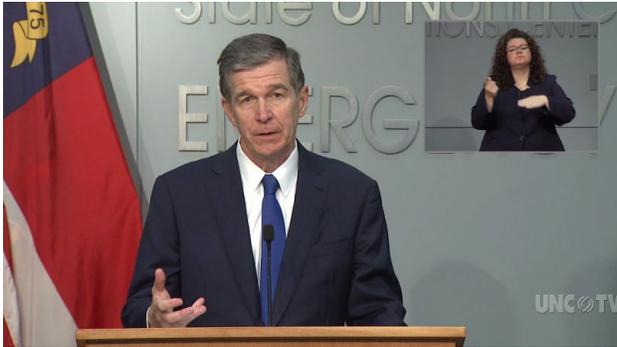


## Governor Allows Full In-Person Instruction For Elementary Students

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Governor Roy Cooper announced today school districts will be given the option to bring Kindergarten — Grade 5 students back for full in-person instruction under school reopening Plan A, effective October 5th. Most school districts chose to begin the school year under Plan C, or virtual instruction, but many districts had begun transitioning into Plan B, which requires

moderate social distancing. The Governor stated in a [press release](#) that Plan A will now be available to districts due to improvements in safety and prevention measures, as well as more promising COVID-19 trends and data. The Governor also noted Plan A, which includes certain safety measures like face coverings and symptom screening, but does not require schools to reduce the number of children in classrooms, “may not be right at this time for many school districts and for every family.” Cooper continued, “districts will have the flexibility to select a plan based on their unique situation.”

The announcement follows a [press conference](#) held on Wednesday by Republican legislative leadership, urging the Governor to allow all districts to offer in-person instruction for all students, regardless of COVID-19 data and trends. Senate leader Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) called virtual learning “a slow-motion train wreck,” while Lt. Gov. and gubernatorial candidate Dan Forest said he would immediately reopen schools without requiring students or staff to wear masks. Catherine Truitt, Republican candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, also participated in Wednesday’s press conference, echoing concerns about student mental health and abuse that could be alleviated by resuming in-person instruction.

Both the Republican press conference and Governor’s announcement were met with concerns from many school and district leaders, who fear community pressure for immediate transition to Plan A will undermine weeks of preparation already spent developing plans for a safe return to classrooms for students and staff. Governor Cooper and his gubernatorial opponent Dan Forest, as well as State Superintendent candidates Dr. Jen Mangrum and Catherine Truitt, are expected to elaborate on their thoughts regarding COVID-19 and other critical issues affecting K-12 schools during [NCASA’s School Law & Policy Symposium](#) on Monday, September 21st.

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