

USD #343 Gating Criteria

Approved 12/14/2020

State and federal health officials have laid out coronavirus benchmarks, known as “gating criteria,” that individual states should accomplish before people can return to work and school. Kansas recommends that school district officials use “gating” guidelines and indicators in order to ensure safe teaching, learning, and working conditions for all. Each level within the guidelines reflects minimum interventions. Districts are encouraged to consider additional measures to ensure safety. These guidelines are based upon recommendations from federal and state health experts but focus on the needs of Kansas public schools.

The key to the guidelines is the distinction between ***criteria*** and ***indicators***. The ***criteria*** outlined herein provides specific recommendations for safety protocols and policies to be implemented at each indicated phase. The ***indicators*** are a range of factors that should be used to help determine placement within a phase.

As all Kansas districts prepare for teaching and learning, many lessons are being learned. These lessons have taught us that pandemics, and certainly COVID-19, do not recognize borders or boundaries, opinions, or politics.

Gating Criteria & Guidance

	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
PK-6 Learning	On-Site	On-Site	Hybrid	Remote Only
7-12 Learning	On-Site	Hybrid	Remote Only	Remote Only
School Activities	Normal on-site activities	No all school activities. Small group activities limited; masks and social distancing required; stable groups with limited group numbers. No group travel. High risk activities competition may continue with approval of local health department.	As recommended by local health department	Remote Only
Spectators / Audience	Allowed: Spectator/ audience should be distanced by household groups; masked if indoors, masks recommended if outdoors. Facilities must allow for 6' social distancing at ALL school-related events.	As recommended by KSHSAA. If Allowed: Distancing by household groups; masked if indoors. 6' social distancing required; total group numbers limited per guidelines.	As recommended by KSHSAA and Local Health Departments	Remote Only
Visitor Access	Open: Capacity to allow for 6' social distancing; total group numbers limited per county guidelines.	Limited: by appointment; masks and social distancing required; building access requirements must be met.	Extremely limited: by appointment; masks and social distancing required; building access requirements must be met.	No Visitors
Playgrounds / Play Areas	Allowed: Distancing by household groups; masked if indoors. 6' social distancing required; total group numbers limited per guidelines.	Open: Capacity to allow for 6' social distancing; total group numbers limited per guidelines.	Open: Capacity to allow for 6' social distancing; masks required if less than 6' social distance maintained; total group numbers limited per guidelines.	Closed
District & Buildings	Open: Capacity to allow for 6' social distancing; total group numbers limited per guidelines.	Limited visitors by appointment: Masks and social distancing required; building access requirements must be met.	Open with restrictions: All staff present; limited visitors by appointment; maintain all health parameters; disinfect after use of any common area.	Closed to public: Staff present in teams; maintain all health parameters; disinfect after use of any common area.

About Gating: Federal health officials have laid out coronavirus benchmarks, known as “gating criteria,” that individual states should accomplish before people can return to work and school. This table is based upon guidance from medical experts and is modified for use in a public school setting. These guidelines are subject to change as gating guidelines are modified by authorities at the federal, state or local level.

Gating Indicators & Considerations

Indicators	Green (1 pt.)	Yellow (2 pts.)	Orange (3 pts.)	Red (4 pts.)
COMMUNITY CRITERIA: 2 week County percent positive case rate (%positive tests/all tests performed)	≤ 5%	5.1-9.9%	10-14.9%	≥ 15%
COMMUNITY CRITERIA: Local/referring hospital availability of ICU beds	≥ 30% available	29.9-20% available	19.9-10% available	< 10% available
COMMUNITY CRITERIA: Trend in County incident rate	Decreasing for 2 consecutive weeks	Stable for 2 consecutive weeks	Stable for 1 week, increasing for 1 week	Increasing for 2 consecutive weeks
LOCAL CRITERIA: Availability of classroom substitutes (by building level)	Adequate Substitutes available	Limited Substitutes available. In-class instruction sustainable	Limited Substitutes available. Hybrid instruction sustainable	Inadequate Substitutes available.

1. Local instruction level will be determined by using the four criteria areas listed above under the indicator column. (Grades K-6 is one level. Grades 7-12 is the other level.) The final level is calculated by averaging the assigning points of each category. Green = 1pt, Yellow = 2pts, Orange = 3 pts, and Red = 4 pts. Total points divided by 4 categories. Final level is Green < 2.0, Yellow 2.0-2.99, Orange 3.00-3.99, and Red 4.0 and up. *It is possible for K-6 and 7-12 to at different levels due to the availability of substitute teachers.
2. Students should be grouped together in cohorts of less than 17 students per group.
 - i. Either have class sizes with < 17 students per class
 - ii. OR have separate cohorts within classes of < 17 students per cohort with adequate physical distancing between cohorts and no mixing of groups other than the teacher
3. During on-site instruction, safe but unused facilities within the district and community should be utilized to spread out students
 - i. Middle and high school buildings should be utilized when those students are learning remotely
 - ii. Sports facilities should be utilized when otherwise not in use
 - iii. Outside areas should be utilized weather permitting
 - iv. Locations should be consistent between classes/cohorts
4. Nurses, special education teachers, administrators, and other staff should work in teams and be prepared to travel between sites as needed to provide services.
5. **Although school districts do NOT have the authority to quarantine individuals, USD #343 will honor quarantine guidelines as established by the local health department. Health department guidelines will vary depending on the individual's county of residence.**