



March 19, 2021

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom and Dr. Mark Ghaly,

As a group of parent advocates representing [public school parents](#) across California, we write to you to urge you to follow the CDC's guidance today and change the distancing guidance in California to recommend 3 feet distancing in classrooms. We have heard you both for months stress the need to follow the science, and we agree. Now science is telling us 3 feet is just as safe as 6 feet, paving the way for many more children to get back into their classrooms this spring. You must take this action urgently to ensure as many California students as possible have that opportunity.

Governor, you stressed earlier in the week that 9000 schools statewide are either open or set to open in the coming weeks. While this number may be accurate, many of these "open" schools are only "open" for a handful of hours a week. For kids that have been isolated for more than a year, this is hardly a victory and wholly unacceptable.

Many of our Superintendents and School Board members have stressed that they have been constrained by the need to keep students 6 feet apart, preventing a full return and forcing challenging hybrid models on families and teachers. If districts can set distance between students at 3 feet, all districts should be able to open for full-time, five days a week instruction for the remainder of the spring.

Most of the six million children in California public schools still have not returned to their classrooms, teachers and friends. Today's revised guidance from the CDC affords them the opportunity to imminently return for full-time school, five days a week. Our state is [currently last](#) in the percentage of students back in the classroom. Swift action on distancing guidelines could quickly accelerate the reopening in thousands of schools across California

Medical professionals from [across the state agree](#) with us that this level of in-person education is in the best interest of the students, for both their emotional and academic well being. Please do what is right for our kids and take this action today.

Sincerely,

Megan Bacigalupi
Parent Advocate
OpenSchoolsCA