



## **GOVERNOR NEWSOM MUST MANDATE SCHOOLS FULLY REOPEN**

### ***Districts Ignoring Students, Parents, and Health Departments calling for Full Time In-person***

OAKLAND, CA – April 14, 2021 – OpenSchoolsCA released the following statement regarding Governor Newsom’s press conference on school reopening efforts:

“Today Governor Newsom praised the fact that 9000 schools across California have reopened or will reopen soon. What this stat fails to mention is that in many districts an “open” school means a few hours per week of in-person instruction or middle and high school students without the option to return this school year. Five hours per week of live in-person instruction should not be defined as an open school and sitting on Zoom in school is no one’s definition of live in-person instruction.

As the Governor noted today, California now leads the nation with the lowest positivity rate for COVID infections. With vaccinations on the rise statewide, and most teachers and school personnel vaccinated, the California Department of Public Health’s own guidance indicates strong support for opening schools. Yet California still remains dead last in the percentage of kids back in their classrooms.

It is now very clear that the only guarantee that every one of California’s six million children will see the inside of a classroom, regardless of Zip code, is if Governor Newsom mandates a full, five day return to schools statewide.

Now is the time for the Governor to show California that he stands with the least powerful among us -- children -- and is willing to use his power to open schools now.”

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#### **OpenSchoolsCA**

*OpenSchoolsCA is a group of parents from across California who are committed to public education and believe their children should have access to safe, in-person education. OpenSchoolsCA believes in following the science—and the consensus by public health experts and medical and mental health professionals—which all tell us schools can be safely reopened with measures in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Learn more at [www.OpenSchoolsCA.com](http://www.OpenSchoolsCA.com)*

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