What’s the Plan? How K-12 School Districts Are Preparing to Resume and Reopen

Past Data Observations

8/12/20: Data Observations

COVID-19 infection rates are alarmingly high. School reopening guidance from the CDC, states and local governments change often; sometimes they conflict. Teachers and staff are concerned about returning to school. Parents worry their children will fall behind academically but aren’t convinced that sending their kids back to classrooms is a safe choice.

For the early parts of summer, few districts released full reopening plans. That changed in mid-July when several big districts announced they would begin the school year with remote-only instruction. Others have followed suit. While there are variations by state, remote learning—whether offered as a choice or exclusively—is increasingly part of the reopening plans published by the 300-plus districts in our database:

- 187 districts plan to offer remote instruction as an option, and another 97 districts plan for remote instruction exclusively. Altogether, 95 percent of the districts in our database that have released plans plan to offer remote instruction to some portion of their students.
- 143 districts—or just under half of the districts in our database that have released plans—plan to offer in-person instruction. Yet only a few of those districts plan to offer in-person instruction only.
- 94 districts—or nearly a third of districts in our database—plan to offer hybrid instruction.