

Somers Board of Education Meeting
Monday, June 28, 2021 7:00 PM
Board Chambers, [Address], [City], CT [Zip]

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 1. Draft Minutes of June 14, 2021 2

The Board to review and consent to draft Minutes of June 14, 2021.
5. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS
6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS
7. CONSENT AGENDA
8. NEW BUSINESS
 1. 1st Warning of DBS 5127 - Students - Graduation 5

The Board will review 1st Warning of DBS 5127 - Students - Graduation. The Policy Committee members will answer any questions.
 2. American Rescue Plant (ARP) 10

The Superintendent will discuss this report with the Board.
9. OLD BUSINESS
10. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS
 1. Final COVID-19 Report for the 2020-21 School Year. 14

The Board will get the final COVID-19 report for the 2020-2021 School year.
 2. Superintendent's Update
11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 1. CURRICULUM
 2. POLICY
 3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION/PLANNING
12. CREC UPDATE
13. ADJOURNMENT

Somers Board of Education Meeting

June 14, 2021 7:00 PM

Board Chambers

Attendance Taken at 7:00 PM:

Present Board Members: Sarah Bollinger, Bruce Devlin, Anne Kirkpatrick, Marissa Marks, Jan Martin

Absent Board Members: David Palmer, Jeremy Anderson, Kate McLellan (left meeting at 7:30 pm), Krista Cherry

Others: Brian Czapl, Bill Boutwell, Gary Cotzin, Melissa Mucci, Karen Regan, Lee Mailhot, Lisa Reilly, Linda Messergen and in audience - Tom Chilicki, Chrissy Grondin, Steve Grondin, Erica Thiesing, Jim Formica, Nick Dangler, V. Carr, B.O'Boyle, and Edward LePeau.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Discussion: Regular Meeting of the Somers Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Bruce Devlin at 7:00 p.m. in the Mabelle B. Avery Board of Education meeting room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. RECOGNITIONS AND AWARDS

3.1. The Board will recognize the Retirement of Four Staff

Rationale: The following staff will be retiring from Somers Public Schools:

Lee Mailhot - Kindergarten Teacher - 21 years of service in Somers Public Schools.

Linda Messenger - PE Teacher SES/MBA - 25 years of service in Somers Public Schools

Karen Regan - High School Counselor - 13 years of service in Somers Public Schools

Lisa Reilly -Elementary Teacher - 22 years of service in Somers Public Schools

Discussion: Melissa Mucci, principal of SES, highlighted the service of Lisa Reilly, Linda Messenger, and Lee Mailhot, and Gary Cotzin, principal of SHS, highlighted Karen Regan's service. The retirees were presented gifts from the BOE acknowledging with appreciation their years with the SPS.

4. PENSION UPDATE

Rationale: The Centre Harbor Group will give an update on the Pension.

Discussion: The Centre Harbor Group gave its semi-annual update on the pension and other post-employment benefits (OPEB). The managers highlighted that the plan is doing very well.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1. Draft of the Board minutes of May 24, 2021

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the draft minutes of May 24, 2021.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the May 24, 2021 draft minutes passed with a motion by Sarah Bollinger and a second by Mrs. Marissa Marks. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

6. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

Discussion: One member of the community asked which members of the BOE had researched or read the books listed on the Equity and Diversity report given at an earlier BOE meeting.

Another member of the community stated that having "looked over the books" that they were all "doom and gloom" and showed there was no chance of succeeding in this country, offering instead a list of "uplifting" book titles to consider.

7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Mrs. Marissa Marks. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

8.1. Warrant of June 14, 2021

Rationale: Board to consent on warrant amount of \$495,622.55 on June 14, 2021.

8.2. Staff Resigned or Retired from Somers Public Schools

Rationale: Board to consent on

Resignation of Kim Evan - MBA Para

Resignation of Andre Levesque - Tutor at SHS

Resignation of Elizabeth Asal - MBA School Psychologist

Resignation of Dana Sudarsky - SES Elementary Teacher

Retirement of Linda Messenger - SES/MBA PE Teacher

Retirement of Lisa Reilly - SES Elementary Teacher

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. 1st Warning of new DBS Policy 4111.2 - Personnel - Minority Recruitment

Rationale: The Board will review the 1st Warning of new DBS Policy 4111.2 - Personnel - Minority Recruitment. Policy Committee member are available for any questions.

9.2. 1st Warning of DBS Policy 9271 - ByLaws of the Board -Code of Ethics

Rationale: The Board will review the 1st Warning of DBS Policy 9271 - ByLaws of the Board -Code of Ethics. Policy Committee members are available for any questions.

9.3. 1st Warning of DBS 3516.11 - Hazardous Materials - Pest Management

Rationale: The Board will review the 1st Warning of DBS 3516.11 - Hazardous Materials - Pest Management. The Policy Committee will answer any questions.

9.4. Open Forum: Equity and Diversity

Rationale:

This Open Forum on Equity and Diversity will be on June 29, 2021 at Somers Elementary School at 6 p.m.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. 2nd Warning of Novels for Mabelle B. Avery Middle School and Somers High School.

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the 2nd Warning of Novels for Mabelle B. Avery Middle School and Somers High School.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the novels for Mabelle B. Avery Middle School and Somers High School passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Mrs. Marissa Marks. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

10.1.1. 2nd warning of new ELA Course at Mabelle B. Avery School.

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the 2nd warning of the new ELA Course at Mabelle B. Avery School.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the new ELA Course at Mabelle B. Avery passed with a motion by Anne Kirkpatrick and a second by Mrs. Marissa Marks. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1. ARP Grant Preliminary Plan

Rationale: The Superintendent will be there to discuss the ARP Grant Preliminary Plan with the Board.

Discussion: On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan. This plan allocates funds to states to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Somers received an allocation of \$435,648. The CT State Department of Education has set five priorities for the funds to be used: (1) Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment; (2) Social, Emotional and Mental Health of the Students and the School Staff; (3) Family and Community Connections; (4) Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the

a Digital Divide; (5) Building Safe and Healthy Schools. On June 22 (6:00 p.m. SHS Auditorium), we will have presentation on the potential uses of these funds. The community will have an opportunity to provide us with feedback and ask questions. We will have a first warning of use of the funds at the June 28 BOE meeting.

11.2. Superintendent's Update

Discussion:

Superintendent Czapla updated the Board on school matters. Kindergarten enrollment continues to climb. Enrollment is usually about 90, but last week it went up to 104. An added section of kindergarten is needed. During the summer, the system usually sees a 15-20% rise in enrollment. Discussion ensued about how to deal with a significant increase in enrollment. Somers High School graduation is on Wednesday, the 16th. MBA Step Up Day has been postponed to June 25th.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

12.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion:

Jan Martin stated that there was no report.

12.2. POLICY

Discussion:

Anne Kirkpatrick reported that the committee met tonight and will warn policies for the next BOE meeting.

12.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: Brian Czapla reported that they were all caught up with negotiations.

12.4. PLANNING

Discussion: Brian Czapla reported that they are on hold until plans for the roof for SES are finalized.

13. CREC UPDATE

Discussion: No report.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Discussion:

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:07 passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Mrs. Marissa Marks. **5 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

Jan Martin
Recording BOE Secretary

STUDENTS:**Graduation/Separation:**

The superintendent will establish detailed requirements to agree with the goals for our schools as adopted by the Board of Education and the requirements will be published in the student handbook and course of studies guide. The faculty will apply measures of achievement to provide evidence that each student has progressed far enough toward school goals to warrant his/her graduation. Graduation may involve awarding to students a Somers High School diploma or a Certificate of Completion of a Program of Special Studies.

To be considered a full-time student, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors must carry a minimum of 6 ½ credits ~~6-¾ credits~~ each year. In the areas indicated below, 6 class periods of instruction must be scheduled within the 7 period day over the six-day STRIVE rotation. After consultation with the Guidance Department, approval for a reduced schedule load may be obtained from the Administration for extenuating circumstances.

Graduation Requirements:**Credit Distribution Requirement (Classes of 2020 and 2021)**

Subject Area	Credits	Description
English	4	
Social Studies	3	1 each in World History, US History/Civics 1 and II or AP/UCONN ECE US History
Science	3	1 each in Integrated Science, Biology, Science Electives
Math	3	
Physical Education	1	.5 in grade 9 & .5 in grade 10
Health	.5	.25 credit in grades 11 & 12 and part of PE in grades 9 & 10
Fine Arts	.5	Art or Music
Practical Arts	.5	Practical Arts includes, Food Service, Business, and Technology.
Electives	6.5	Business, Tech Ed, Family and Consumer Sciences, World

		<p>Languages: French or Spanish, Arts, etc.</p> <p>Computer Literacy .5 credit requirement also needs to be satisfied. See Course Selection Guide for details.</p>
Carnegie Units Total	22	

Credit Distribution Requirement (Beginning with the class of 2022)

Subject Area	Credits	Description
English	4	
Social Studies	3	1 each in World History, US History/Civics 1 and II or AP/UCONN ECE US History
Science	3	1 each in Integrated Science, Biology, Science Electives
Math	4	
Physical Education	1	
Health	.5	
Fine Arts	.5	Art or Music
Practical Arts	.5	Practical Arts includes, Food Service, Business, and Technology.
Electives	6.5	<p>Business, Tech Ed, Family and Consumer Sciences, World Languages: French or Spanish, Arts, etc.</p> <p>Computer Literacy Requirement .5 Credit also needs to be satisfied. See Course Selection Guide for details.</p>
Carnegie Units Total	23	

Credit Distribution Requirement (Beginning with the class of 2023)

Subject Area	Credits	Description
Humanities (9) Credits		
English	4	

Social Studies	3	1 each in World History, US History/Civics 1 and II or AP/UCONN ECE US History
World Language	1	
Humanities Electives	2 (.5 credit must be satisfied in the fine arts-Music/Art, and 1.5 credits of humanities electives)	English, Social Studies, Music, Art, World Languages
STEM (9) Credits	4	Integrated Science, Biology, Science Electives. Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Food Services, and Business
Math	3	
Science	2 (.5 credit must be satisfied in Technology, Innovation Design, and Engineering)	
STEM Electives		
Physical Education and Wellness	1	
Health and Safety	1	
Electives	3	Business, Tech Ed, Family and Consumer Sciences, World Languages, Social Sciences, Arts, etc***
Mastery Based Capstone Project	1	.5 credit for required course, .5 credit for successful completion of project.
Carnegie Units Total	25	

Credit Distribution Requirement (Beginning with the class of 2024)

Subject Area	Credits	Description
Humanities (9) Credits		
English	4	
Social Studies	3	1 each in World History, US History/Civics 1 and II or AP/UCONN ECE US History
World Language	1	
Humanities Electives	2 (.5 credit must be satisfied in the fine arts-Music/Art, and 1.5 credits of humanities electives)	English, Social Studies, Music, Art, World Languages
STEM (9) Credits	4	Integrated Science, Biology, Science Electives.
Math	3	
Science		

STEM Electives	2 (.5 credit must be satisfied in Technology, Innovation Design, and Engineering)	Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Food Services, and Business
Physical Education and Wellness	1	
Health and Safety	1	
Personal Finance Electives	.5 2	Credit can be received through Computer Applications: Personal Finance or through Consumer Math Business, Tech Ed, Family and Consumer Sciences, World Languages, Social Sciences, Arts, etc.
Mastery Based Capstone Project	1	.5 credit for required course, .5 credit for successful completion of project.
Carnegie Units Total	25	

Computer Literacy

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2014-2015 school year). Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed, or end of the school year examinations, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through an on-line course; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education, allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency on any of the five core courses through success on such alternate assessment.

Beginning with the Class of 2017, one credit of math and/or one credit of foreign language can be earned towards high school graduation upon the successful completion of an Algebra I or world language course in grades six, seven or eight, or an online course successfully completed.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established in policy #[6172.6](#), "Virtual/On-line Courses."

Beginning July 1, 2014 the Board shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plans shall include students' career and academic choices in grades six to twelve inclusive.

Graduation shall not be held until 180 days (minimum 900 hours) of actual schoolwork are completed. (CGS [10-16](#))

(cf. [5121](#) - Examination/Grading/Rating)

(cf. [6111](#) - School Calendar)

(cf. [6146.2](#) - Statewide Proficiency/Mastery Examinations)

(cf. [6172.6](#) - Virtual/On-line Courses)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

[10-14n](#) Statewide mastery examination. Conditions for reexamination. Limitation on use of test results.

[10-16\(l\)](#) Graduation exercises. (As amended by PA 96-108, An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates)

[10-221a](#) High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, and P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut and PA 11-35 An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform.

[10-233\(a\)](#) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by PA 01-166)

Adopted: December 27, 1979

Revised: June 26, 1989

May 8, 2000

January 14, 2002

May 28, 2002

July 9, 2009

December 6, 2010

October 11, 2011

June 25, 2012

July 9, 2018



Board of Education Administrative Report

Title of Report: ARP Grant

Board Meeting Date: June 28, 2021

Action

Report

Information

Discussion

Submitted by: Brian Czapla

Executive Summary

The state of Connecticut is prioritizing ARP grant spending in the areas of:

Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment *20% automatic allocation	Family and Community Connections
Social, Emotional and Mental Health of the Students and of the School Staff	Strategic Use of Technology, Staff Development, and the Digital Divide
Building Safe and Healthy Schools	

The chart below outlines how the Somers Public School District will allocate ARP grant funding for the two areas of:

- Learning Acceleration, Academic Renewal, and Student Enrichment
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health of the Students and of the School Staff



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**

Report

At this time, we are anticipating allocating ARP grant funding to support the following:

Total District Allocation: \$435,000		
<u>Item</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
<p>Special Education Teacher Kindergarten @ SES</p> <p>Currently, special education students in kindergarten and 1st grade are managed by one Special Education teacher and case manager.</p> <p>Having an additional special education teacher would allow each grade level to have a designated special education teacher and case manager which is in alignment with special education support district wide. (One special education inclusion / resource teacher and case manager per grade level)</p> <p>As a result of delayed developmental skills due to Covid isolation, we anticipate increased Special Education identification in kindergarten and 1st grade levels.</p> <p>There are currently 16 SES PreK special education students who are moving to kindergarten. The special education needs of students new to kindergarten are unknown. Therefore, it is anticipated that the kindergarten special education caseload will increase.</p> <p>There are 9 special education students identified in kindergarten moving to 1st grade. The special education needs of students new to 1st grade as well as those who participated remotely is unknown. Therefore, it is anticipated that the 1st grade special education caseload will increase.</p> <p>Managing the combined known K and 1st grade caseload (case management/providing services and supports) of 21 special education students is not feasible. This does not account for students yet to be identified at the K & 1st grade level.</p>	<p>\$80,000</p>	<p>\$80,000</p>



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**

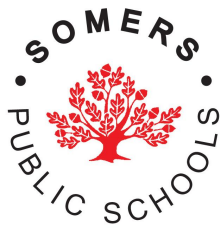
<u>Item</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>
<p>Kindergarten Teacher @ SES</p> <p>"Researchers generally agree a class size of no larger than 18 students is required to produce the desired benefit... reduction in class sizes has the greatest benefit when applied longitudinally to grades K–3. At this age, one must consider the foundational literacy and math skills children acquire at this age...districts would be better served focusing their energy and their resources related to class sizes on primary grades." (adapted from: https://www.hmhco.com/blog/class-size-matters)</p> <p>Current Kindergarten Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year as of 6/10/21:</p> <p>104. Students per section (7 sections): 14/15</p>	\$80,000	\$80,000
<p>Grade 4 Teacher @ SES</p> <p>Grade 4 enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year is currently 101. Without this additional teacher, we would only have 5 sections resulting in larger than optimal class sizes.</p>	\$80,000	
<p>SHS Social Emotional Learning Program Materials from School Connect</p> <p>The mission of the Somers Public Schools is to prepare each student to contribute and succeed in an ever-changing global society. In order to do this, students need to learn and develop social and emotional learning competencies, in addition to academic competencies.</p> <p>Topics from this program are CASEL aligned and will be embedded into already existing Advisory Lessons.</p>	\$8,500	
<p>Second Step Program Materials for staff professional development</p>	\$6,000	
<p>Supplies to Support Additional Positions</p> <p>Curriculum, Assessment and Classroom Materials</p>	\$12,000	



Board of Education Administrative Report

Potential positions and programs being considered to further support student learning and skill gap remediation are:

- Social Emotional Learning Interventionist at SES
- Additional tutors/tutor hours (district-wide)
- Additional paraeducators at SES
- Kindergarten Classroom Aids
- iReady Diagnostic (district-wide)
- STEM Coach (grades 6-12)
- MBA School Social Worker
- Reading Interventionist at SHS
- Additional Math Interventionist at SES



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**

Title of Report: End of the Year COVID-19 Statistics

Board Meeting Date: June 28, 2021

Action
 Report
 Information
 Discussion

Submitted by: Brian P. Czapla

Executive Summary

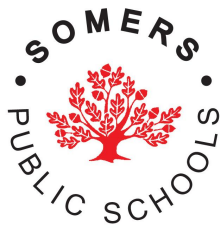
End of the year COVID-19 data summary.

Summary - District

	Quarantine d	Positive
Staff	123	25
Students	929	83
Totals	1052	108

Summary By Schools

	Totals		Quarantined		Positive Cases	
	Quarantined	Positive	Staff	Students	Staff	Students
SES	460	40	90	370	17	23
MBA	417	33	18	399	6	27
SHS	173	35	13	160	2	33
CO/SW	2	0	2	NA	0	NA
TOTALS	1052	108	123	929	25	83



**Board of Education
Administrative Report**

Positive Cases By Contact Source

	Non-School Contact		School Contact		Unknown Contact	
	Cases	%	Cases	%	Cases	%
SES	28	70%	6	15%	6	15%
MBA	26	79%	4	12%	3	9%
SHS	31	89%	0	0%	4	11%
CO/SW	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
subtotal	85	79%	10	9%	13	12%

Positive Cases Detail By Contact Source

	Staff			Students			
	Non-School Contact	School Contact	Unknown Contact	Non-School Contact	School Contact	Unknown Contact	Full Remote Students
SES	10	4	3	17	2	3	1
MBA	5	1	0	19	3	3	2
SHS	2	0	0	24	0	4	5
CO/SW	0	0	0	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>
subtotal	17	5	3	60	5	10	8
percent	68%	20%	12%	72%	6%	12%	10%

Quarantined By Contact Source

	Staff		Students	
	Non-School Contact	School Contact	Non-School Contact	School Contact
SES	18	72	113	257
MBA	7	11	118	281
SHS	5	8	62	98
CO/SW	2	0	<i>na</i>	<i>na</i>
subtotal	32	91	293	636

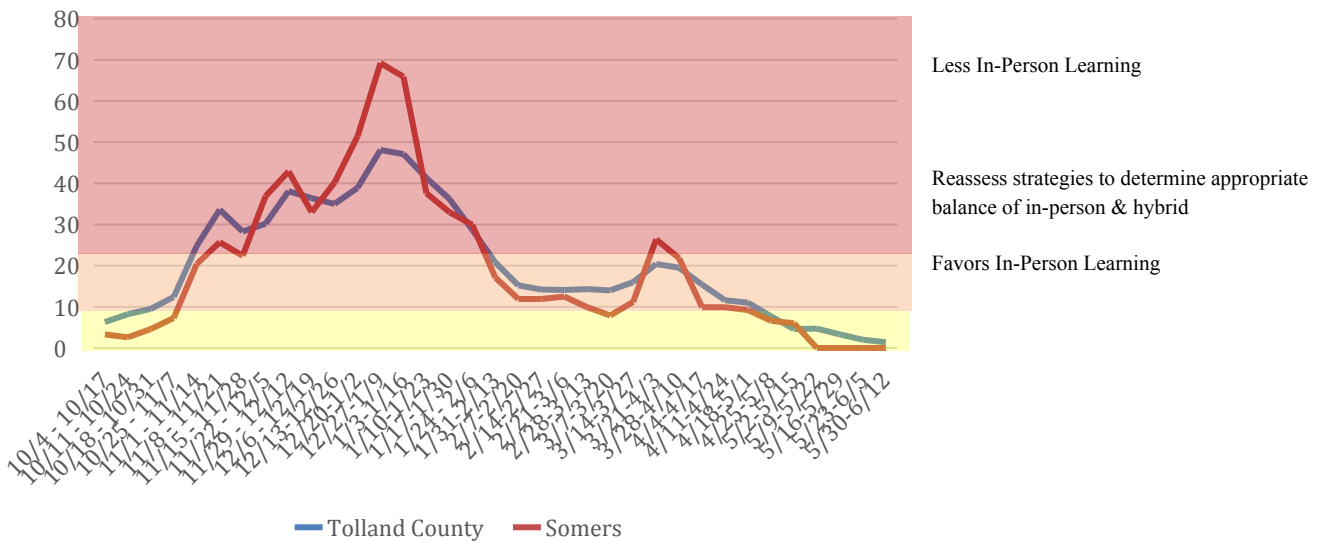


Board of Education Administrative Report

percent	26%	74%	32%	68%
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Final Report - New Covid-19 Cases 14-day average per 100k population

Data as of 6/17/21



Data Sources: CT School Learning Model Indicators: <https://data.ct.gov/stories/s/CT-School-Reopening/ddy2-ijgu/>

NOTE: Secondary indicators impacting decisions include: percent test positivity, new hospitalizations, COVID & influenza like illness, in-person density, school health conditions, staffing, cohorting, levels of mitigation strategies