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School responses to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic during the 2019-2020 academic year

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Responses by state

Alabama



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closed schools to in-person instruction at some point during the 2019-2020 academic year. In forty-eight states, officials closed schools to in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year after the coronavirus outbreak. Officials in Montana and Wyoming closed schools to in-person instruction but later allowed them to reopen. In most cases, school closures shifted instruction to a remote setting.

This article was last updated July 31, 2020, and no longer receives regular updates. To read about responses in the 2020-2021 academic year, [click here](#).

This article contains coronavirus-related school coverage from the 2019-2020 academic year. You will find:

- [A map of school closures in each state](#)
- [School closure information by state](#)
- [School closure information in America's largest 25 cities by population](#)
- [A timeline of all statewide school closure orders](#)
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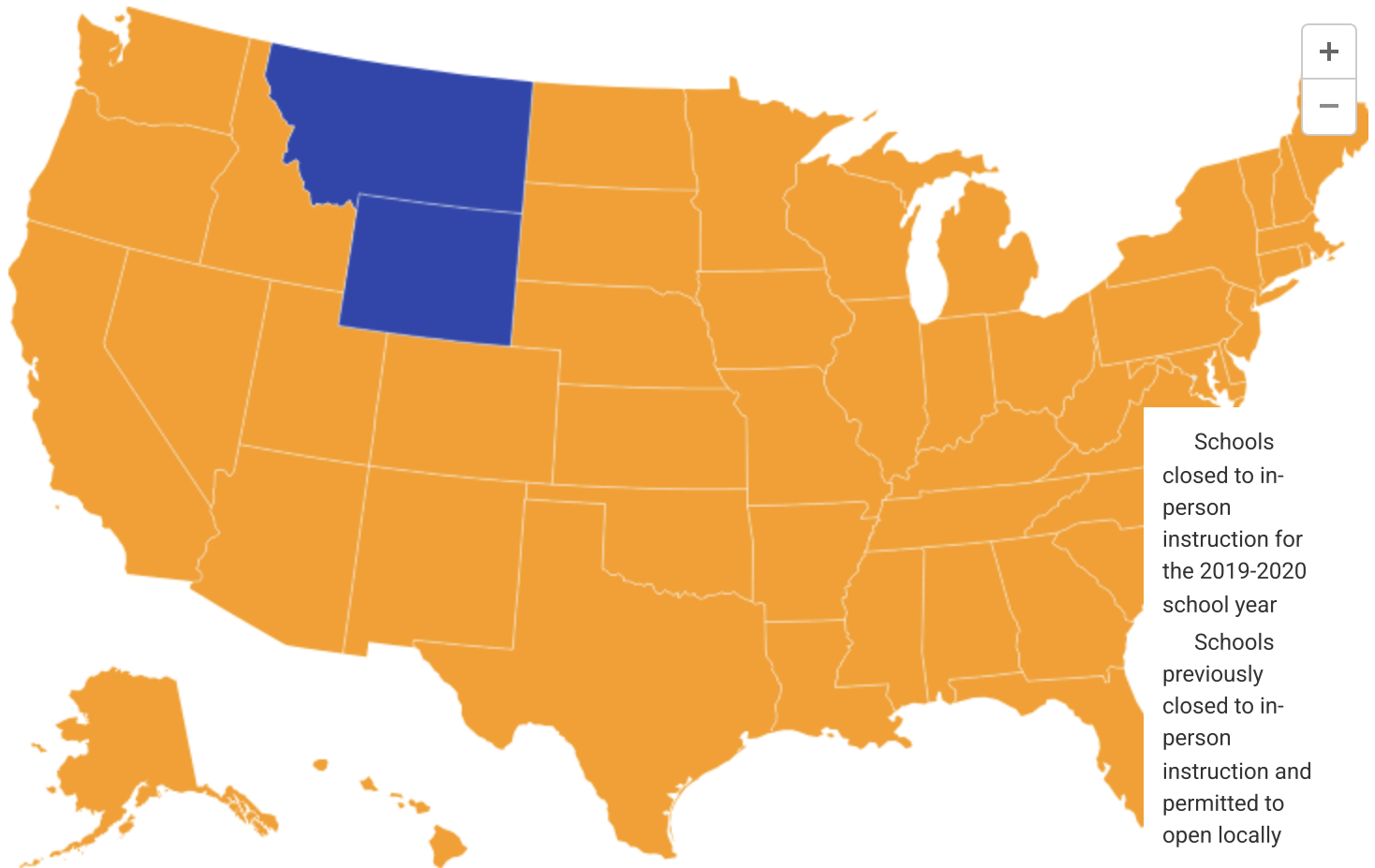
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School closures map

The map below shows the status of school reopenings and closures at the end of the 2019-2020 academic year. Statewide school closures to in-person instruction in response to the coronavirus outbreak during the 2019-2020 academic year



Last updated May 15, 2020

BALLOTPEDIA

- States closed to in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year: **48**
- Number of public school students in states closed to in-person instruction for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year: **50,261,464**

School closure orders by state

The following is a list of statewide school closures in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Alabama

- **March 26, 2020:** Gov. [Kay Ivey](#) (R) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6. ^[1]
- **March 13, 2020:** Ivey closed schools across the state from March 18 through April 5. She said that students absent from school on March 16-17 would be considered excused. ^[2]
- Total students affected: 744,930 ^[3]

Alaska

- **April 9, 2020:** Gov. [Mike Dunleavy](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. ^[4]
- **March 20, 2020:** Dunleavy announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended to May 1. ^[5]
- **March 13, 2020:** Dunleavy ordered a statewide closure of public schools March 16 through March 30. ^[6]
- Total students affected: 132,737 ^[3]

Arizona

- **March 30, 2020:** Gov. [Doug Ducey](#) (R) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 13. ^[7]
- **March 20, 2020:** Ducey announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended to April 10. ^[8]
- **March 15, 2020:** Ducey ordered all schools in the state to close until March 27. ^[9]
- Total students affected: 1,123,137 ^[3]

Arkansas

- **April 6, 2020:** Gov. [Asa Hutchinson](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to this order, schools in the state were closed through April 17. ^[10]
- **March 19, 2020:** Hutchinson announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended to April 17. ^[11]
- **March 15, 2020:** Hutchinson ordered all schools in the state to close from March 17 to March 27. ^[12]
- Total students affected: 493,447 ^[3]

California

- **April 1, 2020:** Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) (D) announced that schools would be physically closed for the remainder of the school year. ^[13] This was not issued as an executive order, but media outlets reported that schools were unlikely to reopen before the end of the school year. ^[14]
- **March 19, 2020:** Newsom issued a statewide *shelter-in-place* order, closing schools. At the time of the order, 99 percent of schools in California were already closed via local decision. ^[15]
- Total students affected: 6,309,138 ^[3]

Colorado

- **April 21, 2020:** Gov. [Jared Polis](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. ^[16]
- **April 1, 2020:** Polis announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 17, was extended through April 30. ^[17]
- **March 18, 2020:** Polis closed all schools in the state from March 23 to April 17. ^[18]
- Total students affected: 905,019 ^[3]

Connecticut

- **May 5, 2020:** Gov. [Ned Lamont](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed to in-person instruction for the rest of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 20. ^[19]
- **April 9, 2020:** Lamont announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 20, was extended through May 20. ^[20]
- **March 23, 2020:** Lamont announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 20. ^[21]
- **March 15, 2020:** Lamont issued an executive order closing all schools in the state from March 16 to March 31. ^[22]
- Total students affected: 535,118 ^[3]

Delaware

- **April 24, 2020:** Gov. [John Carney](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15. ^[23]
- **March 23, 2020:** Carney announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended to May 15. ^[24]
- **March 13, 2020:** Carney closed schools across the state from March 16 through March 27. ^{[25][26]}
- Total students affected: 136,264 ^[3]

Florida

- **April 18, 2020:** Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. ^[27]
- **March 30, 2020:** The Florida Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 14, was extended through May 1. ^[28]
- **March 17, 2020:** DeSantis extended the public school closure through April 14. ^[29]
- **March 13, 2020:** The Florida Department of Education closed schools across the state for two weeks effective March 16. ^[30]
- Total students affected: 2,816,791 ^[3]

Georgia

- **April 1, 2020:** Gov. [Brian Kemp](#) (R) announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the school year. Prior to the order, the state's school closure was scheduled to end April 24. ^[31]
- **March 26, 2020:** Kemp announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 24. ^[32]
- **March 16, 2020:** Kemp announced the closure of the state's public elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools from March 18 through the end of the month. ^[33]
- Total students affected: 1,764,346 ^[3]

Hawaii

- **April 17, 2020:** The Hawaii Department of Education closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. ^[34]
- **March 24, 2020:** The Hawaii Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 6, was extended through April 30. ^[35]

- **March 19, 2020:** The Hawaii Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended through April 6. ^[36]
- **March 16, 2020:** Gov. [David Ige](#) (D) announced that schools in the state would extend spring break for one week, through March 27. ^[37]
- Total students affected: 181,550 ^[3]

Idaho

- **April 6, 2020:** The [Idaho State Department of Education](#) voted to close schools to in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year, or until social distancing protocols in the state were lifted. ^[38] Officials said that individual schools could be approved to reopen if local social distancing orders were lifted and the school met criteria laid out by the board. ^[39]
- **March 23, 2020:** The [Idaho State Department of Education](#) ordered schools statewide to close to students from March 24 to April 20. ^[40]
- Total students affected: 297,200 ^[3]

Illinois

- **April 17, 2020:** Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. ^[41]
- **March 31, 2020:** Pritzker announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 7, was extended through April 30. ^[42]
- **March 20, 2020:** Pritzker announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 7. ^[43]
- **March 13, 2020:** Pritzker closed all schools across the state until the end of March. ^[44]
- Total students affected: 2,026,718 ^[3]

Indiana

- **April 2, 2020:** Gov. [Eric Holcomb](#) (R) announced that schools in the state would remain closed through the end of the academic year. Prior to this order, schools were scheduled to be closed through May 1. ^[45]
- **March 19, 2020:** Holcomb closed all schools in the state until May 1. ^[46]
- **March 12, 2020:** Holcomb issued a 20-day waiver to school corporations. The waived days could be used for the remainder of the academic year and were not required to be used consecutively. ^[47]
- Total students affected: 1,049,547 ^[3]

Iowa

- **April 17, 2020:** Gov. [Kim Reynolds](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. ^[48]
- **April 2, 2020:** Reynolds ordered all schools in the state to close through April 30. Previously, her office recommended schools close until April 13. ^[49]
- **March 15, 2020:** Reynolds recommended that schools across the state close for four weeks. Individual districts have authority to make decisions based on the recommendation. ^[50]
- Total students affected: 509,831 ^[3]

Kansas

- **March 17, 2020:** Gov. [Laura Kelly](#) (D) announced the closing of K-12 schools in the state from March 23 through May 31, effectively ending the school year. ^[51]
- Total students affected: 494,347 ^[3]

Kentucky

- **April 20, 2020:** Gov. [Andy Beshear](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. ^[52]
- **April 2, 2020:** Beshear announced that the statewide school closure, originally scheduled to end on April 20, would extend until May 1. ^[53]
- **March 20, 2020:** Beshear announced that the statewide school closure, originally scheduled to end on March 27, would extend until April 20. ^[54]
- **March 13, 2020:** Beshear announced the closing of K-12 schools in the state for at least two weeks beginning March 16, 2020. ^[55]
- Total students affected: 684,017 ^[3]

Louisiana

- **April 13, 2020:** Gov. [John Bel Edwards](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. ^[56]
- **April 2, 2020:** Edwards announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 13, was extended through April 30. ^[57]
- **March 13, 2020:** Edwards signed an executive order closing all K-12 schools statewide until April 13. ^[58]
- Total students affected: 716,293 ^[3]

Maine

- **April 7, 2020:** Gov. [Janet Mills](#) (D) recommended that schools in the state remain closed for the rest of the academic year. ^[59]
- **March 31, 2020:** Mills issued a stay-at-home order effective from April 2 to April 30. Although schools in Maine had handled closures at a local level, this order extended closures statewide through April 30.
- **March 20, 2020:** The [Portland School Department](#), the largest district in the state, along with several others, announced closures until April 27. ^[60]
- **March 18, 2020:** Mills recommended that all schools in the state close indefinitely. At that time, school closures were handled at a local level and the majority had already closed. ^[61]
- Total students affected: 180,512 ^[3]

Maryland

- **May 6, 2020:** Maryland Superintendent of Schools [Karen Salmon](#) announced that schools would be closed to in-person instruction for the rest of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15. ^[62]
- **April 17, 2020:** Salmon announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 24, was extended through May 15. ^[63]
- **March 25, 2020:** Salmon announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended through April 24. ^[64]
- **March 12, 2020:** Officials ordered all schools in the state to close from March 16 to March 27. ^[65]
- Total students affected: 886,221 ^[3]

Massachusetts

- **April 21, 2020:** Gov. [Charlie Baker](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. ^[66]
- **March 25, 2020:** Baker announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 6, was extended through May 1. ^[67]
- **March 15, 2020:** Baker issued an executive order closing all schools in the state from March 17 until April 6. ^[68]
- Total students affected: 964,514 ^[3]

Michigan

- **April 2, 2020:** Gov. [Gretchen Whitmer](#) (D) announced that schools statewide would remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Prior to this order, schools were scheduled to reopen April 13. ^[69]
- **March 23, 2020:** Whitmer stay-at-home order meant that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 5, was extended to April 13. ^[70]
- **March 12, 2020:** Whitmer closed all schools in the state until April 5. ^[71]
- Total students affected: 1,528,666 ^[3]

Minnesota

- **April 23, 2020:** Gov. [Tim Walz](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. ^[72]
- **March 25, 2020:** Walz announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended through May 1. ^[73]
- **March 15, 2020:** Walz announced the closing of all K-12 schools in the state, effective March 18 until March 27. ^[74]
- Total students affected: 875,021 ^[3]

Mississippi

- **April 14, 2020:** Gov. [Tate Reeves](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 17. ^[75]
- **March 19, 2020:** Reeves announced that the statewide school closure, originally scheduled to end on March 20, would extend until April 7. ^[76]
- **March 14, 2020:** Reeves called on schools to extend spring break through the week of March 16. ^[77]
- Total students affected: 483,150 ^[3]

Missouri

- **April 9, 2020:** Gov. [Mike Parson](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 24. ^[78]
- **April 3, 2020:** As part of a stay-at-home order issued by Parson, the statewide school closure scheduled to end April 3 was extended through April 24. ^[79]
- **March 19, 2020:** Parson announced that all schools across the state had temporarily closed. Parsons did not issue a statewide closure, but said all local districts had chosen to close. ^[80] The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education later announced that schools would not reopen until at least April 6. ^[81]

- Total students affected: 915,040^[3]

Montana

- **April 22, 2020:** Gov. [Steve Bullock](#) (D) announced that he would rescind the statewide school closure order on May 7, but that individual districts would be allowed to decide whether to reopen for in-person instruction.^[82]
- **April 7, 2020:** Bullock announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 10, was extended through April 24.^[83]
- **March 24, 2020:** Bullock announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended through April 10.^[84]
- **March 15, 2020:** Bullock announced that all public K-12 schools in the state would be closed from March 16 to March 27.^[85]
- Total students affected: 146,375^[3]

Nebraska

- **April 1, 2020:** Gov. [Pete Ricketts](#) (R) directed schools to operate without students through May 31. This date was after the academic year was scheduled to end.^[86]
- Total students affected: 319,194^[3]

Nevada

- **April 22, 2020:** Gov. [Steve Sisolak](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30.^[87]
- **April 1, 2020:** Sisolak issued a stay-at-home order effective from April 1 to April 30. This extended the statewide school closure, scheduled to end on April 16, through April 30.^[88]
- **March 21, 2020:** Sisolak announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 6, was extended to April 16.^[89]
- **March 15, 2020:** Sisolak announced that schools across the state would close until at least April 6, beginning on March 16.^[90]
- Total students affected: 473,744^[3]

New Hampshire

- **April 16, 2020:** Gov. [Chris Sununu](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1.^[91]
- **March 26, 2020:** Sununu issued a stay-at-home order, extending the statewide school closure through May 1. Prior to the order, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6.^[92]
- **March 15, 2020:** Sununu issued an order closing all public schools to close for three weeks effective March 16, 2020.^[93]
- Total students affected: 180,888^[3]

New Jersey

- **May 4, 2020:** Gov. [Phil Murphy](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed to in-person instruction for the rest of the academic year. The order applies to public and private schools. Private schools must

- remain closed until June 30.^[94]
- **April 16, 2020:** Murphy announced that schools would be closed until at least May 15. Prior to the announcement, schools had been under an indefinite closure since March 18.^[95]
- **March 16, 2020:** Murphy ordered all schools in the state to close, effective March 18.^[96]
- Total students affected: 1,410,421^[3]

New Mexico

- **March 27, 2020:** Gov. [Michelle Lujan Grisham](#) (D) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6.^[97]
- **March 12, 2020:** Grisham announced that schools across the state would close for three weeks beginning on March 16.^[98]
- Total students affected: 336,263^[3]

New York

- **May 1, 2020:** Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15.^[99]
- **April 16, 2020:** Cuomo extended the state's stay-at-home order through May 15, extending the statewide school closure.^[100]
- **April 6, 2020:** Cuomo announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 15, was extended through April 29.^[101]
- **March 27, 2020:** Cuomo announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 1, was extended through April 15.^[102]
- **March 16, 2020:** Cuomo announced that schools across the state would close for at least two weeks beginning March 18.^[103]
- Total students affected: 2,729,776^[3]

North Carolina

- **April 24, 2020:** Gov. [Roy Cooper](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15.^[104]
- **March 23, 2020:** Cooper announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended to May 15.^[105]
- **March 14, 2020:** Cooper announced the closure of all public schools in the state for at least two weeks.^[106]
- Total students affected: 1,550,062^[3]

North Dakota

- **May 1, 2020:** Burgum announced that schools would remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed indefinitely.^[107]
- **March 19, 2020:** Burgum announced that the statewide school closure was extended indefinitely.^[108]
- **March 15, 2020:** Burgum ordered all schools in the state to close for one week, effective March 16.^[109]
- Total students affected: 109,706^[3]

Ohio

- **April 20, 2020:** DeWine announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [\[110\]](#)
- **March 30, 2020:** DeWine announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 3, was extended through May 1. [\[111\]](#)
- **March 12, 2020:** DeWine announced that all public and private schools in the state would close for three weeks beginning on March 16. [\[112\]](#)
- Total students affected: 1,710,143 [\[3\]](#)

Oklahoma

- **March 25, 2020:** The [Oklahoma Department of Education](#) announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. [\[113\]](#)
- **March 16, 2020:** The [Oklahoma Department of Education](#) announced plans to close schools statewide from March 17 until at least April 6. [\[114\]](#)
- Total students affected: 693,903 [\[3\]](#)

Oregon

- **April 8, 2020:** Gov. [Kate Brown](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 28. [\[115\]](#)
- **March 17, 2020:** Brown announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended to April 28. [\[116\]](#)
- **March 12, 2020:** Brown announced that schools across the state would close from March 16 through March 31. [\[117\]](#)
- Total students affected: 578,947 [\[3\]](#)

Pennsylvania

- **April 9, 2020:** Gov. [Tom Wolf](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools had been closed indefinitely from March 16. [\[118\]](#)
- **March 30, 2020:** Wolf announced that the statewide school closure would last indefinitely. It was previously scheduled to end on April 8. [\[119\]](#)
- **March 23, 2020:** Wolf announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended through April 8. [\[120\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Wolf closed all K-12 schools in the state for two weeks effective March 16. [\[121\]](#)
- Total students affected: 1,727,497 [\[3\]](#)

Rhode Island

- **April 23, 2020:** Island Gov. [Gina Raimondo](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [\[122\]](#)
- **March 30, 2020:** Raimondo announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 3, was extended through April 30. [\[123\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Raimondo ordered all public schools in the state to close. She said that the spring break planned for April would be rescheduled to the week of March 16. The Department of Education later

- closed all schools through April 3. [\[124\]](#)[\[125\]](#)
- Total students affected: 142,150 [\[3\]](#)

South Carolina

- **April 22, 2020:** Gov. [Henry McMaster](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [\[126\]](#)
- **March 24, 2020:** McMaster announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended to April 30. [\[127\]](#)
- **March 15, 2020:** McMaster announced the closing of all K-12 schools in the state for two weeks, effective immediately, with the possibility for schools in counties without any cases of coronavirus to remain open. [\[128\]](#)
- Total students affected: 771,250 [\[3\]](#)

South Dakota

- **April 6, 2020:** Gov. [Kristi Noem](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [\[129\]](#)
- **March 24, 2020:** Noem announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end March 27, was extended through May 1. [\[130\]](#)
- **March 17, 2020:** Noem announced that schools in the state would remain closed for the week following spring break, through March 27. [\[131\]](#)
- Total students affected: 136,302 [\[3\]](#)

Tennessee

- **April 15, 2020:** Gov. [Bill Lee](#) (R) recommended that schools close for the remainder of the academic year. Schools in the state were previously ordered closed from March 20 through April 24. [\[132\]](#)
- **March 25, 2020:** The Tennessee Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 24. [\[133\]](#)
- **March 16, 2020:** Lee urged schools across the state to close as early as possible. He said that all schools should close no later than March 20 and remain closed through March 31. [\[134\]](#)
- Total students affected: 1,001,562 [\[3\]](#)

Texas

- **April 17, 2020:** Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 4. [\[135\]](#)
- **March 31, 2020:** Abbott announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 3, was extended through May 4. [\[136\]](#)
- **March 19, 2020:** Abbott closed all schools in the state from March 20 until April 3. [\[137\]](#)
- Total students affected: 5,360,849 [\[3\]](#)

Utah

- **April 14, 2020:** Gov. [Gary Herbert](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [\[138\]](#)

- **March 23, 2020:** Herbert announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended to May 1. [\[139\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Herbert ordered all schools to *soft close* for two weeks, effective March 16. The *soft closure* would allow classes to continue online. [\[140\]](#)
- Total students affected: 659,801 [\[3\]](#)

Vermont

- **March 26, 2020:** Gov. [Phil Scott](#) (R) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6. [\[141\]](#)
- **March 15, 2020:** Scott ordered all K-12 schools in the state to close effective March 18 until at least April 6. [\[142\]](#)
- Total students affected: 88,428 [\[3\]](#)

Virginia

- **March 23, 2020:** Gov. [Ralph Northam](#) (D) announced that all schools statewide would be closed for the rest of the school year. Schools were previously scheduled to close through March 27. [\[143\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Northam ordered all K-12 schools in the state to close for at least two weeks, effective March 16. [\[144\]](#)
- Total students affected: 1,287,026 [\[3\]](#)

Washington

- **April 6, 2020:** Gov. [Jay Inslee](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 24. [\[145\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Inslee ordered all K-12 schools in the state to close for six weeks, effective March 17, and banned gatherings of more than 250 people in the state. [\[146\]](#)
- Total students affected: 1,101,711 [\[3\]](#)

West Virginia

- **April 21, 2020:** Gov. [Jim Justice](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [\[147\]](#)
- **April 1, 2020:** Justice announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 17, was extended through April 30. [\[148\]](#)
- **March 25, 2020:** Justice announced that all schools would remain closed through April 17. [\[149\]](#)
- **March 13, 2020:** Justice closed all pre-K-12 schools across the state indefinitely. [\[150\]](#)
- Total students affected: 273,855 [\[3\]](#)

Wisconsin

- **April 16, 2020:** Gov. [Tony Evers](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 23. [\[151\]](#)
- **March 24, 2020:** Evers announced that schools would remain closed through April 23. [\[152\]](#)
- **March 17, 2020:** Evers announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 5, would last indefinitely. [\[153\]](#)

- **March 13, 2020:** Evers closed all K-12 schools across the state from March 18 through April 5. [\[154\]](#)
- Total students affected: 864,432 [\[3\]](#)

Wyoming

- **April 29, 2020:** Gov. [Mark Gordon](#) (R) announced that the statewide closure of schools to in-person instruction was extended from April 30 to May 15. [\[155\]](#)
- **April 3, 2020:** Gordon announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 17, was extended through April 30. [\[156\]](#)
- **March 27, 2020:** Gordon announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 3, was extended through April 17. [\[157\]](#)
- **March 20, 2020:** Gordon closed all schools in the state through April 3. [\[158\]](#)
- **March 15, 2020:** Gordon recommended that schools in the state close in response to the coronavirus outbreak and reopen no later than April 6. As of March 16, 35 of the state's 48 school districts were closed. [\[159\]](#)
- Total students affected: 94,170

School closures in America's 25 largest cities by population

See also: [Largest cities in the United States by population](#)

The following is a list of local school closures in response to the coronavirus outbreak in the 25 largest cities by population. Some local school closures were later preempted by statewide school closures.

Austin, Texas

- March 16, 2020: The Austin Independent School District announced the closure of all schools for the week following spring break from March 23 to April 3. [\[160\]](#)
- Total students affected: 79,787 [\[161\]](#)

Boston, Massachusetts

(preempted by statewide closure)

- March 13, 2020: Boston Mayor [Marty Walsh](#) announced that Boston Public Schools would close March 17 and aim to reopen on April 27. [\[162\]](#)
- Total students affected: 52,664 [\[163\]](#)

Chicago, Illinois

- March 19, 2020: Chicago Mayor [Lori Lightfoot](#) announced that Chicago Public Schools would remain closed from March 30 to April 20. At the time of the announcement, all schools in Illinois were closed until March 30. [\[164\]](#)
- Total students affected: 355,156 [\[165\]](#)

Columbus, Ohio

(preempted by statewide closure)

- March 11, 2020: The Columbus City School District announced the closure of all schools through the end of March. [\[166\]](#)
- Total students affected: 50,219 [\[167\]](#)

Denver, Colorado

- March 12, 2020: Denver Public Schools closed March 16 through April 6. [\[168\]](#)
- Total students affected: 93,356 [\[169\]](#)

El Paso, Texas

- March 14, 2020: The El Paso County Health Department directed all El Paso County schools, including the El Paso Independent School District, to close until April 6. [\[170\]](#)
- Total students affected (El Paso ISD): 58,000 [\[171\]](#)

Fort Worth, Texas

- March 13, 2020: The Fort Worth Independent School District closed for two additional weeks following spring break, through March 27. [\[172\]](#)
- Total students affected: 84,332 [\[173\]](#)

Houston, Texas

- March 12, 2020: The [Houston Independent School District](#) closed schools until March 30. [\[174\]](#)
- Total students affected: 209,040 [\[175\]](#)

Indianapolis, Indiana

- March 12, 2020: Indianapolis Mayor [Joe Hogsett](#) (D) asked for all schools in Marion County to close from March 16 to April 5. [\[176\]](#)
- Total students affected: 140,000 [\[176\]](#)

Jacksonville, Florida

- March 15, 2020: Duval County Public Schools extended spring break through March 22. [\[177\]](#)
- Total students affected: 129,583 [\[178\]](#)

Los Angeles, California

- March 23, 2020: The [Los Angeles Unified School District](#) announced that the school closure, scheduled to end on March 30, was extended to May 1. [\[179\]](#)
- March 13, 2020: The [Los Angeles Unified School District](#) announced the closure of all schools in the district for two weeks effective March 16. [\[180\]](#)
- Total students affected: 501,271 [\[181\]](#)

Memphis, Tennessee

(preempted by statewide closure)

- March 12, 2020: Shelby County Schools canceled classes through the end of March. [\[182\]](#)
- Total students affected: 109,591 [\[183\]](#)

Nashville, Tennessee

(preempted by statewide closure)

- April 15, 2020: Metro Nashville Public Schools closed for the remainder of the academic year. [\[184\]](#)
- March 11, 2020: Metro Nashville Public Schools closed March 12 and March 13. [\[185\]](#)
- Total students affected: 85,998 [\[186\]](#)

New York City, New York

(preempted by statewide closure)

- April 11, 2020: Mayor [Bill de Blasio](#) (D) announced that New York City's public schools would remain closed for the rest of the 2019-2020 school year. [\[187\]](#) That same day, [New York Governor Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) announced that de Blasio did not have the authority to keep the schools closed. [\[188\]](#)
- March 15, 2020: Mayor [Bill de Blasio](#) (D) announced at a press conference that schools in the city would close on March 16, 2020, and remain closed until at least April 20, 2020. He also stated that schools might not reopen this year. [\[189\]](#)
- Total students affected: 1,126,501 [\[190\]](#)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

(preempted by statewide closure)

- March 13, 2020: The School District of Philadelphia closed all schools for two weeks effective March 16. [\[191\]](#)
- Total students affected: 205,778 [\[192\]](#)

San Antonio, Texas

- March 24, 2020: The San Antonio Independent School District announced that the school closure, initially scheduled to end on April, was extended through April 24. [\[193\]](#)
- March 17, 2020: The San Antonio Independent School District closed schools until April 3. [\[194\]](#)
- Total students affected: 48,745 [\[195\]](#)

San Francisco, California

- March 11, 2020: Officials closed the San Francisco Unified School District from March 16 through April 3. [\[196\]](#)
- Total students affected: 60,263 [\[197\]](#)

San Jose, California

- March 15, 2020: The San Jose Unified School District closed schools through April 3. [\[198\]](#)
- Total students affected: 33,014 [\[199\]](#)

San Diego, California

- March 13, 2020: The [San Diego Unified School District](#) announced the closure of all schools in the district from March 16 through April 6. ^[200]
- Total students affected: 118,330 ^[201]

Timeline

School closures by date

The chart below shows the first date schools in a state were closed to in-person instruction, divided by the political party of the governor.

Initial school closure dates, 2020

Covers date when the state's governor first announced a statewide school closure, whether mandatory or optional. States are sorted by their governor's partisan affiliation.

States with Republican governors

West Virginia (March 13)	
South Carolina (March 15)	
Arizona (March 15)	
Utah (March 16)	
Oklahoma (March 16)	
Ohio (March 16)	
North Dakota (March 16)	
New Hampshire (March 16)	
Mississippi (March 16)	
Maryland (March 16)	
Iowa (March 16)	
Florida (March 16)	
Alaska (March 16)	
South Dakota (March 17)	
Massachusetts (March 17)	
Arkansas (March 17)	
Vermont (March 18)	
Georgia (March 18)	
Alabama (March 18)	
Missouri (March 19)	
Texas (March 20)	
Tennessee (March 20)	
Indiana (March 20)	
Wyoming (March 23)	
Idaho (March 24)	
Nebraska (April 1)	

States with Democratic governors

Michigan (March 12)	
Louisiana (March 13)	
North Carolina (March 14)	
Hawaii (March 15)	
Virginia (March 16)	
Rhode Island (March 16)	
Pennsylvania (March 16)	
Oregon (March 16)	
New Mexico (March 16)	
Nevada (March 16)	
Montana (March 16)	
Kentucky (March 16)	
Illinois (March 16)	
Delaware (March 16)	
Connecticut (March 16)	
Washington (March 17)	
Wisconsin (March 18)	
New York (March 18)	
New Jersey (March 18)	
Minnesota (March 18)	

California (March 20)	
Kansas (March 23)	
Colorado (March 23)	
Maine (April 2)	

The chart below shows the earliest date that each state closed schools to in-person instruction.

Statewide school closure enactment dates, 2020

States are sorted by when their governor first issued a statewide school closure order, whether mandatory or optional. A shorter bar indicates an earlier closure. States are shaded according to the governor's partisan affiliation.

Michigan (March 12)

West Virginia (March 13)

Louisiana (March 13)

North Carolina (March 14)

South Carolina (March 15)

Hawaii (March 15)

Arizona (March 15)

Virginia (March 16)

Utah (March 16)

Rhode Island (March 16)

Pennsylvania (March 16)

Oregon (March 16)

Oklahoma (March 16)

Ohio (March 16)

North Dakota (March 16)

New Mexico (March 16)

New Hampshire (March 16)

Nevada (March 16)

Montana (March 16)

Mississippi (March 16)

Maryland (March 16)

Kentucky (March 16)

Iowa (March 16)

Illinois (March 16)

Florida (March 16)

Delaware (March 16)

Connecticut (March 16)

Alaska (March 16)

Washington (March 17)

South Dakota (March 17)

Massachusetts (March 17)

Arkansas (March 17)

Wisconsin (March 18)

Vermont (March 18)

New York (March 18)

New Jersey (March 18)

Minnesota (March 18)

Georgia (March 18)

Alabama (March 18)
Missouri (March 19)
Texas (March 20)
Tennessee (March 20)
Indiana (March 20)
California (March 20)
Wyoming (March 23)
Kansas (March 23)
Colorado (March 23)
Idaho (March 24)
Nebraska (April 1)
Maine (April 2)

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Noteworthy events

The timeline below captures all state-level school closure updates and is presented in reverse chronological order.

- **May 5, 2020**
 - Connecticut Gov. [Ned Lamont](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed to in-person instruction for the rest of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 20. [\[19\]](#)
- **May 4, 2020**
 - New Jersey Gov. [Phil Murphy](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed to in-person instruction for the rest of the academic year. The order applies to public and private schools. Private schools must remain closed until June 30. [\[94\]](#)
- **May 1, 2020**
 - New York Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15. [\[99\]](#)
 - North Dakota Gov. [Doug Burgum](#) (R) announced that schools would remain closed for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed indefinitely. [\[107\]](#)
- **April 29, 2020**
 - Wyoming Gov. [Mark Gordon](#) (R) announced that the statewide closure of schools to in-person instruction was extended from April 30 to May 15. [\[155\]](#)
- **April 24, 2020**
 - North Carolina Gov. [Roy Cooper](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15. [\[104\]](#)
 - Delaware Gov. [John Carney](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 15. [\[23\]](#)
- **April 23, 2020**
 - Minnesota Gov. [Tim Walz](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1.

[72]

- Rhode Island Gov. [Gina Raimondo](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [122]
- **April 22, 2020:**
 - Montana Gov. [Steve Bullock](#) (D) announced that he would rescind the statewide school closure order on May 7, but that individual districts would be allowed to decide whether to reopen for in-person instruction. [82]
 - Nevada Gov. [Steve Sisolak](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [87]
 - South Carolina Gov. [Henry McMaster](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [126]
- **April 21, 2020:**
 - Colorado Gov. [Jared Polis](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [16]
 - Massachusetts Gov. [Charlie Baker](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [66]
 - West Virginia Gov. [Jim Justice](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [147]
- **April 20, 2020:**
 - Kentucky Gov. [Andy Beshear](#) (D) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [52]
 - Ohio Gov. [Mike DeWine](#) (R) announced that schools would not reopen for in-person instruction for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [110]
- **April 18, 2020**
 - Florida Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [27]
- **April 17, 2020**
 - The Hawaii Department of Education closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [34]
 - Illinois Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [41]
 - Iowa Gov. [Kim Reynolds](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [48]
 - Maryland Superintendent of Schools [Karen Salmon](#) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 24, was extended through May 15. [63]
 - Texas Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 4. [135]
- **April 16, 2020**
 - New Hampshire Gov. [Chris Sununu](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [91]
 - New Jersey Gov. [Phil Murphy](#) (D) announced that schools would be closed until at least May 15. Prior to the announcement, schools had been under an indefinite closure since March 18. [95]

- New York Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) extended the state's stay-at-home order through May 15, extending the statewide school closure. [\[100\]](#)
 - Wisconsin Gov. [Tony Evers](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 23. [\[151\]](#)
- **April 15, 2020**
 - Tennessee Gov. [Bill Lee](#) (R) recommended that schools close for the remainder of the academic year. Schools in the state were previously ordered closed from March 20 through April 24. [\[132\]](#)
- **April 14, 2020**
 - Mississippi Gov. [Tate Reeves](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 17. [\[75\]](#)
 - Utah Gov. [Gary Herbert](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [\[138\]](#)
- **April 13, 2020**
 - Louisiana Gov. [John Bel Edwards](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 30. [\[56\]](#)
- **April 9, 2020**
 - Alaska Gov. [Mike Dunleavy](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [\[4\]](#)
 - Connecticut Gov. [Ned Lamont](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 20, was extended through May 20. [\[20\]](#)
 - Missouri Gov. [Mike Parson](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 24. [\[78\]](#)
 - Pennsylvania Gov. [Tom Wolf](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools had been closed indefinitely from March 16. [\[118\]](#)
- **April 8, 2020**
 - Oregon Gov. [Kate Brown](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 28. [\[115\]](#)
- **April 7, 2020**
 - Maine Gov. [Janet Mills](#) (D) recommended that schools in the state remain closed for the rest of the academic year. [\[59\]](#)
 - Montana Gov. [Steve Bullock](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 10, was extended through April 24. [\[83\]](#)
- **April 6, 2020**
 - Arkansas Gov. [Asa Hutchinson](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to this order, schools in the state were closed through April 17. [\[202\]](#)
 - The Idaho State Board of Education voted to close schools for the remainder of the academic year, or until social distancing protocols in the state were lifted. [\[38\]](#)
 - New York Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 15, was extended through April 29. [\[203\]](#)
 - South Dakota Gov. [Kristi Noem](#) (R) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through May 1. [\[204\]](#)
 - Washington Gov. [Jay Inslee](#) (D) closed schools for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were closed through April 24. [\[205\]](#)
- **April 3, 2020**
 - As part of a stay-at-home order issued by Missouri Gov. [Mike Parsons](#) (R), the statewide school closure scheduled to end April 3 was extended through April 24. [\[206\]](#)
 - Wyoming Gov. [Mark Gordon](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 17, was extended through April 30. [\[207\]](#)
- **April 2, 2020**

- Indiana Gov. [Eric Holcomb](#) (R) announced that schools in the state would remain closed through the end of the academic year. Prior to this order, schools were scheduled to be closed through May 1. [\[208\]](#)
- Iowa Gov. [Kim Reynolds](#) (R) ordered all schools in the state to close through April 30. Previously, her office recommended schools close until April 13. [\[209\]](#)
- Kentucky Gov. [Andy Beshear](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, originally scheduled to end on April 20, would extend until May 1. [\[210\]](#)
- Louisiana Gov. [John Bel Edwards](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 13, was extended through April 30. [\[211\]](#)
- Michigan Gov. [Gretchen Whitmer](#) (D) announced that schools statewide would remain closed for the rest of the academic year. Prior to this order, schools were scheduled to reopen April 13. [\[212\]](#)
- **April 1, 2020**
 - California Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) (D) announced that schools would be physically closed for the remainder of the school year. [\[13\]](#) This was not issued as a executive order, but media outlets reported that schools were unlikely to reopen before the end of the school year. [\[14\]](#)
 - Colorado Gov. [Jared Polis](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 17, was extended through April 30. [\[17\]](#)
 - Georgia Gov. [Brian Kemp](#) (R) announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the school year. Prior to the order, the state's school closure was scheduled to end April 24. [\[213\]](#)
 - Nebraska Gov. [Pete Ricketts](#) (R) directed schools to operate without students through May 31. This date was after the academic year was scheduled to end. [\[214\]](#)
 - Nevada Gov. [Steve Sisolak](#) (D) issued a stay-at-home order effective from April 1 to April 30. This extended the statewide school closure, scheduled to end on April 16, through April 30. [\[215\]](#)
 - West Virginia Gov. [Jim Justice](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 17, was extended through April 30. [\[216\]](#)
- **March 31, 2020**
 - Maine Gov. [Janet Mills](#) (D) issued a stay-at-home order effective from April 2 to April 30. Although schools in Maine had handled closures at a local level, this order extended closures statewide through April 30. [\[217\]](#)
 - Illinois Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 7, was extended through April 30. [\[42\]](#)
 - Texas Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 3, was extended through May 4. [\[136\]](#)
- **March 30, 2020**
 - Arizona Gov. [Doug Ducey](#) (R) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 13. [\[7\]](#)
 - The Florida Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 14, was extended through May 1. [\[28\]](#)
 - Ohio Gov. [Mike DeWine](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 3, was extended through May 1. [\[111\]](#)
 - Pennsylvania Gov. [Tom Wolf](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure would last indefinitely. It was previously scheduled to end on April 8. [\[119\]](#)
 - Rhode Island Gov. [Gina Raimondo](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 3, was extended through April 30. [\[123\]](#)
- **March 27, 2020**
 - New Mexico Gov. [Michelle Lujan Grisham](#) (D) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6. [\[97\]](#)

- New York Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 1, was extended through April 15. ^[102]
- Wyoming Gov. [Mark Gordon](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 3, was extended through April 17. ^[157]
- **March 26, 2020**
 - Alabama Gov. [Kay Ivey](#) (R) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6. ^[1]
 - Georgia Gov. [Brian Kemp](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 24. ^[32]
 - New Hampshire Gov. [Chris Sununu](#) (R) issued a stay-at-home order, extending the statewide school closure through May 1. Prior to the order, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6. ^[92]
 - Vermont Gov. [Phil Scott](#) (R) announced that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic year. Prior to the announcement, schools were scheduled to reopen on April 6. ^[141]
- **March 25, 2020**
 - Maryland State Superintendent [Karen Salmon](#) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended through April 24. ^[64]
 - Massachusetts Gov. [Charlie Baker](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 6, was extended through May 1. ^[67]
 - Minnesota Gov. [Tim Walz](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended through May 1. ^[73]
 - The [Oklahoma Department of Education](#) announced that schools would remain closed for the remainder of the academic year. ^[113]
 - The Tennessee Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 24. ^[133]
 - West Virginia Gov. [Jim Justice](#) (R) announced that all schools would remain closed through April 17. ^[149]
- **March 24, 2020**
 - The Hawaii Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 6, was extended through April 30. ^[35]
 - Montana Gov. [Steve Bullock](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended through April 10. ^[84]
 - South Carolina Gov. [Henry McMaster](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended to April 30. ^[127]
 - South Dakota Gov. [Kristi Noem](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end March 27, was extended through May 1. ^[130]
 - Wisconsin Gov. [Tony Evers](#) (D) announced that schools would remain closed through April 23. ^[152]
- **March 23, 2020**
 - Connecticut Gov. [Ned Lamont](#) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 20. ^[21]
 - Delaware Gov. [John Carney](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended to May 15. ^[24]
 - The [Idaho State Department of Education](#) ordered schools statewide to close to students from March 24 to April 20. ^[40]
 - Michigan Gov. [Gretchen Whitmer](#)'s (D) stay-at-home order meant that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 5, was extended to April 13. ^[70]
 - North Carolina Gov. [Roy Cooper](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended to May 15. ^[105]
 - Pennsylvania Gov. [Tom Wolf](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended through April 8. ^[120]

- Utah Gov. [Gary Herbert](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended to May 1. ^[139]
 - Virginia Gov. [Ralph Northam](#) (D) announced that all schools statewide would be closed for the rest of the school year. Schools were previously scheduled to close through March 27. ^[143]
- **March 21, 2020**
 - Nevada Gov. [Steve Sisolak](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end April 6, was extended to April 16. ^[89]
- **March 20, 2020**
 - Alaska Gov. [Mike Dunleavy](#) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended to May 1. ^[5]
 - Arizona Gov. [Doug Ducey](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended to April 10. ^[8]
 - Illinois Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended through April 7. ^[43]
 - Kentucky Gov. [Andy Beshear](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, originally scheduled to end on March 27, would extend until April 20. ^[54]
 - The [Portland School Department](#), the largest district in the state, along with several others, announced closures until April 27. ^[218]
 - Wyoming Gov. [Mark Gordon](#) (R) closed all schools in the state through April 3. ^[158]
- **March 19, 2020**
 - Arkansas Gov. [Asa Hutchinson](#) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 27, was extended to April 17. ^[11]
 - California Gov. [Gavin Newsom](#) (D) issued a statewide *shelter-in-place* order, closing schools. At the time of the order, 99 percent of schools in California were already closed via local decision. ^[15]
 - The Hawaii Department of Education announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 30, was extended through April 6. ^[36]
 - Indiana Gov. [Eric Holcomb](#) (R) closed all schools in the state until May 1. ^[46]
 - Missouri Gov. [Mike Parsons](#) (R) announced that all schools across the state had temporarily closed. Parsons did not issue a statewide closure, but said all local districts had chosen to close. ^[80] The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education later announced that schools would not reopen until at least April 6. ^[81]
 - Mississippi Gov. [Tate Reeves](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure, originally scheduled to end on March 20, would extend until April 7. ^[76]
 - North Dakota Gov. [Doug Burgum](#) (R) announced that the statewide school closure was extended indefinitely. ^[108]
 - Texas Gov. [Greg Abbott](#) (R) closed all schools in the state from March 20 until April 3. ^[137]
- **March 18, 2020**
 - Colorado Gov. [Jared Polis](#) (D) all schools in the state from March 23 to April 17. ^[18]
 - Maine Gov. [Janet Mills](#) (D) recommended that all schools in the state close indefinitely. At that time, school closures were handled at a local level and the majority had already closed. ^[61]
- **March 17, 2020**
 - Florida Gov. [Ron DeSantis](#) (R) extended the public school closure through April 14. ^[29]
 - Kansas Gov. [Laura Kelly](#) (D) announced the closing of K-12 schools in the state from March 23 through May 31, effectively ending the school year. ^[51]
 - Oregon Gov. [Kate Brown](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, scheduled to end March 31, was extended to April 28. ^[116]
 - South Dakota Gov. [Kristi Noem](#) (R) announced that schools in the state would remain closed for the week following spring break, through March 27. ^[131]

- Wisconsin Gov. [Tony Evers](#) (D) announced that the statewide school closure, initially scheduled to end April 5, would last indefinitely. ^[153]
- **March 16, 2020**
 - Georgia Gov. [Brian Kemp](#) (R) announced the closure of the state's public elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools from March 18 through the end of the month. ^[33]
 - Hawaii Gov. [David Ige](#) (D) announced that schools in the state would extend spring break for one week, through March 27. ^[37]
 - New Jersey Gov. [Phil Murphy](#) (D) ordered all schools in the state to close, effective March 18. ^[96]
 - New York Gov. [Andrew Cuomo](#) (D) announced that schools across the state would close for at least two weeks beginning March 18. ^[103]
 - The [Oklahoma Department of Education](#) announced plans to close schools statewide from March 17 until at least April 6. ^[114]
 - Tennessee Gov. [Bill Lee](#) (R) urged schools across the state to close as early as possible. He said that all schools should close no later than March 20 and remain closed through March 31. ^[134]
- **March 15, 2020**
 - Arizona Gov. [Doug Ducey](#) (R) ordered all schools in the state to close until March 27. ^[9]
 - Arkansas Gov. [Asa Hutchinson](#) (R) ordered all schools in the state to close from March 17 to March 27. ^[12]
 - Connecticut Gov. [Ned Lamont](#) (D) issued an executive order closing all schools in the state from March 16 to March 31. ^[22]
 - Iowa Gov. [Kim Reynolds](#) (D) recommended that schools across the state close for four weeks. Individual districts have authority to make decisions based on the recommendation. ^[50]
 - Massachusetts Gov. [Charlie Baker](#) (R) issued an executive order closing all schools in the state from March 17 until April 6. ^[68]
 - Minnesota Gov. [Tim Walz](#) (D) announced the closing of all K-12 schools in the state, effective March 18 until March 27. ^[74]
 - Montana Gov. [Steve Bullock](#) (D) announced that all public K-12 schools in the state would be closed from March 16 to March 27. ^[85]
 - Nevada Gov. [Steve Sisolak](#) (D) announced that schools across the state would close until at least April 6, beginning on March 16. ^[90]
 - New Hampshire Gov. [Chris Sununu](#) (R) issued an order closing all public schools to close for three weeks effective March 16, 2020. ^[93]
 - North Dakota Gov. [Doug Burgum](#) (R) ordered all schools in the state to close for one week, effective March 16. ^[109]
 - South Carolina Gov. [Henry McMaster](#) (R) announced the closing of all K-12 schools in the state for two weeks, effective immediately, with the possibility for schools in counties without any cases of coronavirus to remain open. ^[128]
 - Vermont Gov. [Phil Scott](#) (R) ordered all K-12 schools in the state to close effective March 18 until at least April 6. ^[142]
 - Wyoming Gov. [Mark Gordon](#) (R) recommended that schools in the state close in response to the coronavirus outbreak and reopen no later than April 6. As of March 16, 35 of the state's 48 school districts were closed. ^[159]
- **March 14, 2020**
 - Mississippi Gov. [Tate Reeves](#) (R) called on schools to extend spring break through the week of March 16. ^[77]
 - North Carolina Gov. [Roy Cooper](#) (D) announced the closure of all public schools in the state for at least two weeks. ^[106]
- **March 13, 2020**

- Alabama Gov. [Kay Ivey](#) (R) closed schools across the state from March 18 through April 5. She said that students absent from school on March 16-17 would be considered excused. ^[219]
- Alaska Gov. [Mike Dunleavy](#) (R) ordered a statewide closure of public schools March 16 through March 30. ^[220]
- Delaware Gov. [John Carney](#) (D) closed schools across the state from March 16 through March 27. ^{[221][222]}
- The Florida Department of Education closed schools across the state for two weeks effective March 16. ^[223]
- Illinois Gov. [J.B. Pritzker](#) (D) closed all schools across the state until the end of March. ^[224]
- Kentucky Gov. [Andy Beshear](#) (D) announced the closing of K-12 schools in the state for at least two weeks beginning March 16, 2020. ^[225]
- Louisiana Gov. [John Bel Edwards](#) (D) signed an executive order closing all K-12 schools statewide until April 13. ^[226]
- Pennsylvania Gov. [Tom Wolf](#) (D) closed all K-12 schools in the state for two weeks effective March 16. ^[227]
- Rhode Island Gov. [Gina Raimondo](#) (D) ordered all public schools in the state to close. She said that the spring break planned for April would be rescheduled to the week of March 16. The Department of Education later closed all schools through April 3. ^[228]
- Utah Gov. [Gary Herbert](#) (R) ordered all schools to *soft close* for two weeks, effective March 16. The *soft closure* would allow classes to continue online. ^[229]
- Virginia Gov. [Ralph Northam](#) (D) ordered all K-12 schools in the state to close for at least two weeks, effective March 16. ^[230]
- Washington Gov. [Jay Inslee](#) (D) ordered all K-12 schools in the state to close for six weeks, effective March 17, and banned gatherings of more than 250 people in the state. ^[231]
- West Virginia Gov. [Jim Justice](#) (R) closed all pre-K-12 schools across the state indefinitely. ^[232]
- Wisconsin Gov. [Tony Evers](#) (D) closed all K-12 schools across the state from March 18 through April 5. ^[233]
- **March 12, 2020**
 - Indiana Gov. [Eric Holcomb](#) (R) issued a 20-day waiver to school corporations. The waived days could be used for the remainder of the academic year and were not required to be used consecutively. ^[47]
 - Officials ordered all schools in Maryland to close from March 16 to March 27. ^[65]
 - Michigan Gov. [Gretchen Whitmer](#) (D) closed all schools in the state until April 5. ^[71]
 - New Mexico Gov. [Michelle Lujan Grisham](#) (D) announced that schools across the state would close for three weeks beginning on March 16. ^[98]
 - Ohio Gov. [Mike DeWine](#) (R) announced that all public and private schools in the state would close for three weeks beginning on March 16. ^[112]
 - Oregon Gov. [Kate Brown](#) (D) announced that schools across the state would close from March 16 through March 31. ^[117]

Arguments about school closures

See also: [*Arguments about school closures during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020*](#)

State and local government policies around schools during the coronavirus pandemic varied widely. Those policies generated a similar variety of responses from pundits, policy makers, lawmakers, and more. The main areas of disagreement about school closures during the coronavirus pandemic are:

- [In favor of school closures](#)

- [School closures are necessary to prevent the spread of the virus](#)
- [Evidence from past pandemics supports the efficacy of school closures](#)
- [Reopening Universities will increase COVID-19 spread](#)
- [Reopening schools puts people of color at higher risk](#)
- [Keep schools closed because COVID-19 outbreaks are inevitable](#)
- **[Against school closures](#)**
 - [School closures are ineffective in preventing the spread of the virus](#)
 - [School closures pose significant unintended consequences](#)
 - [School closures and reopening plans have disparate economic effects](#)
 - [School closures and distance learning exacerbate digital divide](#)
 - [Reopen schools to protect the economy](#)
 - [School-aged children have reduced COVID-19 risk](#)

General resources

The chart below shows coronavirus statistics from countries across the world. The information is provided by [Real Clear Politics](#).

Click the links below to explore official resources related to the coronavirus outbreak.

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services](#)
- [Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Vaccinations, Our World in Data](#) (Number of vaccines administered)
- [Coronavirus Vaccine Tracker, New York Times](#) (Progress of vaccine trials)

See also

- [Ballotpedia: Political responses to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020](#)
- [Changes to election dates, procedures, and administration in response to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020](#)
- [Government official, politician, and candidate deaths, diagnoses, and quarantines due to the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic, 2020-2021](#)
- [Federal Politics](#)
- [State Politics](#)
- [Local Politics](#)

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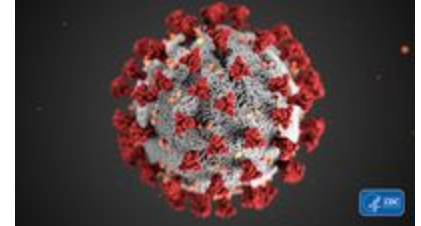
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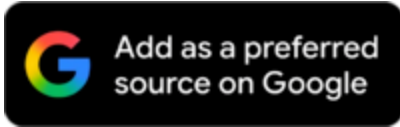
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