Reopening Schools... An Overview
Challenges
- Weighing risks
- Uneven experience with remote learning
- Poorest outcomes for most vulnerable populations
- Vacillating federal guidance / Evolving Information
- Local Control* v. “Tell us what to do!”
- Ventilation!!
- Early, frequent, highly individualized and ongoing school/community accounts of COVID-19 (often unsubstantiated for days/weeks)
- Pressures on school and district leaders and educators … Weighing risks, balancing expectations.

Successes/Solutions
- *Trust and relationships
- Constant engagement with stakeholder groups / 40K survey responses
- Web/Online resources exceed all expectations (#ConnectKidsNow! / M.O.O.S.E / SEL)**
- Secured federal resources within hours of availability / CRF available
- Maine CDC and the team of public health experts, doctors, researchers providing exceptional guidance for Maine
- Framework for Reopening… Health/Safety; Social, Emotional, Mental Health; Minimum Standards for hybrid and remote learning
Current Status and Next Steps…

- Most schools using hybrid models due to spacing requirements
- Some able to do modified “cohorting” (factors that inhibit this: everyone goes home to a different and dynamic setting; school sports; afterschool jobs; siblings; transportation…)
- 3 precarious regions … schools/districts span more than 1 county
- October 1 Student Enrollment benchmark (will examine for trends)
- CRF: $327 million in federal relief funding
- Innovation Grant – reimagining “remote” learning
- SOP for Contact Tracing and Testing Program (Emily Poland)