



# 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)