



County of Sacramento

Clarification on Cohorts for Schools and School Districts September 17, 2020

Cohort Stability

For schools that have opened or plan to open under a waiver, we want to provide some additional guidance about maintaining stable cohorts. Cohort stability applies to students, teachers, and staff and school administrators should ensure that students remain with the same teacher and other classroom staff, if applicable. Changes to cohort staffing should be a rare occurrence under extenuating circumstances (e.g. teacher absence). Schools with teachers that serve multiple cohorts (e.g. art, foreign language, music) should arrange for those teachers to provide remote instruction to students from a different physical space. Teachers should not have in-person contact with multiple cohorts.

Physical education teachers may conduct in-person instruction with multiple cohorts if class is held exclusively outdoors with ample space to ensure physical distancing of 6 feet or greater. Only one cohort may participate at a time. Equipment should not be shared and must be disinfected between cohorts.

Cohort Size

There is no specific maximum cohort size for schools authorized to conduct in-person instruction (schools with waivers). Schools are expected to maintain physical distancing of 6 feet or greater between all students and staff at all times. Physical size of classrooms and other student spaces may be the limiting factor that determine the maximum number of students in a cohort.

The California Department of Public Health [guidance on cohorts](#) and associated [FAQ](#) (with limits of 14 children and 2 adults or a configuration of no more than 16 individuals) does not apply to schools conducting in-person instruction under a waiver. This CDPH cohort guidance clarifies the conditions that must be met to offer in-person services for small groups of students if a school is otherwise unable to reopen under state public health directives.