



**COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools**  
*REVISED September 28, 2020*

**Reopening State-Operated Area Technology Centers for In-Person Instruction**

Pursuant to KRS 156.802, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) has responsibility for all administrative functions of the state in relation to the management, control and operation of state-operated secondary area vocational education and technology centers.

The 51 state-operated area technology centers (ATCs), which serve local districts, are commonly referred to as the Kentucky Tech system. To date, during the 2020-2021 academic year, the state-operated ATCs have implemented a non-traditional instruction (NTI) plan based upon the Aug. 10 recommendation of Gov. Andy Beshear for all school districts to suspend in-person instruction until Sept. 28 due to the high number of Kentuckians testing positive for COVID-19. This guidance document is intended to provide an overview of the Kentucky Tech reopening plan for all ATCs, beginning on Sept. 28, 2020.

On Sept. 14, the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) released the [COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education](#). The Kentucky Tech reopening plan will be based on a localized approach, with the DPH metrics serving as a guidepost for decision-making and implementation of in-person instruction for each ATC. The chart on the following page outlines the expectations for ATCs when determining their reopening plans.

GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
<p><b><u>Single-Feeder ATC (ATC only serves home district):</u></b></p> <p>Single feeder ATCs shall follow the approach of the home district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home district in-person instruction = ATC in-person instruction.</li> <li>• Home district hybrid model or NTI = ATC hybrid model or NTI.</li> </ul>		<p>An ATC located in a red zone shall implement remote learning and be closed for in-person instruction to all students (both home district students and feeder district students).</p> <p>A feeder district located in a red zone that is served by an ATC shall not send students to the ATC</p>	
<p><b><u>Multiple-Feeder ATC (ATC serves more than one district):</u></b></p> <p><b>Scenario 1: All districts served by ATC are utilizing NTI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ATC also implements virtual NTI and utilizes <a href="#">KDE’s Guidance on Orientation and Targeted Services</a> to establish small group instruction schedules, where appropriate and applicable.</li> </ul>			



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<p><b>Scenario 2: All districts served by ATC are providing in-person instruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATC shall be open for in-person instruction, ensuring adherence to <a href="#">KDE’s Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools</a>.</li></ul> <p><b>Scenario 3: One or more districts served by an ATC are providing in-person/hybrid instruction AND/OR one or more districts served by ATC are utilizing NTI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The in-person instructional schedule for the ATC shall be based upon the feeder district(s) that have hybrid/in-person schedules.</li><li>• A virtual, asynchronous model shall be implemented for NTI students.</li><li>• The <a href="#">KDE Guidance on Orientation and Targeted Services</a> shall be utilized to establish small group instruction schedules. Individual one-on-one appointment schedules for students also may be considered.</li><li>• All staff shall have established office hours and check-in times for virtual students.</li></ul>	<p>for in-person instruction.</p> <p>Red zone ATCs may bring small groups of students into the building to receive targeted services at the discretion of all districts involved.</p>
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Per the DPH [COVID-19 Mode of Instruction Metrics for K-12 Education](#) guidance, the determination of whether schools are opened or closed for in-person instruction for the following school week (Monday) should be determined by the color level of your county at 8 p.m. ET every Thursday as shown on the County Incidence Map found at [www.kycovid19.ky.gov](http://www.kycovid19.ky.gov). Just as with local districts, this suggests that the status of in-person instructional plans within any given ATC may have the potential for disruption or amendments based upon these metrics at any given time. ATC principals shall report such changes in the status of their plans on a weekly basis to the KDE OCTE.

Given these unknowns, it is the expectation that every ATC instructor and program have a virtual classroom platform planned for the entire 2020-2021 academic year. This ensures that virtual learning can be implemented when necessary and continue as needed, based upon each ATC’s respective schedule.

An ATC providing instruction fully via NTI may permit remote work site locations. Otherwise, it is expected that all ATC employees report to the ATC building each work day to fulfill regular work hours. If special work site accommodations are necessary, such accommodations should be



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addressed by the employee with the ATC principal, in collaboration with the KDE Division of Human Resource Management.

For more information about ATC reopening plans, contact the KDE OCTE at (502) 564-4286. You also may email Beth Hargis, director of Kentucky Tech, at [beth.hargis2@education.ky.gov](mailto:beth.hargis2@education.ky.gov).

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