



Kentucky PTA understands that each school district has its own set of needs that can vary even between bordering counties. Kentucky PTA will not comment on the decision of one county staying virtual while another county goes back in person or even hybrid. We know that each elected Board of Education board member, with the guidance of Central Office and school employees, are doing what they feel is best for their district's students and staff, with the information provided to them.

Kentucky PTA has always advocated for safe school environments, equitable and quality education for all students. Our stance has only become stronger on this issue because of the recent pandemic. Regardless of what type of instruction the child is given this year, every child should be receiving quality and equitable education.

To be clear, KY PTA strongly applauds our Educators all over the state for their flexibility and dedication to the children of Kentucky. However, the recent pandemic has highlighted that some of our students are struggling to maintain, while some are thriving. While we celebrate the fact that some students are thriving, we hope that more attention goes to our students who are struggling to learn and retain the information provided and work in partnership to help find an equitable solution.

It is very clear that the majority of the students in Kentucky will need to "catch up" from what they have missed with the disruption of their typical education, but we should be able to acknowledge that a lot of our "GAP" students will need extra attention. (GAP students are listed as Children of Color, ELL Students, Low Income Students and Special Education Students).

Every year state assessments show us that the GAP is getting larger for these students versus their same age peers. This pandemic is bound to widen that GAP. It is our strong hope that each school district takes intentional measures to ensure that all students get a quality education. It is also our hope that our state legislators support KDE and each school district with appropriate funding to ensure that these intentional measures can take place.