



UNESCO
INSTITUTE
FOR
STATISTICS

Global Monitoring of School Closures caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic

Methodological Note

Definitions of status of schooling systems

Each country is categorized in one of the following groups:

- **Closed due to COVID-19:**
Government-mandated closures of educational institutions affecting most or all of the student population.
- **Academic break:**
Schools across the country are on scheduled academic breaks for most or all the student population. All instructional activities are suspended during this period.
- **Fully open:**
Schools are open and deliver classes exclusively face-to-face for most or all of the student population.
- **Partially open:** Schools are:
 - (a) open in certain regions and closed in others; and/or
 - (b) open for some grades, levels, or age groups and closed for others; and/or
 - (c) open with reduced in-person class time, combined with distance learning (hybrid approach).

Hybrid Learning

Hybrid learning is understood as incorporating any possible learning technique to best teach the content, no matter if it is online or offline combined with face-2-face instruction.

Duration of school closures

The duration of school closures is expressed as the number of weeks estimated by the number of days for which the status of schools was either 'Closed due to COVID-19' or 'Partially open' divided by 7, noting that the status of the school at the end of the week is extended through the weekend.

Impacted student population

There are two methodologies that UNESCO have developed depending on how student under partial closures are estimated.

1. Unadjusted number of students affected

The learners impacted are the ones in countries categorized 'Closed due to COVID-19'. The reported numbers of learners impacted, as featured on the right hand side of the [UNESCO map on the status of schools](#) takes this approach¹ and does not

¹ For more details, please refer to the methodological note of UNESCO map of school closures due to COVID-19 available at:

account for learners where schools are closed due to scheduled academic breaks, nor for those where schools are partially closed (by region or grade/level) or when class time has been reduced.

2. Adjusted number of affected students

However, as there are millions of children living in countries where schools are only open for some students, and which have been completely deprived from in-person schooling, a more accurate estimate on the number of impacted learners is proposed. The estimates are based on the research of UNESCO by considering those the proportion of students not attending in-person schooling at all in countries with the status “partially open”.

The table below summarizes the alternative definition of partial school closures taking into account geographical coverages, grades/levels, distance learning modalities.

Partially open...	Definition	Examples
Hybrid	Schools are opened and operating under a combined strategy of in-person and remote learning for the delivery of classes.	Hybrid (all levels/all regions)
By grades	Schools are opened for in-person instruction for some grades only.	Primary face-to-face and secondary schools closed (all regions)
By grades/hybrid	Schools are opened for in-person instruction for some grades only; other schools are applying a hybrid approach for the delivery of classes.	Primary face-to-face; Lower secondary hybrid; Upper secondary schools closed (all regions)
By regions	Schools are opened for in-person instruction in some regions.	Face-to-face primary (region A); Schools closed (region B)
By regions/hybrid	Schools are open for in-person instruction in some regions; and others use hybrid learning; it can be the case that some schools are closed.	Face-to-face (all levels; region A) Hybrid (all levels region B) School closed (region C)
By regions/grades	Schools are open for in-person instruction in some regions; and other regions are open for some grades only; it can be the case that some schools are closed.	Face-to-face (all levels region A) Primary face-to-face and secondary schools closed (region B)
By regions/ by grades/hybrid	Schools are open for in-person instruction for some grades, in some regions, or where schools in part of the country are applying a hybrid approach.	Primary face-to-face and secondary schools closed (region A) Hybrid all levels (region B)

In this case the estimate of students affected is taking into account **the modality of delivery** and **the coverage of the closure by region/area** and/or grade in each country.

Delivery mode brings two categories

https://en.unesco.org/sites/default/files/en_methodological_note_-_unesco_map_on_covid-19_caused_school_closures_reopening_final.pdf

- a. **Not affected students:** includes the students under **face-to-face and hybrid learning delivery**. Hybrid learning modality are considered as 'not impacted' as they have some regular in-person contact with their peers and teachers, and are able to benefit from the social services the schools provide.
- b. **Affected students:** those students who are fully on **remote learning modality or school completely closed** in the region and/or grade of the school they attend.

Geographical/grade coverage is estimated based on the qualitative information collected by UNESCO on grade/regions closed based on latest enrollment data.

Thus, estimating the number of students affected needs to combine the geographical/grade coverage with the modality of delivery to yield precise estimates on the total students affected as described in the table below.

Partially open...	Impacted number of students
Hybrid	Zero
By grades	Only students in the grades/levels that are closed , based on latest enrollment estimates
	If schools are open only for students undertaking examinations, then 80% of the student population is considered as impacted
By grades/hybrid	If some grades do in person and others do hybrid learning, there then students are not impacted (Zero)
	If some grades are open using a hybrid approach, then students are undertaking distance learning are the ones impacted
By regions	The percentage of the population in regions where schools are closed
	When no information is available then assume 50% of the student population based on latest enrolment estimates is impacted
By regions/hybrid	If schools are open in some regions, and others do hybrid learning, then students are not impacted (Zero)
	If some regions do hybrid, and others are undertaking distance learning, then only the ones undertaking distance learning are considered as impacted, and the percentage of the population in regions where schools are closed
By regions/grades	The percentage of the population in regions/grades where schools are closed
	When no information is available then assume 50% of the student population based on latest enrolment estimates is impacted
By regions/ by grades/hybrid	The percentage of the population in regions/grades where schools are closed
	When no information is available then assume 50% of the student population based on latest enrolment estimates is impacted