



Examining the rise in COVID cases in St. Louis' biggest school districts and why it's difficult to compare numbers

ST. LOUIS – With the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and the influx of hospitalizations across St. Louis, FOX 2 decided to examine the case data for the 10 largest school districts in the area to see just how many students and staffers have recently contracted the virus.

We examined the COVID dashboard data for the following districts (we have linked to each of their dashboards so parents can easily locate this information in the future):

- St. Louis Public Schools
- Rockwood R-VI School District
- Parkway School District
- Fort Zumwalt R-II School District
- Wentzville R-IV School District
- Francis Howell School District
- Hazelwood School District
- Fox C-VI School District
- Mehlville School District
- Ferguson-Florissant R-II School District

'Focal point of angry nation'; More St. Louis area school board members describe reasons for leaving

An apples-to-apples comparison is not readily apparent, however, since each of the districts updates and releases data at different times. For example, the most recent data from the SLPS (as of this initial publish date) is from the week of Dec. 10 to Dec. 16, 2021. The other districts all have data from the last few days.

The districts do not say how many tests have been administered in a given week, making it impossible to discern a positivity rate. The Wentzville School District does provide an up-or-down change in the number of active student cases over the last 10 days. Some of the districts provide the number of students and staff under quarantine, and those who've had close contact with a diagnosed COVID case.

So how can one get a firm understanding of the COVID spread among local districts?

<https://fox2now.com/news/coronavirus/covid-and-the-classroom/examining-the-rise-in-covid-cases-in-st-louis-biggest-school-districts-and-why-its-difficult-to-compare-numbers/>

January 11, 2022



Missouri lawmakers revisit banning the teaching of racism in classrooms

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — A fight over critical race theory is heating up in the Missouri Capitol as Republican lawmakers file a “Parents’ Bill of Rights” to give parents control of what their student is taught.

Rep. Doug Richey (R-Excelsior Springs) and Rep. Nick Schroer, R-O’Fallon, want to require all schools to lay out the curriculum students are taught for parents.

The first question read: Does your LEA’s board-approved curriculum include lessons about CRT?

The only school to answer yes was Kansas City Public Schools, explaining their answer by saying: “We offer an African Centered College prep magnet school that services both elementary and secondary students. The board also approved the 1619 Project service-learning and community activism grant to be taught during summer school. The curriculum is fully aligned with the Missouri Learning Standards.”

Five schools left the answer blank and 419 districts said no.

The second question read: Does your LEA’s board-approved curriculum include The New York Times’ 1619 Project?

Three schools answered yes: Hazelwood School District, Kansas City Public Schools, and the School District of University City.

Hazelwood outlined how the 1619 Project is taught in the following grade levels:

4th Grade Social Studies – The 1619 Project is listed as one of the teacher resources about the arrival of enslaved Africans in Jamestown.

8th Grade Social Studies – Students are given a reading of two paragraphs from the 1619 Project describing the arrival of enslaved Africans in Jamestown.

9th Grade US History – The 1619 Project is mentioned in a suggested learning activity where President Trump discusses the 1619 Project and the 1776 project.