

At least 31 states and Washington, DC have ordered or recommended that schools don't reopen this academic year

By [Artemis Moshtaghian](#) and [Nicole Chavez](#), CNN

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(CNN) — The majority of governors in the United States have ordered or recommended that statewide school closures continue for the rest of the academic year to help reduce the spread of the novel [coronavirus](#).



Several states have announced their plans to [begin lifting social distancing measures](#) and the federal government has issued [new guidelines to reopen the country in phases](#) but it doesn't appear that students may return to the classroom.

Twenty-six states -- including Florida, Texas and Washington -- as well as Washington, DC, have issued orders that will keep students at home, according to a CNN tally of school closures.

"It's obviously not the ideal situation, but given where we are in the school year, we felt that that was the best, best decision to go forward," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told reporters on Saturday.

Other states have recommended that local officials continue supporting students through distance learning models. Those states are California, Idaho, Maine, South Dakota and

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Tennessee.

These orders and recommendations impact approximately 33.2 million public school students, according to [Education Week](#)

States with mandatory closures

Alabama

Alaska

Arkansas

Arizona

District of Columbia

Florida

Georgia

Illinois

Indiana

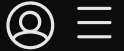
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Kansas



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CNN's Deanna Hackney contributed to this report.

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