

## A Strong and Healthy Start: Change in Step Level

Rev. Sept. 22, 2020

### Background

The [Strong and Healthy Start guidance](#) describes mitigation step levels that schools must follow to ensure safe operations for in-person instruction. These step levels are determined by the Agency of Education and the Department of Health and apply to all Vermont schools unless otherwise specified. Vermont schools, except for transportation operations, opened at Step II, and it was expected there would be a transition to Step III by the end of September if conditions remained positive.

### Change in Step Level – Transition to Step III

When providing in-person instruction, all Vermont schools will operate at Step III effective September 26, 2020. This change in step level does not change the decision-making authority of a school district to offer in-person instruction or not, but if a district decides to do so, it must operate in-person instruction at Step III.

### Future Changes in Step Levels

Future changes in step levels will be made by the Agency of Education and the Department of Health after evaluating the health conditions for the virus.