

ARGENTINA CASE STUDY: REOPENING SCHOOLS

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INTRODUCTION

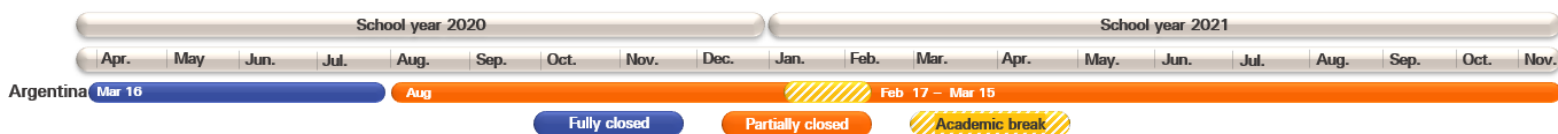


The process of school reopening initially began in August 2020. Followed by the academic break in early March 2021, schools partially reopened in a staggered manner by jurisdiction starting on February 17, 2021, in Buenos Aires City and Jujuy. Currently, the vast majority of schools have face-to-face classes, and in November most of the students (94%) were already benefiting from face-to-face classes. The educational modality is either a face-to-face or blended/hybrid model. In September, the Federal Education Council agreed to recommend full face-to-face classes in all educational institutions at the compulsory level. This document shows in detail the provisional and quantitative evolution of the reopening process in the country in the last months.

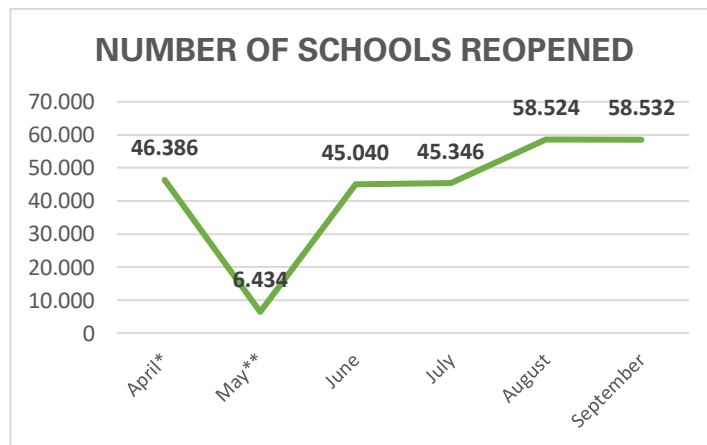
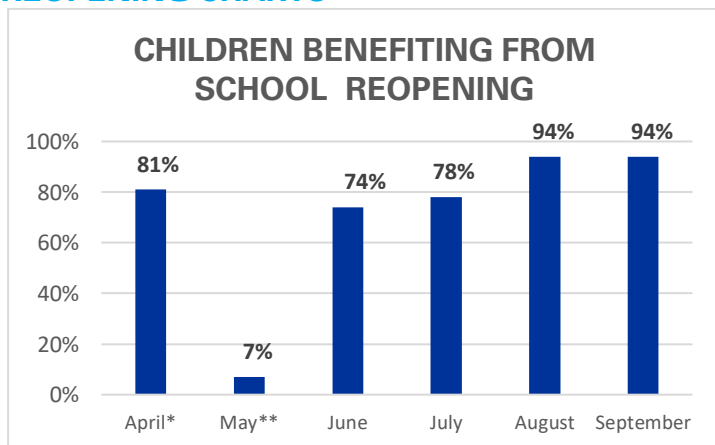
OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION¹

- **Total number of students:** 10,550,621²
- **% of children benefited by the reopening:** 94%
- **Total number of schools:** 57.602
- **Teaching modality:** Hybrid & face-to-face⁴
- **Days with schools partially closed:** 315
- **Days with schools fully closed:** 99
- **Number of teachers:** 752.207³
- **Number of vaccinated teachers:** 1,319,994 with 1st dose & 876,503 with 2nd dose.

SCHOOL REOPENING TIMELINE



REOPENING CHARTS⁵



*April: Estimate based on student enrollment and facilities from the Annual Survey (2019) and the information that the Office had about school reopening in the provinces, since data from the Observatory were not yet available.

**May: The drop in both graphs is due to enactment of presidential decree of April 16 (241/21) that established a series of restrictions aimed at reducing people movement in the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Area that included temporary suspension of face-to-face classes. As COVID-19 cases increased, the rest of the provinces adhered to this regulation.

Source: Data provided by Argentina country office education focal points between April and September 2021. Data for October and November have not been included because at the time of writing this report, the Observatory for the Presential Return to the Classroom had not yet published updated data on the subject.

¹ Data included in this section refer to the data provided by UNICEF's Argentina Country Office for the [Regional Education Report in Response to COVID-19](#).

² Total number of students and schools (service units) correspond to the pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels. Source: Annual Survey (2019).

³ This total corresponds to teaching positions at the pre-primary, primary and secondary school levels. Source: Annual Survey 2019.

⁴ Since September, full face-to-face attendance was established. Resolution [404/21](#).

⁵ Data obtained from reports by the return to the classroom observatory. These data include non-university higher education students.

UNICEF 2021 ACTIONS

- Technical assistance to the Face-to-Face Back to School Observatory in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, as part of the Argentina Country Office Response Plan to promote face-to-face schooling.
Access status reports [here](#).
- Support in dissemination of evidence, and promotion of inter-sectoral actions to support face-to-face education, attention and linkage of students with greater vulnerability: “Perceptions and attitudes of the population survey: impact of the pandemic on children education”. Access the latest report [here](#).
- Formulation of a good institutional practices study to ensure safe return to classes and continuity of learning in the context of the emergency.
- Strengthening capacities of principals and teachers for learning recovery and to sustain pedagogical continuity with the [National Institute for Teacher Training](#), [Juana Manso Platform](#) and the [SDGs](#) inter-agency initiative.

LESSONS LEARNED

- The importance of promoting evidence-based decision-making and consensus among different stakeholders: national and provincial education authorities, specialized health authorities, teachers, students and families.
- Generation of timely evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on student trajectories and learning.
- Strengthening the capacities of principals and teachers to develop a new teaching and learning assessment practices to sustain and strengthen learning.
- Supporting schools and families with pedagogical and technological resources in multimedia and printed formats to mitigate the impact of face-to-face classes interruption, especially in contexts of greater social vulnerability and isolation.

For more information or any questions, please contact:

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