

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
ENDORING A “DO OUR PART SO SCHOOL CAN START” INITIATIVE**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters of the State in November of 1982, and effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I thereof, that the governing authority of the County may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States of America and the State of Georgia remain in a state of emergency due to the 2019 novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease;

**WHEREAS**, Newton County recognizes the vital role that the schools play in our community, the support that schools provide to the mental, physical, and psychological well-being of the County’s youth, and the great desire of many teachers, parents, and students to return to in-person learning;

**WHEREAS**, the Newton County Board of Education, acting upon the advice of public health experts, has determined that in-person classes can safely resume when the rate of community spread of COVID-19 falls to less than 5%; and

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Commissioners recognizes that lowering the rate of community spread to safely re-open schools is the responsibility of every member of the community, and that swiftly and safely reopening the schools is a challenge that can only be met by the efforts of the entire community, not just those of the County’s dedicated teachers and Board of Education members;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners of Newton County, Georgia as follows:

1. All County residents are *strongly* encouraged to practice social distancing and hygiene measures, including the use of masks and staying home when sick, that serve to reduce the community spread of COVID-19.
2. The Board of Commissioner will collaborate with the Board of Education, the Chamber of Commerce, other local governments, and all other interested parties in reducing the rate of community spread so that schools can safely reopen as soon as possible. This initiative shall be called the “Do Our Part So Schools Can Start” initiative.

So resolved this 18th day of August, 2020.

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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Marcello Banes, Chairman

Attest:

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Jackie Smith, County Clerk