

State board rejects delay in reopening KS schools

**TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Local school boards in Kansas are allowed to reopen elementary, middle and high schools in mid-August as they normally would, despite a surge in coronavirus cases in the state.**

**The Republican-controlled State Board of Education on Wednesday voted 5-5 and rejected Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's plan to postpone the start of fall classes for three weeks, until Sept. 9.**

**The board's action leaves decisions about when to reopen to the state's 286 local school boards.**

**Kelly argued that a resurgence in coronavirus cases has made it necessary to give public and private schools more time to prepare, but a Kansas law required her to get the state board's approval.**

*The following statement is from Governor Laura Kelly regarding the State Board of Education's vote to reject her executive order delaying the start of school:*

**"The cases of COVID-19 in Kansas are at an all-time high and continue to rise. Our decisions must be informed by public health experts not politics. This vote puts our students, faculty, their families and our economy at risk.**

**"I will continue to work with our school districts to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our children and ask every school district to delay the start of school."**

Many Signals Communications