Fall 2021 School Reopening Toolkit

July 2021

Disclaimer

This document serves as a compilation of resources for state and district leaders preparing for the 2021-2022 school year.

This document contains a range of information and resources that can be broadly or selectively referenced based on the specific topics that are most pressing for a system at this time. It is intended for state and district leaders and is written as such. It is not intended to constitute policy, accounting, legal, medical, tax, or other regulated advice, or a recommendation on any specific course of action. School-based or other leaders may find the resources valuable but would need to adjust information to their context.

The document includes a brief self-assessment rubric to help systems determine which topics to focus on. Chiefs for Change developed this self-assessment based on a combination of (a) interviews with leaders in the field to assess emerging practices; (b) thorough analysis of the research literature on what sets high-performing school systems apart; and (c) case studies of high-performing systems (including local education agencies and international systems).

The pages that follow then offer aligned resources and supporting metrics for tracking progress. Topics include:

- **Implementing public health protocols** to mitigate risk in school settings, optimized for local guidance and conditions.

- **Ensuring sufficient COVID-19 testing, tracking, and reporting**.

- **Promoting vaccinations for eligible staff and students**.

- **Assessing campus ventilation and air filtration systems**.

Our resources and topics are grounded in a 10-point framework for school reopening and student success.

The resources in this toolkit are aligned to the "Reopen Schools Safely for In-Person Learning" point of the Coalition to Advance Future Student Success' 10-point framework.

The coalition developed the framework, depicted to the right, to provide system leaders with consistent guidance regarding the use of federal funds in support of pandemic recovery and to drive support for education transformation during this time.

The coalition is led by the Council of Chief State School Officers, Council of the Great City Schools, and Chiefs for Change. It includes 12 education and government organizations across the country focused on delivering successful, equitable transformation for K-12 students during this time of pandemic recovery.

1 Reopen Schools Safely for In-Person Learning

2 Close the Digital Divide

3 Provide Physical, Mental Health, and Wellbeing Supports

4 Address Attendance, Engagement, and Student Transitions

5 Ensure Students Stay on a Path to Postsecondary and Career Readiness

6 Address COVID-19 Learning Gaps for All Students

7 Ensure High-Quality Curriculum & Instruction

8 Recruit and Retain Talented Educator Workforce

9 Create Balanced Assessment & Accountability Systems

10 Explore and Implement New Education Delivery Models

Information on:

A

Implementing public health protocols to mitigate risk in school settings, optimized for local guidance and conditions

Click here

B

Ensuring sufficient COVID-19 testing, tracking, and reporting

Click here

C

Promoting vaccinations for eligible staff and students

Click here

D

Assessing campus ventilation and air filtration systems

Click here

A **Assessing plans for implementing public health protocols to mitigate risk in school settings, optimized for local guidance and conditions**

No action

No plan in place to mitigate risk in school settings

Some action

Plan shared with school leaders to implement protocols to mitigate risk in school settings; no comprehensive means of tracking school-level implementation

More action

Comprehensive internal performance management approach to tracking school-level implementation of district protocols

Most action

In addition to "More action" criteria,

regular (*e.g.,* weekly) data-driven review of schools' adherence to protocols – with public-facing transparency

(A) Metrics and resources for implementing public health protocols to mitigate risk in school settings, optimized for local guidance and conditions

Sample metrics to assess progress

Percent of schools utilizing a school-level implementation tracker for public health protocols

Percent of schools that provide a regular (*e.g.,* monthly) data-driven report on adherence to public health protocols

Helpful resources

Reference documents

School Reopening "Day in the Life of" (DILO) resources: Provides an overview of DILO simulation preparation for school leaders

Interactive tools

School Health Tracker: Supports schools and school systems in tracking, managing, and reporting COVID-19 cases on campuses

School Reopening Workbook: Provides a spreadsheet-based 100-day plan that can be customized for a district and used to inform operational decisions about the return to school

ESSER Planning Workbook: Supports districts in creating a thorough plan for receiving and using ESSER federal funds

Ⓑ Assessing plans for ensuring sufficient COVID-19 testing, tracking, and reporting

No action

No comprehensive effort to ensure sufficient COVID-19 testing and reporting is available for all students and school staff

Some action

Clear plan in place to ensure sufficient COVID-19 testing, including, at minimum, a network of testing sites (but not dedicated K-12 capacity or schools) and a process for test result monitoring that covers all students and staff by school and district

More action

In addition to "Some action" criteria,

dedicated K-12 testing capacity via a distributed network of sites including schools;

clear protocols for contact tracing, quarantining, and alternate plans for continuous learning

Most action

In addition to "More action" criteria,

a robust array of testing options for symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, including at-home, in-school, and community testing – with an easy-to-use system to communicate with and guide students, families, and staff in selecting a testing option

Ⓑ Metrics and resources for ensuring sufficient COVID-19 testing, tracking, and reporting

Helpful resources

Sample metrics to assess progress	Reference documents	Interactive tools

Sample metrics to assess progress

Percent of schools with sufficient testing capacity on-site for students and staff

Percent of contact tracing cases completed within 12 hours

Per capita weekly COVID-19 cases in the district

Reference documents

COVID-19 Testing in K-12 Settings: A Playbook for Educators and Leaders: Provides detailed guidance and case examples to help system leaders and educators develop and execute effective COVID-19 school testing programs

COVID-19 Testing DILO Case Studies: Helps systems simulate a COVID-19 testing strategy during a typical school day for students, staff, and families

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Programs FAQ: Supports school district leaders in answering common questions regarding COVID-19 screening, testing, and vaccination programs

Contact Tracing for COVID-19: New considerations for its practical application: Provides information on contact tracing both domestically and internationally

Interactive tools

COVID-19 Testing Project Planning Workbook: Provides a usable workbook for launching a COVID-19 testing program

COVID-19 Testing Tabletop Exercises: Provides tabletop resources for implementation of COVID-19 testing in K-12 settings

Safely Reopening and Operating Schools: Deep Dive on COVID-19 Testing as One of Many Potential Measures (video): Highlights approaches districts have taken to include COVID-19 testing as part of their risk mitigation
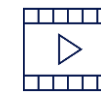
DILO: COVID-19 Testing Program (video): Illustrates, from a teacher's perspective, a district completing screening testing using rapid tests
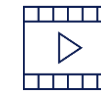
DILO: Positive COVID-19 Test Result (video): Illustrates, from a teacher's perspective, the steps that occur after a positive COVID-19 test result
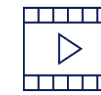
DILO: Negative COVID-19 Test Result (video): Illustrates, from a teacher's perspective, the steps that occur after a negative COVID-19 test result

C Assessing efforts to promote vaccinations for eligible staff and students

No action

No comprehensive effort to promote vaccinations for eligible staff and students

Some action

Clear plan in place to ensure sufficient COVID-19 vaccine access including, at minimum, a network of vaccination sites (but not dedicated K-12 capacity or schools) that can serve staff and students

More action

In addition to "Some action" criteria,

specific concrete district supports in place that make it easier for staff and students to get the vaccine (*e.g.,* on-site vaccination events, paid time off to get the shot);

regularly updated tool tracking optional self-reported vaccination status for students and staff[1]

Most action

In addition to "More action" criteria,

multiple concrete and district supports to make it easier to get the vaccine;

proactive communications (*e.g.,* 1:1 outreach, advertising, incentives) to raise awareness and confidence levels around vaccinations;

timely tracking of vaccination rates by demographics (including race and socio-economic status)[1]

1. As consistent with the requirements of all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, in addition to any contract terms

C Metrics and resources to promote vaccinations for eligible staff and students

Sample metrics to assess progress

Percent of eligible students who have voluntarily reported vaccination status

Percent of eligible staff who have voluntarily reported vaccination status

Percent of eligible students who are fully vaccinated according to best available source (*e.g.,* self-report)

Percent of eligible staff who are fully vaccinated according to best available source (*e.g.,* self-report)

Percent of vaccinated students who received their first dose more than 120 days ago

Percent of vaccinated staff who received their first dose more than 120 days ago

Helpful resources

Reference documents

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination Programs FAQ: Supports school district leaders in navigating common questions regarding COVID-19 screening, testing, and vaccination programs

Tracking Staff Vaccinations in Hamilton County Schools: Case study that explains how Hamilton County Schools in Chattanooga, Tennessee, worked with the state department of health to determine actual staff vaccination rates

Interactive tools

Safely Reopening and Operating Schools: Deep Dive on COVID-19 Vaccinations: Helps systems simulate a COVID-19 vaccination program for staff and explains the end-to-end process, including pre-vaccination event activities and communications, event logistics, and post-event tracking

Vaccinating Teachers and Staff in the Phoenix Union High School District (video): Illustrates how the district rolled out a large-scale vaccination effort

D Assessing campus ventilation and air filtration systems

No action

No or incomplete tracking of which classrooms have sufficient[1] ventilation and filtration systems in place

Some action

Clear tracking of which classrooms have sufficient[1] ventilation and filtration systems in place; majority of classrooms have sufficient[1] ventilation and filtration systems in place

More action

In addition to "Some action" criteria,

funding and execution plans in place to support sufficient[1] ventilation and filtration upgrades for all classrooms and buildings by the start of the 2021-2022 school year;

transparent public reporting of the ventilation and filtration status for all classrooms and buildings

Most action

In addition to "More action" criteria,

all classrooms and spaces have sufficient[1] ventilation and filtration systems in place

D Resources and metrics to assess campus ventilation and air filtration systems

Helpful resources

Sample metrics to assess progress

Percent of classrooms that have been assessed for ventilation and air filtration standards compliance in the last 12 months

Percent of classrooms that are compliant with ventilation and filtration standards[1]

Increase in the percent of classrooms that are brought into compliance with ventilation and air filtration standards compared to fall 2020

Percent of classrooms that will be compliant with ventilation and air filtration standards by January 2022 based on district plans

Reference documents

<u>Improving Ventilation in Schools, Colleges, and Universities to Prevent COVID-19:</u> Outlines strategies from USED for improving air quality and ventilation based on CDC and EPA guidance

<u>Ventilation in Schools and Child Care Programs:</u> Offers information on using CDC building recommendations in school settings

<u>Ventilation in Buildings:</u> Provides an overview of CDC information and tools related to building ventilation improvements

<u>Creating Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools:</u> Serves as a central landing point for EPA-related resources on enabling healthy indoor air quality in support of a healthy learning environment

<u>Framework for Effective School Indoor Air Quality Management:</u> Provides resources from the EPA to help schools develop an indoor air quality management program

Interactive tools

<u>Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Action Kit:</u> Includes a suite of tools to support schools in developing a practical plan to improve indoor air quality through low-cost solutions

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1. Adhering at a minimum to ASHRAE 62.1 standards for ventilation and ideally including filtration of MERV13 or higher