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## Initial Ideas and Resources on Planning for Reopening Following COVID-19 School Closures

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NIEER has developed a 50 state database of State Education Agency (SEA) and Office of Early Learning (or agency that administers Pre-K) COVID policy and resources. We are continually reviewing these websites to identify resources that may be of interest to others. To get information to the field quickly, we will produce a series of *short working documents* on an on-going basis on key topics. If you would like access to the 50 state database or have resources to share, please contact Lori Connors-Tadros at [ltadros@nieer.org](mailto:ltadros@nieer.org).

### National Resources

**Survey of How Students Will Catch Up.** The [Collaborative for Student Success](#) is conducting a [survey](#) to get feedback on options that school districts are exploring to help students address learning loss and catch up.

**5 Concrete Ideas for Getting Kids Back to School.** This [Chalkbeat Article](#) has some useful ideas for re-entry: Extend the School Day or School Year; Provide Extra Tutoring, Particularly for Those that are Behind; Loop Elementary Schools Teachers with the same group of students; Expand, or at least avoid cutting, the number of adults prepared to help students with trauma and mental health needs; Integrate coronavirus into the curriculum.

[Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies](#) has developed **Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response, Recovery** that articulates the minimum level of educational quality and access in emergencies through to recovery. Resources include tools, case studies and other materials in multiple languages.

U.S. Department of Education, [Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools \(REMS\) Technical Assistance Center](#) summarizes lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and other natural disasters. See [Lessons Learned From School Crises and Emergencies](#) and [here](#).

[Visible Learning Effect Sizes When Schools Are Closed: What Matters and What Does Not](#). The key messages are:

- Do not panic if our kids miss 10 or so weeks
- If your system has school holidays, then have a holiday from schooling
- Worry more about subjects in which parents have the least skill and about subjects and tasks where parents make kids skill and drill and lose the thrill (especially math)

- Make sure to provide opportunities to learn what students do not know and do not engage them in busy work
- It is not the time in class, but what we do in the time we have, that matters

**State Resources**

**Alabama** [SEAL Task Force](#)- SUPERINTENDENT’S EXTENDING ACCESS TO LEARNING (SEAL) TASK FORCE. Dr. Mackey convened the Alabama SEAL Task Force to address short-and long-term priorities related to reopening Alabama schools. This task force is comprised of educators and business stakeholders and is divided into 5 subcommittees to begin addressing specific subcomponents related to effectively reopening Alabama schools. They are currently conducting a survey of state superintendents on reopening options and on the impact of COVID-10 on Alabama Schools. See [here](#) for further information. (See below for more on WV’s Task Force to address re-entry. Other states, such as KY, are also convening TFs on re-entry.)

**Colorado** Department of Education in partnership with the Colorado Education Initiative conducted the [Colorado School District Community Needs Inventory](#). [Get Help Now](#) to manage donations to meet needs. The report of the district needs inventory was released on April 21, 2020, see [here](#).

**Delaware** [School Resource Hub](#)- includes Leadership Toolkits, Grab and Go, and other resources.

- Diagnostic Tool to Determine Where to Get Started- [Heirarchy of Needs](#) and [Aspirations for Student Culture](#) and Learning During Distance Learning, and videos.
- Managed by [Instruction Partners](#)
- 6 Leadership Toolkits based on these areas (**Re-entry Leadership Toolkit** coming soon, not yet



**Louisiana** conducted a [Distance Learning survey](#) of districts which included questions on plans for re-entry. As of April “70 percent of school systems that responded are contingency planning on offering summer school, but only 28 percent are contingency planning on starting the school year earlier.”

- Also see [Continuous Education Toolkits for School Systems](#) on different topics- staffing, English learners, families. Briefly addresses re-entry towards the end, with resources for remote hiring and a template for

**Maine-** [Silver Linings from Commissioner Makin](#): Clear communication is important in a time of crisis. A number of commissioners and leaders have posted videos to families on their websites. I found this one to be particularly inspiring.

- It’s possible that we’re demonstrating capacity for never having to make up “snow days” in the future!
- We have a perfect opportunity to redesign our state assessment system!
- Every time we do something kind or selfless to benefit someone else, we get a bump of serotonin ... It even works when we simply observe someone being kind to someone else!
- Amid the fear and loss and physical disconnection, watch empathy, compassion, and humanity shining like the North Star – far above the fray.
- We will emerge from this better than we’ve ever been.

**Utah’s** [Three Phases of Recovery Model](#) provides a framework for the future to prioritize the goals and activities that schools should engage in. It is helpful to provide clarity and direction in a time of crisis.

**West Virginia’s** [Pre-K through Grade 5 Taskforce](#) has been operational since 2013, and focuses on the major components of a comprehensive approach to early and elementary learning for our state. The Task Force will begin the development of a document to address the re-entry process for children when they return to school.

**(Multi-State)** Southern Regional Education Board, [K-12 Education Recovery Task Force](#). Established to help states determine the best strategies for re-opening K-12 public schools, providing each student with the support they need, and planning for a possible COVID-19 resurgence and future emergencies

### **Out of the Ordinary -- Resources from Other Fields and/or Situations Planning for Re-entry to School**

***A Reentry Education Model Supporting Education and Career Advancement For Low-Skill Individuals in Corrections.*** This document has some useful logic models and flow charts that may be adapted to guide thinking and planning. <https://nicic.gov/reentry-education-model-supporting-education-and-career-advancement-low-skill-individuals> or <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ovae/pi/AdultEd/reentry-model.pdf>

**Return to School Student Support Plan.** This idea can be adapted for teachers and families to develop tailored support plans for children. <https://headspace.org.au/assets/Uploads/Return-to-School-Student-Support-Plan-print.pdf>