Critical Conversation Topics and Considerations

Due to COVID-19, the reopening of schools in the fall of 2020 will look very different from past years. The pandemic has changed how schools, child care/early care and education (ECE) and school-age care programs view and are able to provide learning and engagement opportunities that are safe, healthy, and supportive to families, staff, children, and community partners. What is clear is that communities will need to think creatively, use resources effectively, and strengthen partnerships to support safely reopening schools.

Discussion Topic	Considerations for Public Schools	Considerations for Community ECE and School-Age Care Programs
Is *space* available within the community's ECE and/or school-age care programs that can be used by public schools?	Can an entire classroom (or classrooms) be moved to a consistent off-site location to reduce the overall number of children in a school? Can cohorts of children (either same age or multi-age) be moved to a consistent off-site location to reduce the number of children within school classrooms? Are there school-age materials and/or equipment that can be moved to – and remain at – an off-site location? Should children who need wrap-around care be prioritized when selecting students that might attend an off-site classroom/space? Would children from older grade levels (3-5) be more likely to be successful at an off-site location? Would families be able to select or provide input around the location their child(ren) attends? Is there funding that could support community programs that offer space for use?	Do I have an empty classroom, common area (gym, cafeteria), and/or available home space? Do I have space that would allow children to remain in consistent cohorts of around 15 school-agers? Are there exemptions to licensing regulations that I would need in order to support care for more children? Can I provide wrap-around care to school-age children if they come to my program? Do I have enough materials and/or equipment that support school-age children's development? Or would I need more? What revenue do I need to offer this space?

Discussion Topic	Considerations for Public Schools	Considerations for Community ECE and School-Age Care Programs
Are *staff* available within the community's ECE and/or school-age care programs to support additional cohorts of school-age children?	If a cohort (or cohorts) of children is moved off-site, is a consistent DPI-licensed teacher (or teachers) available to teach the cohort in the off-site location? Is there funding available to support any community program staff members that are available to supervise virtual learning? Do all students receive Chromebooks/iPads for virtual learning? If these tools are used by cohorts in off-site locations, who will be responsible for maintaining them? Are there performance expectations for the community program around virtual learning participation and/or adult oversight?	Do I have staff that could be solely dedicated/assigned to new cohorts of children to supervise virtual learning? If not, can I quickly recruit former and/or new staff if I had financial support? Do I need resources around quickly hiring new staff? (e.g. Online intro courses, free background checks, modification of timeline for fingerprint requirements, etc.) Do I have staff with knowledge around the following topics, or would I need training for staff? - DAP with school-agers - Working with children with special needs - Working with multilingual children - Supporting virtual learning
Can current resources/cost of new resources be *shared* between public schools and community programs?	Is there opportunity to share resources around: - Transportation (consider taxis, Uber, and Lift for multiple children from the same family) - School-age appropriate materials and/or equipment - Food (breakfast and/or lunch) - PPE and sanitization products	