



Resolution in Support of a Safe, Healthy, and District-Specific Reopening Process Informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines

AASA, The School Superintendents Association, advocates for equitable access for all students to the highest quality public education and develops and supports school system leaders, a mission that promotes and values an inclusive, safe and innovative quality public education system that ensures all students can succeed regardless of their zip code, the color of their skin, their native language, their gender/gender identity, their immigration status, their religion, or their social standing.

AASA maintains that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of our public school system and the need for a consistent, coherent, actionable and fully resourced plan to support every public school district reopening during the 2020-21 academic year; and

AASA contends that the reopening of schools should be a local or regional decision informed by applicable health, safety and disinfecting recommendations articulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as state and local health agencies; and

AASA asserts that each school district should be permitted to determine the timing and scheduling configuration of its schools using health data and benchmarks related to COVID-19 specific to its geographic location and communities; and

AASA contends that the COVID-19 crisis has revealed the urgency of integrating strategies and processes to promote students' health, social and emotional learning, and well-being as essential components of their academic growth, development, and achievement; and

AASA advocates for policies and practices that foster equity in opportunities and outcomes, particularly by addressing the unique needs of persistently underserved children and special needs children; and

AASA supports efforts to address students' learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with the recognition that the uneven delivery of teaching and learning in an online environment leaves 12 million students unable to access remote learning at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and highlights the need for students' equitable access to broadband connectivity, internet and devices necessary for virtual learning; and

AASA supports creating stable, equitable, predictable and adequate funding for schools based on federal, state and local revenues that will support school districts during this major transition, including but not limited to staffing, professional development, health services, personal protective equipment, building and bus disinfecting, food services, transportation and elements associated with social distancing.



WHEREAS investing in public education is crucial to ensuring the future growth and stability of our economy and our country’s global competitiveness and translates into more students graduating and contributing to our 21st century society ready to fill current and future jobs; and

WHEREAS a robust federal investment in education during this period of national crisis is essential to ensuring equity and excellence for all learners in our public schools; and

WHEREAS without equitable access to quality public education, the gross disparities in health care and technology access evidenced in many communities during the COVID-19 crisis shall be exacerbated, including increased academic gaps along racial and socio-economic lines and a continued divide between the educated and uneducated corresponding to the debilitating divide between the rich and the poor and the strong and the weak; and

WHEREAS the existence of a strong, effective system of free public education for all children is essential to a thriving democratic system of government and our nation’s economic well-being, taking into account the unanticipated funding, safety, disinfecting, food service and nutrition, transportation, and technology implications for the public school system generated by the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS public schools provide students with diverse, culturally relevant and inclusive educational opportunities to ensure their academic progress, a holistic approach to education is essential, including, but not limited to students’ academic development and progress, health and wellness, physical growth and development, and social-emotional needs; and

WHEREAS schools serve as a lifeline for children who can’t access health services outside of school and are uniquely positioned to help children and youth acquire life-long, health-promoting knowledge, skills and behaviors — priorities compounded by the COVID-19 crisis and related school closings; and

WHEREAS investment in public education as an essential service is a top priority, it is imperative that recovery-based federal funding be distributed in a clear, coherent and equitable manner that reinforces the mission and goals of public education, providing critical support to schools and the neediest students they serve,

BE IT RESOLVED that these statements exemplify the importance of ensuring that public schools and districts are safe to reopen and are equipped with the staff, resources, technology, space, policies and protocols required for the health, safety and well-being of all students and staff informed by actionable criteria articulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; therefore



The nation’s public school superintendents call on federal, state and local lawmakers to prioritize support for ensuring equitable and adequate funding and policy to support the reopening of our nation’s public schools premised on empowering local education leaders to formulate, implement and lead plans to open school districts and transition into the coming academic year;

AASA advocates for federal, state and local policy and related funding committed to supporting COVID-19-related health, safety and disinfecting requirements in all school districts and buildings to educate the whole child (including health and physical development, social and emotional well-being, and academic achievement); provide support for academic and non-academic resources (including equitable access to internet connectivity and equipment required for distance learning); and expand access to support services, including counseling, health and nutrition, and mental health supports;

AASA supports current proposed funding for broadband access currently under consideration in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate;

AASA affirms its commitment to these values and priorities and will be steadfast in its efforts to protect students and their families, public schools and our communities from any policies that would undermine the safe reopening of schools throughout the United States;

AASA affirms the work of our state affiliates in their effort to support local school superintendents in a smooth transition to reopening public schools for the 2020-21 school year in a manner informed by applicable and actionable CDC, state and local health agency guidance, and prioritizing the health and safety of students and staff; and

THEREFORE, AASA urges Congress to ensure federal resources related to future recovery funding include clear support for the values and priorities articulated in this resolution with funding allocated equitably, providing increased levels of support for needier communities and districts.

This the 29th day of May 2020.


Daniel A. Domenech
AASA, Executive Director


Dr. Deborah L. Kerr
Deb Kerr
AASA, President