



## **Initial Member Brainstorm on Schools' Re-Opening for In-Person Learning**

### **Safety for Students and Workforce**

- Ensure that reliable, widespread COVID-19 testing, effective tracing, and social distancing strategies have been used in the communities that are considering re-opening their public schools for face-to-face learning
- Education employees are assured access to personal protective equipment and disinfectant items
- Leverage labor management collaboratives to co-create reopening plans that ensure the safety of students, educators, and communities

### **Social/Emotional Wellness and Supports**

- Students and educators will need time and space to grieve, heal, and re-connect
- Provide educators space for self-care and wellness before students return to in-person learning
- Plan to strengthen student support plans and increase staffing (specialized instructional support personnel like school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, etc.) necessary to support students' social and emotional well-being
- Provide a full range of services for students, such as those implemented in full-service community schools
- Build stronger connections with families and communities to better equip them to support student learning and engage them on supports to ease the transition back to school
- Establish bridge programs for elementary, middle, and high school transitions
- Educators and students will need closure from 2019-20 experiences (both emotional connections and learning connections)

### **Planning for Learning**

- Create an Equity Plan for both the district and the schools within, that incorporates stated goals and objectives to ensure equitable learning opportunities for traditionally under-served students
- Ensure trauma-informed practices are part of the planning from the beginning
- In special education, IEP implementation and planning, including addressing compensatory services, will be major issues for special educators when schools re-open for face-to-face learning
- Ensure that modifications and/or accommodations for students with disabilities continue to be provided, even when instruction is occurring digitally
- Allow educators to spend time in development teams discussing curricular changes and preparing for the next school year
- Focus on depth, rather than breadth, in curriculum

### **Policy Responses**

- Fair, clear, and consistent expectations across districts and within states
- Provide quality high speed broadband Internet access for every student and educator who needs it
- Implement a 1:1 device initiative for all students and all educators
- Suspend standardized testing that is not diagnostic in 2021-2022 and allow schools and educators to focus on learning loss and student social/emotional health needs
- Continue to remedy the homework gap by providing access to digital devices and home broadband internet to all students
- Support families with interventions that reduce the cycle of poverty, particularly as families face increases in unemployment, such as universal early childhood education, school meals, and health care
- Ensure that **all** educators have professional pay and healthcare benefits, and fight against privatization of educators' jobs particularly in the education support professionals' space
- Maintain adequate funding for public education
- Advocate for worker safety and protections