

Back to School with National PLACE: Parents & Family Organizations At the Reopening Table

Presented by
The National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and
Community Empowerment (National PLACE)



Presenter

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Welcome to National PLACE!

Mission

- To educate and empower families and family-led organizations and support them to advocate for enhanced parent involvement and leadership in education, health and human services decision-making with regard to services for children and families.

Motto

- *Advocating to ensure the parents' PLACE at decision-making tables*

Disclaimer

National PLACE is not a legal services agency and does not provide legal representation. The messages contained within this webinar are informational in nature only.



Webinar objective



To provide parent leaders and family-led, family-serving organizations with up-to-date, easy-to-understand, useful information to help parents and family-led organizations be more effective in decisions about school reopening



Overview



National PLACE has created two mini-guides:

- The Parent Role in Decision-Making about Returning to In-Person School: At the Individual Level
- The Parent Role in Decision-Making about Returning to In-Person School: At the Program and Policy Level

Guides are available at

www.parentsatthetable.org



Individual Level Decisions



- Key Roles for Parent(s)
 - Become Informed
 - Consult and partner with others



Become Informed



Your child's circumstances and what that means for attending in-person schooling

Your state's guidance or rules about school reopening, including any provisions for parental choice in these options

Your district's related guidance or rules

Your rights to participate in education decisions about your child



Consult & Partner



What should you be asking for, and of whom?

What are your concerns? They must be included in your child's IEP, if any.

What is the difference between learning at home, home instruction, and home schooling?

Does your child need an Individualized Health Plan if they return to in-person schooling?



Consult & Partner



What should you do if you are not satisfied with the answers?

Work with your partners to go up the chain of command!



Other Resources



COPAA resources on back to school:

www.copaa.org/page/ReOpening;

www.copaa.org/news/516591/COPAA-Releases-New-Recommendations-on-Students-with-Disabilities-and-School-Reopenings.htm.

FND checklist on health considerations:

<https://fndusa.org/esedownload/covid19/>

SPAN back to school questions: English

https://spanadvocacy.org/Quick_Guide_8.pdf & Spanish

https://spanadvocacy.org/Quick_Guide_8_spa.pdf

CDC Decision-Making Checklist: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/decision-tool.html



Systems Level Decisions



- Key Roles for Parent Leaders & Family Organizations
 - Become Informed
 - Consult and partner with others
 - Develop & implement your advocacy plan



Become Informed



Your state's guidance or rules about school reopening, including any provisions for parental choice, any special rules for certain populations, and opportunities to provide input and/or feedback

Your district's related guidance or rules about school reopening



Consult & Partner



Who to consult/partner with?

Parent organizations

Advocacy Groups

Interested members of the School
Board/Board of Education

State, district, and school officials

Health experts and officials



Consult & Partner



What are their perspectives?

What information do they have that might inform your thinking?

What information, concerns, and recommendations do you have that might shape their thinking and actions?

What opportunities exist for you to work with them to influence school reopening decisions?



Your Plan



What considerations are most important?

Be aware of the full range of issues!

Think of school operations, academic recovery, social-emotional and health supports, remote learning, and family engagement



Your Plan- State Level



- Work with other advocates and parent leaders
- Targets:
 - State Associations (Principals Association, Superintendents Association, Teachers Union, etc.)
 - State Board of Education
 - State Education Agency Leaders
 - State Legislature
 - Governor



Your Plan- District/ School Level



Work with other advocates and parent leaders

Targets:

- District Board of Education
- Superintendent
- Director of Special Education, Bilingual Education, ESSA/Title I
- Principals



Advocacy Goals



Advocate for policies that:

- Ensure access to the best possible education and support services
- Protect health
- Meaningful parent options
- Meaningful family and family organization involvement in decision-making for their own child(ren) and for all children



Not satisfied?



What should you do if you are not satisfied with the answers?

Work with your partners to go up the chain of command!



Other Resources



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SPAN Back to School Questions: English

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https://spanadvocacy.org/Quick_Guide_8_spa.pdf

Starting a Special Education Parent Advisory Group:

<https://sepacguide.parentcenterhub.org>

Planning for Equity and Inclusion: A Guide to Reopening Schools, NCLD: www.nclld.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-NCLD-Reentry-Principles_v3.pdf

Questions and Answers



Become a National PLACE Member!
www.parentsatthetable.org/join-us

