



COVID-19  
Response

# Phase 2 Restart & Recovery

**OUR MISSION:** To ensure that all students participating in our public education system—regardless of background—have access to the resources and rigor they need.

The U.S. response to the pandemic forced our more than 132,000 K-12 public schools to close their doors, disrupting the lives of more than 50 million students and their families.

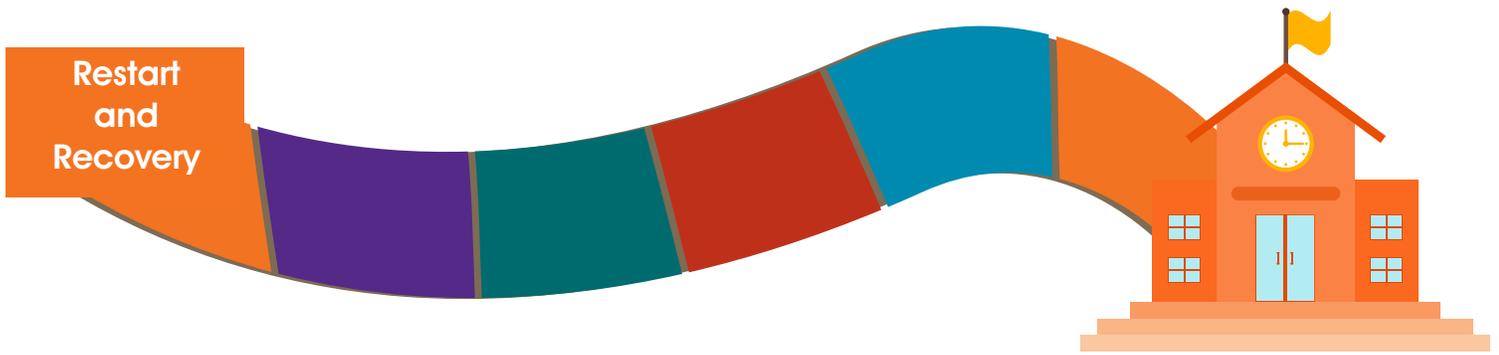
Within days, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) began working with state leaders to assess needs and provide credible guidance on everything from school closures and remote learning policies to the safe distribution of school meals. We have facilitated information sharing and best practices between states and assembled a resources library. Based on what we learned from the leaders on the front lines, CCSSO quickly developed a comprehensive framework to address and respond to COVID-19's impact on the K-12 education system.

The framework outlines a 12-month response and recovery work plan that includes: Phase 1 - **Rapid Response** to address the immediate needs of state education agencies (SEAs) across a continuum of identified critical needs.

CCSSO is now launching Phase 2 of our COVID-19 response- **Restart and Recovery** to support states as they plan to restart schools and recover student learning loss.

## To Date We've:

-  Held twice-weekly webinars with state chiefs and senior SEA leaders.
-  Created guidance to states on applying for and distributing CARES Act funds.
-  Led effort to secure flexibility in current federal funds and programs.
-  Established a resource hub for states on issues from child care and continuous learning to school meals and serving vulnerable students.



Schools, districts, and state education agencies are doing everything in their power to respond to the rapid and ever-changing needs of the communities they serve. In this crisis, the K-12 education system has emerged as a central pillar for the community and especially vulnerable populations. However, the monumental challenge of reopening school buildings will require an unprecedented level of planning, preparation, resources and coordination that cannot be underestimated. The K-12 education system cannot do this on its own; it will require the concerted effort, government resources, and help from the private and the philanthropic sector to be successful. CCSO is confident that this can be accomplished if we work together.

CCSSO's **Restart and Recovery** plan will support the complex planning and preparation needs of states as they work to restart schools and recover student learning. We have developed a framework that outlines the decisions state chiefs will need to make before students can re-enter physical school buildings, with an emphasis on physical safety, mental health and academic success for all students and especially the most vulnerable student populations.

### CCSSO will...

- Create or share **content-specific resources** aligned with the planning template to help support states in development of re-start plans.
- **Convene chiefs virtually or in-person** this summer to focus on leading through Restart and Recovery planning and implementation.
- Continue to advocate at the federal level for states and **create guidance on how states can leverage federal funding** in Restart and Recovery.



**Continuity of Learning**



**Conditions for Learning**



**Leadership and Planning**



**Policy and Funding**

# Continuity of Learning



Providing a planning template on **restart of schools**, including options for new configurations, blended learning, or staged reopening.

Providing guidance to measure learning loss, including use of **diagnostic assessments**.

Assisting states on strategies to mitigate and recover learning loss, including through **summer programming**.

Ensuring learning supports for **vulnerable populations**, including students living in poverty, students of color, students with disabilities, homeless youth and ELs.

Sharing strategies to provide **high-quality instructional materials** for all students.

Strengthening **professional development** for educators on **distance learning**.

Comprehensively and sustainably solving the digital **learning gap**.



# Conditions for Learning



Ensuring continuation of **wraparound supports**, such as school meals and access to **counseling**.

Providing guidance on quality **childcare** for essential personnel.

Sharing guidance on **trauma-informed SEL**, including a focus on school culture and climate & deployment of multi-tiered systems of support.

Sharing **healthy and safety protocols** for reopening schools, including cleaning, screening, monitoring, deploying school nurses and more.

Providing guidance on **parent and family engagement** and supports, particularly around distance learning and re-opening protocols.



# Leadership and Planning



Creating comprehensive **Restart and Recovery planning templates**, including self-assessment tools and opportunities for expert input.

Providing guidance on **contingency planning** in the event of virus reemergence.

**Supporting robust communications and stakeholder engagement** on COVID-19 response and use of funds.

**Building coherence in** response across SEAs through CCSSO's 17 collaboratives and other supports networks.

Providing **leadership support** for chiefs and senior leaders through one-to-one and small group consultancies.



# Policy and Funding



Providing guidance and supports to states on the most effective & impactful use of **federal funding & flexibility**.

Continued advocacy at the federal level, particularly around **additional federal** resources to address the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

Sharing of strategies to mitigate the impact of **projected budget shortfalls** in states.

Creating guidance on **assessment & accountability measures, & federal spending** under ESSA for the next school year.

Determining the best strategies to **close the digital divide** and provide equitable access to devices and internet.

