



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

March 22, 2021

Dear OPE Grantees –

On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order (E.O.) 14000, “Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers.” This E.O. directs the U.S. Department of Education (Department) to develop a Safer Schools and Campuses Best Practices Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) to share lessons learned and best practices from the field for operating safely during the pandemic. The Clearinghouse will provide an opportunity for grantees and stakeholders to share learnings with one another and access a wide variety of resources from across Federal agencies.

The Clearinghouse will include resources on the following topics:

- **Safe and Healthy Environments:** School and campus approaches to implementing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) recommended mitigation strategies and preparing for and sustaining in-person operations safely.
- **Providing Supports to Students:** School and campus strategies to meet student social, emotional, mental health, academic, financial, and other needs, including access to food and other basic needs.
- **Teacher, Faculty, and Staff Well-Being, Professional Development, and Supports:** School and campus strategies to address the social, emotional, health, and other needs of teachers, faculty, and staff.

We invite you to submit materials for consideration for the Clearinghouse, including links to COVID resource pages, fact sheets, step-by-step guidance, policies or regulations, sample agreements among partners (e.g., between a local education agency and a local health agency, or an employee union), ready-to-implement resources, videos or other media focused on how to implement practices, and descriptions of how you have implemented strategies. Please do not submit materials such as commercial advertisements, vendor solicitations or products, and editorials. Submitters may include the actual materials or links to them.

Please include the following with each submission:

1. Contact information
2. Topic (e.g., safe and healthy environments; providing supports for students; teacher, faculty, and staff well-being, professional development, and supports)
3. Target audience (e.g., early childhood education, PreK-12, postsecondary)

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The Department of Education’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global Competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

4. A short description of materials (two to three sentences)
5. What makes the submission a lesson learned or best practice (e.g., it is based on local data regarding number of cases of COVID in the community, State or Federal guidance, research), including a summary of the impact and any evidence of positive outcomes
 - Please include here the setting in which the practice has been used (e.g., rural/urban/suburban, public/private/proprietary, 2-year or 4-year higher education institution, Historically Black College or University/Tribally Controlled College or University/Minority Serving Institution; other educational settings such as correctional facilities)
6. Whether there is a focus on racial equity and/or another equity focus, such as a focus on historically underserved populations including students with disabilities; English learners; students from low-income backgrounds; first-generation college students; students experiencing homelessness; students in or formerly in foster care; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+) students; undocumented students; student veterans and military-connected students; student parents; and international students.

Submit materials to Bestpracticesclearinghouse@ed.gov. Upon submission, you will receive a message confirming receipt. Your submission will be reviewed by Department and other Federal agency staff and posted on the Clearinghouse upon approval. **We encourage submissions by March 26th for inclusion among the first entries in the Clearinghouse.**

Thank you very much for supporting students, faculty, and staff across the nation.

Sincerely,



Michelle Asha Cooper, Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Postsecondary Education