

*School Leaders,*

This year, back-to-school has presented historic challenges that changed the way schools across the country welcomed students back, whether in person, remotely or a hybrid of the two. Actively addressing school climate and culture and attending to students' physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing is more important than ever to ensure all students and families feel welcomed, safe, and supported in their school environments.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), and Institute of Education Sciences (IES) would like to share resources to support school leaders to create welcoming, safe and supportive learning environments. Below are some of the featured resources followed by websites and offices that could provide additional support.

We ask that you share these resources with your colleagues and staff as you see appropriate. To make this ask even easier for you, please feel free to lift the resource descriptions that we use below.

### **Welcoming Safe and Supportive Learning Environments**

#### **The School Climate Improvement Resource Package**

[The School Climate Improvement Resource Package](#) developed by National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) includes a variety of resources to meet a range of needs among stakeholders interested in improving school climate. These resources include: Quick Guide on Making School Climate Improvements; School Climate Improvement Reference Manual; School Climate Improvement Action Guides; School Climate Data Interpretation Resources; and Online Modules.

#### **The ED School Climate Surveys (EDSCLS)**

[The ED School Climate Surveys \(EDSCLS\)](#) developed by the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) allows States, local districts, and schools to collect and act on reliable, nationally validated school climate data in real-time. The EDSCLS builds on federal initiatives and research.

#### **Getting Back to School after Disruptions: Resources for Making Your School Year Safer, More Predictable, and More Positive**

This [practice guide](#) provided by the the Center on Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS TA Center) has six strategies we recommend school teams use to ensure a safe, predictable, and positive school year. They are beneficial for all students if the school has been closed, as well as for individual students returning from extended time away from school.

#### **Mental Health Resources**

This curated [mental health resource collection](#) from the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) includes links to mental health resources for students and families from government agencies and national organizations such as the American Psychological Association and the National Association of School Psychologists. The emotional and psychological well-being of individuals promotes healthy development and functioning

and increases the capacity of individuals to live productive lives while striving towards reaching their full potential. A major aspect of the school environment includes promoting the mental health of all students, and the provision of programs and services to address those needs.

### **Returning to School: A Toolkit for Principals**

This [toolkit](#) from the National Comprehensive Center provides school leaders resources to prepare for returning to school, whether the return is to in-person instruction, remote learning, or a combination. This toolkit includes suggested actions, recommended resources, and quick tip sheets that support school leaders with addressing change, communication, collaboration, and care in the time of COVID-19.

We hope you find the *Welcoming Safe and Supportive Learning Environments* featured resources helpful and share them with your stakeholders. To view similar resources, please visit the [Office of Elementary and Secondary Education \(OESE\) Resources](#), [Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#), [National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations](#), and [Institute of Education Sciences \(IES\) Evidence-Based Resources](#) webpages that have produced high-quality resources to improve school safety; address critical areas of need for improving the conditions for learning and school climate; and improve access to systems of care and support for schools, districts, students, families, and school communities.