

Supporting teachers in back- to-school efforts

Guidance for policy-makers

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International
Task Force on Teachers
for Education 2030



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International
Labour
Organization

Introduction

- Timing for reopening of schools should be guided by the best interest of:
 - whole school population,
 - preparedness of the education system, and
 - overall public health considerations.
- Decided based on an assessment of the measured benefits and risks and informed by cross-sectoral and context-specific evidence for education, public health, social and economic factors.
- Governments should engage in ongoing policy dialogue, to rapidly develop and communicate national plans and protocols.
- Central authorities should decentralize decision-making and implementation so that local authorities can develop responses based on local needs and priorities, including developing individual school plans.

Background context

These guidelines were developed to support policy- makers in their decision-making and in developing school opening procedures. Additional information is available online, such as the:

- [Framework for Reopening Schools;](#)
- [WHO considerations for school-related public health measures.](#)

The Teacher Task Force is also currently drafting a toolkit based on these guidelines for school leaders to further supplement the support to education systems and schools.

Back-to-school framework covers:

- Social dialogue and communication
- Safety and health
- Teachers' psychological and social-emotional well-being
- Teacher preparation and learning
- Teacher deployment, rights and working conditions
- Financial resources and investments
- Monitoring and evaluation



Social dialogue and communication

- Ensure teachers, education support staff and their representatives are consulted in decision-making and planning, including the timing and processes for the safe reopening of schools. Ensure the representation of women.
- Prioritize communication and dialogue between teachers and school leaders, as well as communities, parents and learners.



Safety and health

- Adhere to general principles of occupational health and safety in particular COVID-19 guidelines released by international organizations (World Health Organization),
- Apply measures to prevent infection and provide personal protective equipment



Teachers' psychological and social-emotional well-being

- Prioritize psychological support over academic obligations.
- Ensure resources are available for teachers to receive support and train school leaders.
- Protect vulnerable and at-risk groups.
- Combat discrimination and stigmatization.



Teacher preparation and learning

- Involve and support teachers in decisions on adjusting curricula and assessment.
- Recognise teachers' key role in instruction.
- Train teachers for emergency responses, innovation and alternative teaching methods
- Postpone or adapt teacher performance evaluation
- Establish peer support networks and communities of practice



Deployment, rights and working conditions

- Ensure sufficient teaching staff and support personnel
- Preserve teachers' rights and status
- Develop flexible scheduling plans and policies
- Support teachers and education support staff with family responsibilities



Financial resources and investments

- Assess the impact of the crisis on education budgets and adjust
- Resist practices detrimental to the teaching profession and education quality
- Invest in teachers and education support staff
- Invest in the necessary school infrastructure



Monitoring and Evaluation

- Continually assess health risks and protective factors
- Collect disaggregated data on the learning needs of vulnerable groups, including:
 - girls,
 - disabled,
 - displaced,
 - cultural and linguistic minorities, and
 - learners with pre-existing health conditions.
- Develop and implement systems to monitor teachers' situations using EMIS and TMIS



Thanks!

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Guidelines: <https://teachertaskforce.org/knowledge-hub/supporting-teachers-back-school-efforts-guidance-policy-makers>

Thank you

For more information, visit:

www.teachertaskforce.org

To become a member of the TTF, please contact:

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