

Church Virtual

Learning Support

Community Support

Ideas for Re-entry

**Goal: Create framework for church partners as they seek to support families during this time of distance / virtual learning.** **Distance learning support can range from daily meals to total daily virtual support.**

**Wins through partnership:**

* This project can support multiple goals.
  + Schools
    - Student Support
    - Staff Support
    - Academic achievement
    - Attendance
    - Teacher morale
  + Faith Community Partners
    - Community awareness
    - Provide support for families / teachers in your community
    - Child safety
    - Violence prevention
    - Building usage
* **What can this look like for a church partner?**
  + Daily meals - some churches cannot offer the internet; however, they have the ability to offer support to families by passing out meals daily or weekly.
    - Benefits: This type of support helps to relieve families of the added pressure to their budgets and overall finances.
  + Hotspots - churches can donate hotspots to schools to aid in closing the gap for families that cannot afford to get internet access.
    - Benefit: With hotspots, children who have district computers can engage virtually.
  + Virtual Café - this is a format that allows churches to identify specific times of the day and days of the week when students can come to their buildings and use the internet.  Example: 4-6 pm, MWF
    - Benefits: Allowing churches to support without the need for all-day volunteers.  Also, there is no need to provide meals so providing snacks or food would be at the church’s discretion.
    - Needs:
      * Discussing internet capabilities is important.
      * Screened volunteers. The church would want to make sure they have screened their own volunteers to protect children.
      * Must follow local government Covid-19 restrictions and church building guidelines to ensure cleanliness and student and volunteer safety.
  + Daily Virtual Learning Support - students can come to the church building daily.  Example: Monday- Friday from 9 am - 3 pm
    - Benefits - the church can provide a safe place for children to learn virtually while their parents are at work. Church is also able to make sure students are getting a breakfast and lunch meal each day.
    - Needs:
      * Identify internet capacity.
      * Screen volunteers.  Please note - if your church is working with the school district in this effort, volunteers should be screened through the school district’s screening process.
      * Offer breakfast and lunch.  Note - if the church is working with the school district, check with the district to see if they will provide students with daily meals.
      * Volunteer support. Note - district could possibly provide district employees to church sites for additional support.
      * Staff for cleaning identified work areas.
      * Identify who will hold liability for sicknesses.
  + Daily Virtual Learning Support as a satellite location for the district.
    - Benefits: The church can receive added direct support from the district as they support families.
    - Needs are as listed above with basic Daily Virtual Learning Support; however, all notes are supported by the district and liability is assumed by the district.

**Challenges to be addressed:**

* There are some major issues and questions to be considered in accepting this responsibility as a community partner.
  + How do churches stay in compliance with the city ordinances?
    - What guidelines are necessary to allow your church to have students in the building?
    - Can you identify your capacity?
  + How long can you realistically offer this to your community?
    - Dates and times daily
    - Dates long-term
  + Can they acquire an ample number of volunteers?
    - Would school districts have a volunteer pool?
    - Will the school districts assist with helping children locate church locations?
    - Will the school district publish virtual safe spots for churches (ie: list format)?
  + Liability - who will be responsible?
    - Insurance
    - Background checks
    - Any Covid-19 exposure, rules, and regulations
  + Will food be offered to students?
    - Is the school district willing to help with meals for students at partnering church sites?
  + Does the said church have the digital bandwidth to support students electronically?