

Accelerate Academic Achievement

Public Consulting Group (PCG) is pleased to offer this guide to support school-based leaders in addressing the performance gap for students with disabilities during the 2021–2022 school year. As students and staff return to in-person learning this fall, the US Department of Education has prioritized the acceleration of academic achievement in order to mitigate learning loss.

School-based leaders can utilize this guide to develop plans for addressing the priorities outlined by Landmark 3 in the “Return to School Roadmap.”

1. Priority: Reengage disconnected youth.

Action Strategies:

- ✓ Conduct personal outreach to students and families.
- ✓ Provide stipends to teachers who spend time outside regular working hours to locate and reengage students who have been chronically absent.
- ✓ Encourage teachers to [implement reconnection strategies](#)¹ such as building fun routines (e.g., choosing a class theme song to mark key moments in the school day to motivate students and ensuring break time for physical movement).
- ✓ Seek out resources to ensure students have consistent connections to high-speed broadband in the event of a return to remote or hybrid learning.
 - Plan for alternative ways students can access online materials, such as print-outs that can be mailed to a student’s home.

2. Priority: Identify gaps in academic opportunity.

Action Strategies:

- ✓ Use high-quality diagnostic and formative assessments that provide timely information to help educators pinpoint exactly where to focus for particular students.
- ✓ Ensure that curriculum is culturally and linguistically responsive.
 - Review existing materials to ensure representation of diverse authors and perspectives.
- ✓ Utilize consistent progress monitoring of critical skills to ensure progress is being made and be able to make instructional adjustments in a timely manner.

3. Priority: Ensure restorative, equitable, and inclusive approaches to school discipline.

Action Strategies:

- ✔ Provide opportunities for students to learn at grade level rather than through tracking or remediation.
 - Prioritize engaging students and supporting peer collaboration, including through project-based learning and opportunities for students to support each other in their learning.
- ✔ Arrange for high-quality, high-dosage tutoring opportunities for students.
 - Use trained educators as tutors.
 - Wherever possible, conduct tutoring during the school day.

By utilizing this checklist as a guide, school-based leaders can be assured they are taking action to address the most critical elements to support accelerated learning and mitigate learning loss, as encouraged by Landmark 3 of the US Department of Education's Return to School Roadmap.

¹ City year rolls out new resources for teachers during COVID-19. City Year. (2020, September 1). Retrieved October 1, 2021, from <https://www.cityyear.org/national/stories/education/city-year-rolls-out-new-resources-for-teachers-during-covid-19/>.

Contact us to learn more about how PCG can support your school district's needs.

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