

*Teachers,*

This year, back-to-school has presented historic challenges that changed the way schools across the country welcomed students back either in person, remotely or a hybrid. Actively addressing school climate and culture and attending to students' physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing are 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 teachers 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 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**

### **School Climate Improvement**

The National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) has developed a [framework and accompanying tools](#) for understanding and improving school climate to help educators identify key areas to focus on to create safe and supportive climates in their schools. NCSSLE's tools include practical resources, including parent and educator guides and school climate surveys, to support states, districts and schools as they assess and improve conditions for learning.

### **Creating a Safe and Respectful Environment in Our Nation's Classrooms - Learning Module**

The [Learning Module](#) developed by the National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments (NCSSLE) provides support to educators to reduce instances of bullying behavior and to build a supportive classroom climate in which bullying is less likely to occur. Building on the work of the successful first edition of this resource, this newly revised edition integrates the latest insights and strategies in this constantly emerging field of study. The content is available in Train the Trainer and Individual formats.

### **Mindfulness in Education: An Approach to Cultivating Self-Awareness That Can Bolster Kids' Learning**

This [brief](#) from the Center to Improve Social and Emotional and Learning and School Safety (SEL Center) introduces mindfulness as a strategy for facilitating social and emotional learning in school, explains the potential benefits for both students and educators, provides examples of mindfulness strategies, and lists resources for learning more about mindfulness.

### **Returning to School During and After Crisis: A Guide to Supporting States, Districts, Schools, Educators, and Students through a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Framework during the 2020-2021 School Year**

This [guide](#) from the Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) describes the use of a multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) framework to support students, families,

and educators during the transitions back to school during and following the global pandemic in a manner that prioritizes their health and safety, social and emotional needs, and behavioral and academic growth.

### **Supporting Students with Disabilities at School and Home: A Guide for Teachers to Support Families and Students**

This [guide](#) from the Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS TA Center) highlights 5 key practices for teachers and families to support all students, including students with disabilities, at school and home. For each practice, the guide provides (a) tips for teachers to support students with disabilities during instruction; (b) tips for families that educators can share to support or enhance learning at home, especially during periods of remote instruction; and (c) free-access resources that include strategies shown to be effective by research (e.g., informational guides, downloadable materials, research-based programs).

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.