



DCIU | Delco Nonpublic Newsletter – August 2020

Welcome Back!

[DCIU Health and Safety Plan](#)

For most of 2020, our professional and personal lives have been drastically upended. No one presently working for the DCIU has been witness to the historical events we all encountered since March 13. A pandemic that appears to never lose any momentum. A promise of a vaccine to combat the ravages of this dreaded disease developed in record time. A reckoning of our nation's unfilled promise that all are created equal. From our most recent hires to our colleagues in the autumn of their careers, what lies ahead for all of us will be unknown to all. Collectively, we stand at a junction in all of careers facing uncertainty. Never a comforting place to be.

As our nation reels in apprehension due to these challenging times, consider how we can bring relief to families struggling with every challenge that has arisen since the order was given to close the schools. A new perspective of how we view one another, our careers, our institutions is occurring. This spring proved beyond a doubt we don't control our lives as however much we plan and prepare. We discovered you can deliver educational services in your pajamas. If what unites us as counselors, educators and psychologists is a core value, that we seek to serve others, this school year is no different than any in the past. The obstacles are new, the commitment to serve remains unwavering. Yet, we cannot be reckless in thinking "we got this". The "this" in all of "this" is monumental. If I may paraphrase a great artist, nothing of great value is easy to attain. As we embark upon a year like no other, let us understand it's isn't going to be an easy year. It has the making of setting a new standard for how we support children, their teachers and their families. Together, sharing our intellect, our resources and our compassion, we can begin to create a new foundation for service delivery that recognizes the changing times and the strategies necessary to meet needs that didn't exist weeks before. Nothing that hold value is easy. As we commit to one another to make our department more united, let that spirit of togetherness shape our mindset for the year that lies ahead.



Coming Soon! DCIU Guide to Services

At this time, all offerings through November will be virtual with the exception of SafetyCare®.

The catalog will be updated throughout the year. We will send new offerings in our bi-weekly newsletter. The sign up for the newsletter is in the column to the right.

There is also a Professional Development Calendar at the bottom of both the [CIPD](#) and [TLI](#) webpages. People can click and register for events right from this calendar.

- [The catalog](#)
- [Sign up for the newsletter](#)
- [Request Services](#)

As You Prepare to Reopen Your School: Trauma Focused Professional Development



▶ When schools reopen, we know that trauma focused care will be critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. Visit the DCIU Program Guide for new services such as: **COVID-19 Professional Learning Community**.



▶ As schools reengage and re-enter their learning environment, this Professional Learning Community is intended for staff to collectively prepare, organize, and understand their “new” needs. By working through Trauma 101 and Trauma 102, staff will understand “pandemic” trauma, recognize signs of student distress, and learn how to use a trauma informed lens to respond. Trauma 103 will introduce self-care strategies during this pandemic. Participants will learn coping strategies and skills that can generalize to the entire school community. This PLC will also engage in the Suicide Risk Assessment Training and Consultation webinar scheduled in September during National Suicide Awareness month.

On-site and virtual trainings are tailored to the specific needs of the school/group and can include consultation on specific challenges. For more information, please contact Tracey Wise at twise@dciu.org.

“It is possible to prepare for the future without knowing what it will be. The primary way to prepare for the unknown is to attend to the quality of our relationships, to how well we know and trust one another.”



Resources

[PA Department of Education – COVID-19](#)

[PaTTAN YouTube](#)

[The Virtual Learning Framework](#)

[The eLearning Toolkit](#)

[DCIU Virtual Trainings](#)

[Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center](#)



Readings

[What should active shooter training look like now?](#)

[Race in America](#) (video)

[Our Brain's Development and the Impact of Implicit Racial Bias and Discipline Gaps in Our Schools](#)

Getting Back into It... Phased Suggestions for Success



Phase 1 of Reopening: The first phase is school personnel to prepare for the return of students and resumption of school in whatever model the individual school has chosen. This time will be used for things including but not limited to setting up classrooms and other spaces; learning about the health and safety protocols; making time for professional development and curriculum development; and preparing for Phases 2 and 3 — the Social Emotional Learning (SEL), academic learning and possible hybrid remote education that will be fundamental to the first six weeks of school.



Phase 2 of Reopening: The second phase is for staff to meet students and families either in person or remotely, as the public health context allows. This time will be used for things including but not limited to meeting one on one with families and students and preparing them for the new health and safety protocols, including physical distancing and mask wearing. This time should be used for social emotional wellness checks, basic needs assessments, an evaluation of technology needs and reconnecting with students, families and school communities.



Phase 3 of Reopening: The third phase is the resumption of instruction/learning, whether in person, remote or hybrid, and it focuses on the first six weeks of learning. The foundation of any successful school year is built in the first six weeks. During this time, educators and students will build their relationships with each other, establishing their learning community and school climate and culture. It is a time when we set expectations and rules, learn new structures and routines, and lay the groundwork for Social Emotional Learning and academic learning throughout the year.