

# READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

## GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020–21

### Physical Distancing

#### What are the Required Protocols for Physical Distancing?

- Establish a minimum of 35 square feet per person when determining room capacity. Calculate only with usable classroom space, understanding that desks and room set-up will require use of all space in the calculation. This also applies for professional development and staff gatherings.
- Support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction, maintaining six feet between individuals to the maximum extent possible.
- Minimize time standing in lines and take steps to ensure that six feet of distance between students is maintained, including marking spacing on floor, one-way traffic flow in constrained spaces, etc.
- Schedule modifications to limit the number of students in the building (e.g., rotating groups by days or location, staggered schedules to avoid hallway crowding and gathering).
- Plan for students who will need additional support in learning how to maintain physical distancing requirements to the maximum extent possible. Provide instruction; don't employ punitive discipline.
- Staff should maintain physical distancing during all staff meetings and conferences, or consider remote web-based meetings.

#### What are Recommended Practices?

- Consider utilizing outdoor spaces, common areas, and other buildings in planning.
- In high schools or settings where students require individualized schedules or elective classes, physical distancing between students remains essential, and ways to reduce mixing among cohorts should be considered. Reinforce health and safety protocols. Daily activities and curriculum should support physical distancing.