

Supplemental Guidance for Outdoor School Programs

May 2021

E. Outside Learning Space Definition: An “outside learning space” must have 50% of its sides (wall area) open for airflow. For an Outdoor School to offer multiple outdoor learning spaces there must be sufficient size to accommodate the number of students and staff up to the maximum number in any outside learning space with 6 feet of separation, a natural or artificial barrier separating the spaces, separate drop-off and exit sites, separate bathroom and handwashing facilities, and separate food distribution centers. Separate learning spaces should not have any mingling of individuals between the spaces.

Operations:

- Meals must be delivered, served, and eaten in accordance with RSSL safety protocols.
- Update emergency planning related to RSSL safety considerations presented in the outdoor space.
- Develop diagrams for seating arrangements, if necessary, that reflect distancing requirements in RSSL (see [Outdoor Infrastructure Planning Strategies and Overview](#) for example diagrams).

F. Outdoor School Specific Considerations:

- Outdoor School would be considered an instructional activity requiring additional health and safety consideration (RSSL, section 5). This entails following the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners recommendations](#) under those educational activities that will need to follow specific health and safety protocols to protect staff and students. Program specific guidelines which may be helpful to Outdoor School include, but are not limited to those for [Physical Education](#) and [Laboratories](#).
- As of April 23rd, 2021, overnight field trips to overnight camps as defined by OHA’s [Statewide Reopening Guidance – Youth Programs](#) are allowable. Schools and districts must follow the “Overnight Camps” section of the OHA’s [Statewide Reopening Guidance – Youth Programs](#). Overnight field trips to overnight camps allow for operations that, due to their largely outdoor environment, allow transmission risk to be more readily mitigated than for indoor spaces.
 - For staff, follow Section 2l. “Boarding Schools and Residential Programs” of [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) for staff only as it pertains to any staff remaining overnight at Outdoor School sites.

To the extent possible, field trips traveling should, but are not required to:

- Follow the OHA Guidance (Recommendations) for Travel.
- Travel, explore, and return to school on the same day to avoid overnight stays, when feasible. For overnight stays or same-day travel, prepackaged meals or room service should be considered. If restaurant dining is the only option, consider take-out food or outdoor eating as alternatives.