

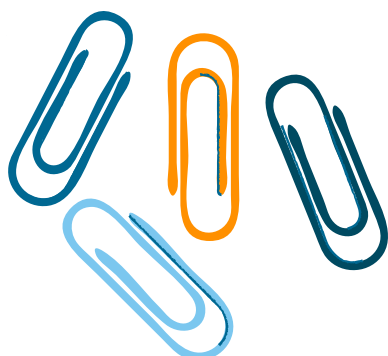
# Re-Entry to the Classroom: Re-Establishing Safety for Students

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## Process and Reflect as a Group

Be prepared to help students process their feelings around the pandemic itself. Active listening is important as students share, especially since there have been strong opinions about the pandemic in the media online, and in our communities. Students may not have had an opportunity to share their feelings in a safe environment. It's okay to address negative emotions directly with students, if you feel equipped to do so. Discuss with students what makes them feel sad, what they miss, and what they grieve for. We've prepared some discussion questions that you can use with your whole class, in small groups, or one on one.

- How did it feel being away from school?
- Were there things you enjoyed?
- Were there things that were scary?
- What was the best thing you did during your time away?
- What was the hardest thing you did during your time away?
- How do you feel about the time you spent with the people in your life?
- How are you different than you were before?
- How do you feel about returning to school?



## Emphasize culture and rethink celebrations and traditions.

Students may have questions about why school feels different, and why they have new routines. Provide space for students to process and share their feelings about returning to school, and check in with them regularly as the environment shifts. Encourage students to look out for one another and involve them in brainstorming what accommodations they need to succeed. For example, having the ability to take extra brain breaks throughout the day so you can meet them where they are and build their confidence in the classroom again.

We've prepared questions that you can ask students regularly to help build a sense of belonging. Use as a bi-weekly checklist for the whole class, small groups or individual check ins, or print out for students to use in discussions.

- How do you feel about being back at school?
- How do you feel about the new social distancing and safety measures?
- What hasn't changed at school? For example, teachers still want to teach students and care about their well-being.
- What new safety measures make you feel the safest and comfortable at school?
- What's the most challenging part of the new safety measures?
- What questions do you have about the new safety measures?

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## Practice social emotional learning daily.

Creating dedicated time and space for SEL also allows you to identify students who may need additional support as they transition back to school. We've identified specific content that will support the re-entry for classrooms. The videos below are linked to the MTW Platform.

Use the following video exercises to help your classroom reclaim its sense of safety. Exercises are designed to help strengthen connections between students and provide them the space to reflect on what they need from their teachers and peers in order to create the classroom community that they desire. You should anticipate that even within a classroom, students may need to practice social distancing. Instead of standing close together, invite students to stand at their desks or spread out throughout the room. You can even place tape on the floor around them.

### Lower Elementary

- [Classtopia](#)
- [The Name Circle](#)
- [Hello Me](#)
- [Move The Needle](#)

### Upper Elementary

- [The Me List](#)
- [Haiku This World](#)
- [The Friend Ship](#)
- [New Kids on the Block](#)

### Middle School

- [The Me List](#)
- [Haikuul](#)
- [The Third degree](#)
- [My Entourage](#)

### High School

- [Answer Ants](#)
- [Movemento](#)
- [Walk This Way](#)
- [Think Link](#)

