







- 4. There is no need to shuffle children between school and after-hours care arrangements. Schools can step up to meet both the education and care needs of their students.
- Schools have more space and larger playgrounds to accommodate the smaller groups of children necessary to stem the spread of the virus.
- 6. Safety protocols shouldn't further traumatize children. Educators are adept at maintaining classroom hygiene without hindering children's development. Public health officials need to seek their expertise.
- 7. Adversity impacts learning and educators will be first responders for children's mental health. They require the supports to help them act





12. Early childhood education is a key lever to narrowing achievement gaps that emerge before children even start school. Yet many early childhood programs were in difficulty before the pandemic's onset, unable to recruit qualified staff and struggling financially. Those that make it through the lockdowns will be ill-equipped to compensate children for lost time. ECE needs to be removed from market fluctuations and take its place as education's first tier, supported by a strong public infrastructure and open to all children.

COVID-19 has propelled us into a new epoch for public education. This is a chance to renew the system to meet the challenge, empowering this generation of child survivors to confront the disparities, environmental degradation and the other conditions that gave rise to the pandemic