HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED DURING COVID-19
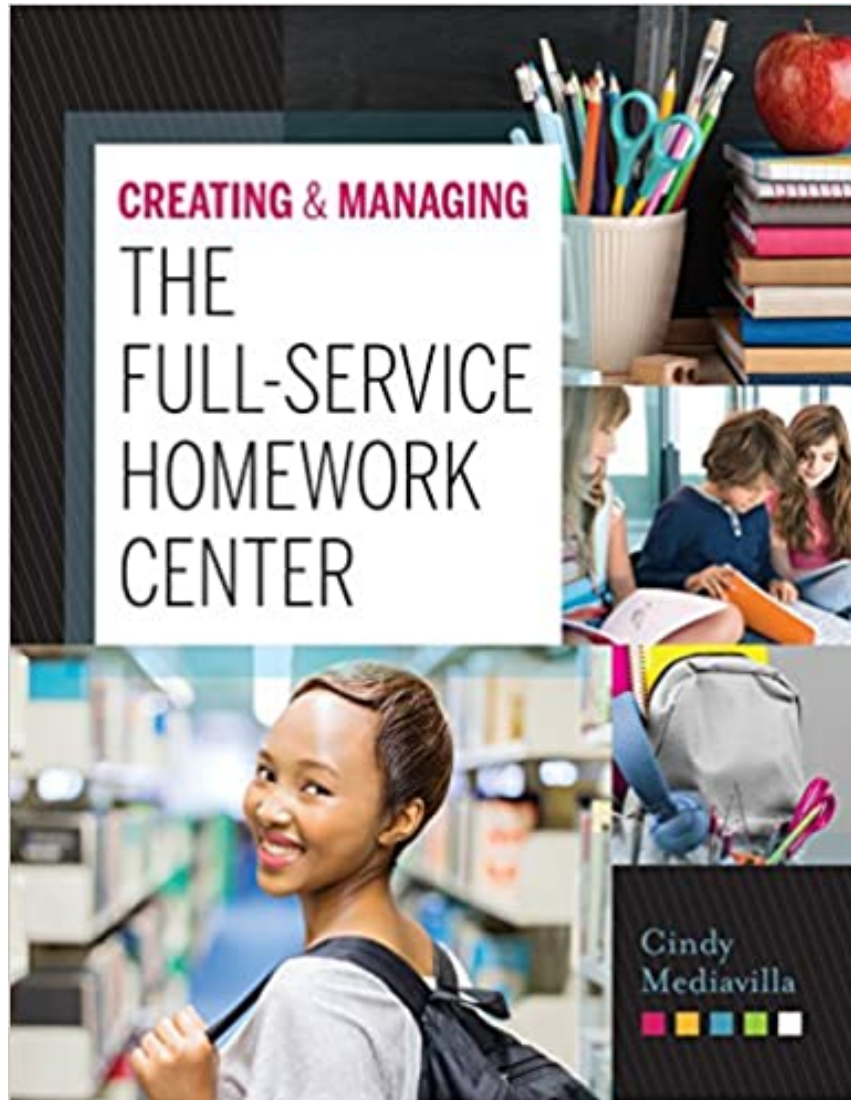
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American Library Association, 2018

Contents:

- Staffing
- Funding/Partnerships
- Supplies/Equipment
- Security/Managing expectations
- Collaborating with schools
- 10 model programs

"For the sake of our children, our families, our communities, and our economy, we need to turn this problem into an opportunity."

~ Afterschool Alliance

Today's goals:

- Inspire you to borrow ideas from others
- Provide evidence of need

Topics covered:

- Connectivity
- Online resources
- Reading programs
- Reaching out to schools
- Homeschooled families/learning pods
- Food insecurity

Important numbers:

- By end of March 2020, 130,000 schools closed
- 55 million students finished the year at home
- Only 6 in 10 students engaged regularly in virtual learning
- 30 million students suddenly without meals
- 14 million adults say their children are hungry

Closing schools in March was like "playing a game of 3-D chess while standing on one leg in the middle of a hurricane."
~ Jason Kamras, schools chief, Richmond, VA

Connectivity issues:

- Internet has been essential to 53% of U.S. adults during the pandemic
- 42 million U.S. households don't have internet access:

  - No broadband
  - No computer
  - Too expensive

"The inequity in access to technology and education has never been so obvious."

~ Cynthia Garcia Coll, *Child Development* editor

How can libraries help?

- Provide internet access through mobile WiFi hotspots and "parking lot WiFi"
- Circulate hotspot devices
- Loan Chromebooks
- Post local free hotspot locations on the library's homepage

"Making sure all students and families have access to appropriate, engaging . . . materials, instruction, and support during coronavirus closures is one important way we can prevent [COVID-19 slide] from growing. This will require . . . closing the digital divide by providing increased access to the internet and technology."

~ Megan Kuhfeld and Beth Tarasawa, researchers

Online Resources:

- Multnomah County Library https://multcolib.org/homework-center

- Wake Forest University tutoring site communityengagement.wfu.edu/virtual-engagement/virtual-tutoring/

- Brainfuse and Tutor.com

- Sonoma County and Santa Barbara libraries provide Spanish language informational videos on their homepages

Reading Programs and Resources:

- Reading Into History Family Book Club, New York Historical Society
- Read-alouds
- Publisher permissions
  https://www.slj.com/?detailStory=remote-learning-still-the-norm-publishers-extend-permissions-for-read-alouds-COVID-19
- OverDrive/Hoopla/Enki (California only)

"Reading together as a family in a tumultuous world provides young people with consistency, and a sense that they have something special to look forward to each and every time: meaningful time together."
~ Mary Ann Cappiello, literacy professor

Reaching Out to Schools:

- Brooklyn Connections/Brooklyn Public Library
  https://www.bklynlibrary.org/brooklyncollection.connections
- Ask teacher:
  - Number of students and which grade(s)?
  - Topic(s)?
  - Live or asynchronous presentation?
  - Record session?
  - Video platform?

"We meet schools where they are."
~ Jen Hoyer, education librarian, Brooklyn Public Library

Homeschooled Families:

"Tips on Remote Learning for Panicked Parents"

- Learning opportunities are everywhere.
- You are already a teacher.
- There are many roads to literacy.
- Literacy isn't just about reading.
- Educational resources are readily available.
- You are not in this alone
- And, finally, cut yourself a break.

~ Erin Powers & Daniel Diaz, UCLA Center X

"If you're a new, unexpected homeschool parent and are feeling overwhelmed, take a deep breath. You are not alone!"
~ Los Angeles Public Library, "Homeschooling Resources to the Rescue"

Learning Pods:

- In-person or virtual homework center where a trained educator or parent helps a group of students complete schoolwork.
- Independent homeschool where a small group of students are taught either online or in-person.
- Contact via Nextdoor or "pandemic pod" Facebook. www.facebook.com/groups/pandemicpodsf/

"Active parent involvement in their child's education [is] a key in student success."
~ Afterschool Alliance

Food Insecurity:

- Extended Lunch at the Library program
- Humanities Texas program (humanitiestexas.org)
- Library community food gardens
  - Erie City Public Library, Kansas

"Hungry kids don't read."

~ Natalie Cole and Virginia A. Walter, *Transforming Summer Programs at Your Library*

Questions?

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