



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Dear Superintendent,

As you prepare to reopen your schools for the upcoming school year, know that the YMCAs in Connecticut are here to support you, your children, and parents in your district.

Connecticut YMCAs supported over 10,000 children in afterschool programs prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since COVID-19's onset, YMCAs have served over 454 youth in 26 emergency childcare locations throughout the state. In preparing for Reopen CT and this summer, our YMCAs have been working in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Camp Association, YMCA of the USA, hundreds of YMCAs throughout the county, local hospitals, and the Office of Early Childhood to ensure the safety and well-being of every child. To help parents and children, we have opened 47 summer day camps throughout the state with the capacity to support over 27,000 youth to ensure a safe and fun-filled summer. Our commitment to youth and families remains stronger than ever.

Recently the CDC engaged with our national organization, YMCA of the USA, to learn how YMCAs throughout the country managed to organize our facilities and summer day camps. They reported that they had read two recent articles with National Public Radio "What Schools can Learn from Child Care" and a Washington Post "Summer Camp During Coronavirus Will Look Different" and were impressed with how creatively and comprehensively our YMCAs have approached reopening.

Our commitment to the upcoming school year is to support the out-of-school-time needs of parents and your school district. Over the next few weeks, a representative from your local YMCA will be contacting you to discuss how we can best support your community. Experience during this pandemic has provided your local YMCA with the necessary skills, expertise, and resources to work with you to ensure that our children return to school having safe, enriching, and impactful learning opportunities available to them.

We have a saying and belief in the YMCA, WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the youth and families in our communities.

Sincerely,

*Dave Hayward*

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