



Outdoor Classrooms Close Achievement Gaps and Create Safe Spaces for Learning

The American Academy of Pediatrics calls using outdoor spaces for learning a “high priority” for schools reopening in the fall because of how they positively affect social emotional learning and can be used as a social distancing strategy. Outdoor spaces also:

- Increase social distancing
- Increase fresh air
- Decrease shared surfaces

In their reopening plans, many states such as [Georgia](#) and [Florida](#) **specifically emphasize the importance of utilizing outdoor classrooms as much as possible**, because outdoor learning spaces are a quick, flexible and relatively inexpensive way to increase any school’s academic footprint.

Out Teach, a national nonprofit, is the leading expert in creating outdoor learning spaces and providing effective teacher training to ensure spaces are well-used and well-maintained. Partners benefit from:

- 15+ years experience designing and building outdoor classrooms
- Landscape Architects on staff
- Specialized educational features
- High-quality, long-lasting, low-maintenance spaces

In addition to adapting to meet health guidelines, schools ALSO need to make up huge learning gaps caused by COVID-19 shutdowns.

- Research shows that students may be returning to schools this fall with 70% of a typical year's reading gains, and only half a year's gains in math. -- [NWEA](#)

Studies show that outdoor classrooms accelerate learning and improve outcomes for all students when used for real-world hands-on learning. Experiential learning in an outdoor classroom will:

- Increase subject comprehension and information retention long-term -- [EdWeek](#)
- Accelerate learning for disadvantaged students –[National Wildlife Federation](#)
- Improve STEM skills -- [American Institutes for Research](#)
- Support cross-curricular learning for every subject – [Outdoor School For All](#)
- Embed SEL and 21st Century skill development - [Journal of Outdoor and Environmental Education](#)

Out Teach is the leading expert in empowering teachers to activate outdoor spaces for effective instruction. Districts and schools can support their return to school plans with:

- Design and Construction Services
- Job-embedded coaching
- Group trainings
- Online resources
- Learning Communities