

OUTDOOR LEARNING MATERIALS CHECKLIST

Consider the following materials as you begin to create or enhance an outdoor learning space. Below are examples of infrastructure elements such as canopies, seating, teaching and learning supplies, food service items, and storage. For information on how to procure specific items, see OSSE's [Procurement Tool for Outdoor Learning](#).

MATERIALS GUIDELINES

I. Canopies¹

- A. Made of fire-resistant material
- B. Minimum height of 8 feet
- C. Tied down or be anchored to the ground
- D. A maximum of one side flap or wall
- E. Provide protection from the elements (rain and sun)

II. Seating and Tables

- A. Seat and table height²

GRADE	SEAT HEIGHT	TABLE HEIGHT
Pre-K	10"	18"-20"
K	12"	20"
1-3	14"	25"
4-5	16"	27"
6-12	18"	29"

III. Teaching and Learning Supplies³

- A. Minimize sharing of materials
- B. Encourage students to bring their own water bottle

IV. Meal Service Guidelines⁴

- A. Protect food from contamination by limiting student contact with foods via the "grab and go" service model
- B. Repurpose food or beverage self-service stations, such as hot bars and salad bars, to offer pre-packaged products
- C. Provide hand washing for before and after eating
- D. Practice food safety: clean, sanitize, and/or disinfect meal surfaces between uses and keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold

V. Storage⁵

- A. Keep students' belongings, such as supplies and lunches, separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas

MATERIALS EXAMPLES

Canopies: provides protection from weather elements, such as sun, rain, and wind.

NO COST/ EXISTING RESOURCES	LOW-COST INVESTMENT	MEDIUM-COST INVESTMENT	HIGH-COST INVESTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing shade trees <input type="checkbox"/> Building overhangs	<input type="checkbox"/> Umbrellas	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial frame tents	<input type="checkbox"/> Shade sails <input type="checkbox"/> Awnings <input type="checkbox"/> Carports

Seating and Tables: portable options can be handled independently by students, depending on age, and can sometimes double as supplies storage. Higher cost investments can be used by different groups.

NO COST/ EXISTING RESOURCES	LOW-COST INVESTMENT	MEDIUM-COST INVESTMENT	HIGH-COST INVESTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing chairs that can be moved outside <input type="checkbox"/> Benches or natural features on grounds <input type="checkbox"/> Wood stumps and benches (backless) from DDOT Urban Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/> Cushions <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets <input type="checkbox"/> 5-gallon buckets <input type="checkbox"/> Stackable milk crates <input type="checkbox"/> Yoga Mats <input type="checkbox"/> Straw/hay bales	<input type="checkbox"/> Folding chairs <input type="checkbox"/> Camping chairs <input type="checkbox"/> Cushions with backs	<input type="checkbox"/> Boulders <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables <input type="checkbox"/> Park benches

MATERIALS EXAMPLES (continued)

Teaching Supplies: worktables, display materials, and technology to support instruction outdoors.

NO COST/ EXISTING RESOURCES	LOW-COST INVESTMENT	MEDIUM-COST INVESTMENT	HIGH-COST INVESTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing desks and tables that can be moved outside <input type="checkbox"/> Easels	<input type="checkbox"/> Carts to carry supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Folding tables <input type="checkbox"/> WiFi hotspots	<input type="checkbox"/> Whiteboard <input type="checkbox"/> Chalkboards	<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker system/ microphones <input type="checkbox"/> Portable generator

Learning Supplies: individual student supplies that can be assembled into personal kits to limit sharing between students.

NO COST/ EXISTING RESOURCES	LOW-COST INVESTMENT	MEDIUM-COST INVESTMENT	HIGH-COST INVESTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Pens and pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Notebooks	<input type="checkbox"/> Clipboards <input type="checkbox"/> Foam Core <input type="checkbox"/> Binder clips <input type="checkbox"/> Water bottles <input type="checkbox"/> Weather-appropriate clothing (e.g., hats, coats)	<input type="checkbox"/> Lap desks <input type="checkbox"/> Field/storage clipboards	

Meal Service Items: materials to support eating and serving meals outdoors.

NO COST/ EXISTING RESOURCES	LOW-COST INVESTMENT	MEDIUM-COST INVESTMENT	HIGH-COST INVESTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Existing inventory of portable meal service supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Clipboard and paper sheets for point of service count	<input type="checkbox"/> Insulated food delivery and transport bags <input type="checkbox"/> Hand sanitizer stations	<input type="checkbox"/> Rolling carts	<input type="checkbox"/> Utility, food bar or breakfast cart <input type="checkbox"/> Check-out station for point of service count

Storage: portable storage for student supplies that can be managed independently, bins for teachers to grab as they head outside, as well as larger storage units for larger items, such as folding tables.

NO COST/ EXISTING RESOURCES	LOW-COST INVESTMENT	MEDIUM-COST INVESTMENT	HIGH-COST INVESTMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Backpacks <input type="checkbox"/> Canvas bags	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-gallon buckets <input type="checkbox"/> Stackable milk crates <input type="checkbox"/> Covered bins	<input type="checkbox"/> Storage cubes <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling carts	<input type="checkbox"/> Storage shed

Endnotes

- 1 See the Streatery Winter Ready Grant Program and Outdoor Dining Guide available at: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/page/recovery-businesses>
- 2 www.gopak.co.uk/seating-guide
- 3 See the Health and Safety Guidance for Schools: COVID-19 Recovery Period document available at: osse.dc.gov/page/guidance-and-resources-covid-19-related-closures-and-recovery under the K-12 Schools section.
- 4 See the Food Safety at FNS: www.fns.usda.gov/ofs/food-safety
- 5 See the Health and Safety Guidance for Schools: COVID-19 Recovery Period document available at: osse.dc.gov/page/guidance-and-resources-covid-19-related-closures-and-recovery under the K-12 Schools section.