Question:
What should we do/can we do about school-age childcare?

Answer:
Our researchers wanted to direct you to the CityLab article, What Emergency Child Care Looks Like During a Pandemic. You may find the entire article useful as it explains how communities across the U.S. and the world address the childcare needs of workers. Our researchers wanted to specifically highlight the article’s summary of the childcare implications of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Under the legislation, firms with fewer than 500 employees and government bodies must pay employees two-thirds of their salaries for 12 weeks (maximum $200 a day) if the employee’s child’s school closes and the employee cannot find alternative care. While this may apply to many of your parents, it may also apply to some of your teachers as well. For more specific information on childcare and the FFCRA (e.g. calculating payments to employees, what documents employees need to receive paid sick leave, age of children to qualify) please see the Department of Labor’s Families First Coronavirus Response Act: Questions and Answers page.

If schools in your district currently operate a childcare program, our researches want to direct you to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention page For Child Care Programs That Remain Open. Our researchers highlighted the page’s four key recommendations below. You may wish to follow the CDC and any state guidelines if your childcare programs remain open with the rest of the schools in your district closed.

- Implement social distancing strategies.
- Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts.
- Modify drop off and pick up procedures (i.e., stagger drop-offs and pick-ups).
- Maintain an adequate ratio of staff to children to ensure safety.
  - Recruit staff with childcare experience to ensure a deep roster of substitute caregivers to fill in for ill staff or staff who need to stay home to care for ill family members.