1. **Considerations for School Partners: Creating Partnerships for Health Equity in Schools:**

Healthcare providers and schools can form new partnerships to support the healthcare of the school; community, and specifically meeting the immunization and well-childcare visits for the students. Successful youth immunization and well child visit efforts at schools require culturally appropriate collaboration, communication and developing trust between the organizations and with key stakeholders (children and adolescents, caregivers/guardians, and school staff). Setting clear expectations, role and responsibilities is key to the success and the delivery of healthcare services and will create less challenges in the future.

A critical initial step in planning for successful immunizations and well child visit access is to form quality partnerships. Public health departments have traditionally led school-based immunization efforts, but other public or private organizations, including pharmacies, local pediatrician offices, federally qualified health centers, community health centers, hospitals or universities, could alternatively serve as the healthcare provider for immunization and well child visits support throughout the year. In soliciting the support and partnership of schools and school districts, outreach to superintendents should occur as a first step. It is essential to communicate with and gain the support of school principals and other school leaders. Having support among school leadership can facilitate program implementation, increase student participation, and lead to more successful school-based immunization and well child visit clinics.

Consider approaching the school district’s central office. The administrator of the school district has the power, authority and holds the final level of support to sign off on needed agreement(s) between the district and the health center. Consider approaching an individual school to identify a champion with whom to help your health center navigate approval through the district. Most likely the school nurse, counselor or student support staff already have healthcare contacts or referral sources. This is a great place to start. Engage Director of Student Health, Director of Partnerships, Director of Student Supports, Director of School Nursing Services, or a school board member.

Local healthcare providers may have concerns that children vaccinated at school-based clinics will not see their primary healthcare provider for other preventive care services. They may also have concerns about patient record keeping. Therefore, it is critical to seek the buy-in of local healthcare providers early in the process and to ensure processes are in place to provide them with immunization information related to their patients.