

Bend-La Pine Schools' Families,

Today, Gov. Kate Brown, Oregon Department of Education, and the Oregon Health Authority announced changes that will affect how and when school districts across the state can safely reopen, based on COVID-19 results locally and across the state. [Based on these metrics](#), if school were starting today, Bend-La Pine Schools would likely not be able to reopen in our physical buildings as we had planned. Instead, we would provide comprehensive distance learning for all students, with the possibility of some in-person instruction for students in K-3.

We understand that this shift would cause hardships for many families. While our district, teachers, and staff want nothing more than our students' full return to school, we must consider the safety and well being of all involved and follow the guidance from state education and health leaders.

While this news is challenging, it is also one we have been preparing for and we remain ready to serve our students and families. We are committed to providing meaningful educational opportunities for all of our students.

We need the help of our community. Deschutes County needs to make significant progress towards reducing COVID-19 spread in our community before we can transition to in-person learning, including the [All In or Balanced/Hybrid options of our ABC plan that we shared with families earlier this month](#). We hope to share additional information about the metrics, our decision making timeline and other details within the next week.

Our community must come together to significantly decrease the spread of COVID-19 in Central Oregon. We highly encourage you and our community to rally behind the reopening of schools by fully adhering to the [State guidelines](#) designed to halt the spread of the disease.

Staying Connected

We are committed to providing weekly updates from now through the fall to our families to keep you informed about our planning efforts, options for students and strategies for scenarios for returning to school.

Additionally, we have a district [website with FAQ's](#) about reopening our schools. We are also planning live presentations and will share details as soon as they are available. By mid-August, we will be reaching out to families to confirm attendance, check on your needs for support, and more.

In the meantime, continue to send your questions, thoughts, and ideas for us to share with our planning teams via email to askBLS@bend.k12.or.us.

We hope all is well with each of you and your families. We wish to thank you in advance for your flexibility, patience, and creativity that our current circumstances require.

Sincerely,

Lora Nordquist, Interim Superintendent