

Tonight we made a decision about reopening schools in order to provide clarity for our families and staff and to help our community plan for the fall. Our board of directors, with the support of our school administration, determined that all Bend-La Pine Schools' students will begin the school year with Comprehensive Distance Learning and will not begin with in-person learning. In addition, the board voted unanimously to start the school year on Monday, Sept. 14 in order to give teachers additional time to prepare and train to provide instruction online.

While we want nothing more than to return to school and offer instruction to students in person, our community does not currently meet the health measures required to reopen schools, the rates within Deschutes County are rising, and we believe it's important to provide as much information as we can to help our families prepare.

The decision to return to brick and mortar classrooms will be made every six weeks, with collaboration from school leaders and will be based on current spread of COVID-19 within our county and whether our community is meeting the established state metrics outlined to reopen physical school buildings.

We are committed to keeping families informed and plan to share updated information with you next week. Additionally, you can find information on our [Return to School website](#), which includes regularly updated FAQs.

Sincerely,

Lora Nordquist, Interim Superintendent  
Carrie Douglass, Chair Board of Directors