

Letter to Families re: Returning to School Next Fall

June 11, 2020

Families of Bend-La Pine Schools Students,

Today, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released its first round of [guidance, Ready Schools, Safe Learners, Version 1](#), which will aid school districts across Oregon in planning the start of the 2020-21 school year this fall. ODE leadership has stated that the guidance is the first iteration and will likely change multiple times before the start of school year this fall.

“The blueprints will require that every school, under the direction of the district, determine whether they teach all students on site, teach all students through new comprehensive distance learning or utilize a hybrid model,” said Colt Gill, ODE Director.

Be assured that our teams have been actively planning for the upcoming school year for weeks and will continue this work throughout the summer. We will work within the current guidelines to develop an Operational Blueprint for Reentry plan, understanding that we will revise and reshape our plans throughout the summer.

We welcome you to review the full guidance from ODE at your convenience. You will find that it includes a wide range of guidelines for schools, including, but not limited to:

- Physical distancing (minimizing contact within 6 feet with other people)
- Hand hygiene (frequent washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer)
- Cohorts (conducting all activities in small groups that remain together over time with minimal mixing of groups)
- Protective equipment (use of face shields, face coverings and barriers)
- Environmental cleaning and disinfection (especially of high-touch surfaces)
- Isolation of sick people and quarantine of exposed people
- Meal service
- Transportation

In the weeks to come we will be meeting with educators, health care leaders, and others to plan for your students safe and healthy return to school.

Our commitment to our students, families, and staff is to regularly communicate with you about this work. We plan to send updated information regularly. You can expect updates on the following dates, if not sooner:

- July 1
- August 1
- August 15

I hope you and your families will be well until we connect with you in the fall. We are looking forward to it!

Sincerely,

Lora Nordquist
Assistant Superintendent/Incoming Interim Superintendent