

Families,

I want to begin by acknowledging challenges families in the district are facing right now. Some of you feel your students aren't succeeding with distance learning. Others believe we are considering in-person learning too soon. Many of you have questions: When can schools open up for in-person learning? Who makes this decision? What do the metrics mean?

To help everyone understand the metrics governing reopening for in-person learning, the district will update the charts in this newsletter each Tuesday, following the official information from the Oregon Health Authority released each Monday.

As a reminder, by the requirements set by the Oregon Department of Education, the Deschutes County metrics (and state metrics, for grades 4-12) must be met for three consecutive weeks before schools can re-open for in-person instruction. In Bend-La Pine Schools, we will begin with balanced/hybrid instruction, with students attending in person two days each week and learning from a distance three days each week.

As soon as our district meets the metrics for three consecutive weeks, we will immediately launch our transition to in-person instruction, with students invited into classrooms the following week for orientation activities and a full start to balanced/hybrid instruction the week following. Originally, we planned a slower transition; but we believe now that our schools can be ready to pivot to in-person learning more quickly.

Finally, I urge each and every one of us to address questions, concerns, and even criticisms to the person(s) who can most directly respond; and to give others grace in a time filled with challenges, regardless of your roles and responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Lora Nordquist, Interim Superintendent