

RETURN TO SCHOOL 2020

BALANCED/HYBRID LEARNING



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



This year will not be like any other that I've known in my more than 40 years in education. But I know that together, we can make it a meaningful year of growth and connections.

With so much changing in our world and our community, my goal is for our schools, as much as possible, to provide safe and secure learning spaces for our students and families. My goal as a leader is to help our schools continue to build upon our long history of excellence and to uphold our collective value of success for each student.

I want families to know that I recognize how challenging it is to keep up with changes in our schools, as we work to follow the guidance issued from the state. We are committed to returning to in-person learning as soon as we are able to meet the guidelines outlined by the state and we are committed to providing the best educational opportunities we can throughout this pandemic. I want our students back in school, but I want to do so safely. I appreciate your continued patience, understanding and flexibility as we continue to work through this time together.

As educators, our role is to help students learn, to better understand the world and diverse people around them, and to foster collaboration, self-actualization, and a commitment to the common good. Those commitments will not change. Because of this global pandemic and health guidelines, many learning experiences are likely to look different than they did in the past. But much of what makes us Bend-La Pine Schools will remain the same:

- Our staff members care deeply about our students and are dedicated to serving them.
- We are committed to helping each and every student gain the knowledge, skills, and dispositions they need to be successful in whatever future they choose.
- The social and emotional safety of our students is a priority.

I am grateful and honored to be part of Bend-La Pine Schools and to help lead the district through this year of transition. Our staff are rising to meet the challenges before us, and learning and growing as the world around us changes.

I am proud of our students, their courage, compassion, and creativity. Ensuring that we provide the best educational experiences possible for them is what drives me every day.

Sincerely,

LORA NORDQUIST
Interim Superintendent

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Truly effective schools, whether in face-to-face or distance learning environments, support the needs of ALL learners by making evidence-based, high impact instruction a consistent and common thread that connects all classrooms. Bend-La Pine Schools strives to provide all students an equitable and meaningful school experience by using these as our guiding principles:

- **Connections to Families and Students:** Teaching and learning are most successful as a partnership between schools, students, and families.
- **Engaging Curriculum and Deeper Instruction:** Instruction has a clear focus on priority standards that support coherent and meaningful learning.
- **Learning Intentions and Success Criteria:** Students know where they are going in their learning, why the learning is important, and what counts as quality work.
- **Collaboration Among Students:** Students have frequent opportunities within instruction to talk, share work, and engage with each other.
- **Evidence of Student Learning:** Teachers use discussions, tasks and activities that provide clear evidence of each student's learning.
- **Feedback that Moves Learning Forward:** Students receive actionable and positive feedback that provides them with specific next steps to move their learning forward.
- **Students as Owners of Their Learning:** Instruction supports and builds toward students understanding, regulating, and monitoring their own learning.

READY TO RETURN

452,599

meals served to students
from March–August

8

Virtual
Town Halls
held in English
and Spanish
to provide
return to
school details

850

hotspots
distributed
to families

3

million sq/feet
of floor space
has been
cleaned and
disinfected

11,107

families
participated in the
online Return to
School survey

18,600

iPads distributed
to students

96

bus routes
adjusted to
ensure fewer
riders with
safe distancing
onboard

KEY FEATURES OF BALANCED/HYBRID LEARNING



- BALANCED/hybrid is a balanced combination of in-person and distance learning so that we can ease back into the traditional in-person schedule in a safe manner. Students will not physically be in school every day during the week.
- Each week, learning will take place synchronously (live) when the students are present for face-to-face instruction and asynchronously (not-live) when the students are learning remotely. Students will be divided into cohorts that will alternate in-person days at school.
- Students will be divided into two cohorts based on last name, attending class in-person with their teacher two days each week. The other three days will continue in remote learning, which will consist of pre-recorded videos, audio lessons and other learning activities for students.
- Masks will be required for all students and staff during in-person instruction.
- Classrooms will be at approximately 50% capacity to allow for physical distancing. There will be 35 square feet of space per person (including the teacher) when determining room capacity.
- Schools will institute class schedules that limit transitions for staff and students.
- Student learning happens five days per week. That's in-person two days each week – Mondays/Thursdays or Tuesdays/Fridays – and remote learning on opposite days, with Wednesdays focused on additional academic support and enrichment, small group instruction and peer interaction, Social-Emotional Learning supports and family connections.
- A consistent weekly schedule of learning provided by the teacher(s).
- A balance of live and not-live learning.
- A focus on care, connection and positive relationships with teachers and peers.
- Attendance and participation are expectations for each student.

Elementary School Balanced/Hybrid Learning

- Distance learning three days each week.
- In-person learning in the classroom with their teacher two days each week.
- Classrooms will be split, generally, with last names beginning with the letters A-K will attending in person on Mondays and Thursdays, and participating in distance learning Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Students with last names beginning with the letters L-Z will be attending in person on Tuesdays and Fridays, and participating in distance learning Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- For in-person days, students will be grouped into smaller, advisory cohorts.

- High academic standards and expectations with opportunities for additional academic support.
- Report cards, letter grades and opportunities for regular feedback from teachers.
- Transition years will receive connection opportunities (K, 6, 9).
- Elementary school Music and Physical Education
- Middle and High School elective courses.
- Special Educations services, Section 504 accommodations English Language Development services
- Access to well-child health visits and other primary care needs at school-based health centers
- Access to school meals
- Access to Internet connectivity
- K-12 iPads for students
- Technology Help Desk support for families, 541-355-8700

Middle School Balanced/Hybrid Learning

- 7-period schedule, spread over two days.
- All students will have an advisory teacher who will be the main connection to home.
- All electives will be offered.

High School Balanced/Hybrid Learning

- 7-period schedule, but only 5 of those classes offered over a 6-week period (cohort size)
- All electives will be offered
- Dual college credit, IB and AP classes offered
- Additional support for freshmen at all schools

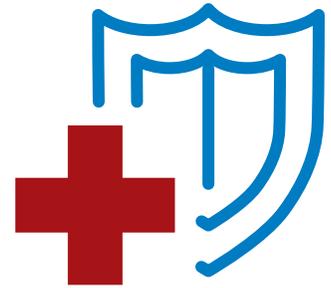
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING & WELL-BEING



School teams are prepared for the mental health needs of students. We are prepared to address the traumatic nature of having collectively lived through a global pandemic, as well as an individual's need for transition back to the building. In addition to our current mental, social, and emotional initiatives, we have added specific programming to address the events of the past 6 months. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with their classmates during in-person instruction, as well as with their teachers. While in-person and remote instruction takes place on alternating days each week, Wednesdays are focused on extensions, enrichment, interventions and social emotional supports.

Every teacher will be assigned a small group of students who they will check in on and support through an advisory model. Our family connections teams will serve as a main point of contact for families and students.

COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH, & CRISIS PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION IN BALANCED/HYBRID



We are aware that this is a challenging time for our communities, and that families are suffering. BLS wants to provide support wherever possible and meet every need we can.

- Each school will have a team whose priority is outreach to families. These teams may include FAN advocates, nurses, counselors, Latino Family Liaisons, as well as other staff. Don't hesitate to reach out to your school for support!
- Counselors will help students make any necessary modifications to their schedules.
- Every teacher will be assigned a small group of students who they will check in on and support through our school family connections teams. These teams will serve as a main point of contact for families and students and will be reaching out to families.

FIRST STEP RESOURCES



Families — If you haven't yet downloaded the First Step app, we hope you'll take a minute to do so now. This app is available on all student iPads in grades 6-12. It is our hope that families will spend a few minutes familiarizing themselves with this new tool and talking to your children about it.

Inside First Step you will find resources like, "3 Ways to Help a Friend," "Getting Through Today," contacts for free counseling and two featured resources: SafeOregon and YouthLine.

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- **Free Counseling and Support:** connect with links to local resources
- **SafeOregon:** students can report anything from vandalism to theft to cyberbullying via text or phone, email, or online
- **YouthLine:** a free and confidential teen-to-teen help line

School and mental health counselors, as well as school staff, continue to be available to support students and families during these unique and often stressful times. You can connect with support staff on a range of topics including academics, personal-emotional concerns, social conflicts, college and career information, and referrals to community resources. While school counselors and staff do not provide ongoing therapy, they are available for solution-focused-brief-counseling, collaborative problem solving and positive support through challenging emotions and situations. School counselor contact information is available on each school website.

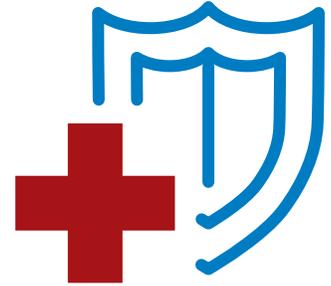
ACADEMIC GROWTH & INSTRUCTIONAL EQUITY



Best practices for teaching and learning continue to be utilized through BALANCED/Hybrid learning; additionally, while decisions regarding technology applications will follow pedagogical planning, instruction must ensure students and families are familiar with the tools, routines and structures of the virtual “classroom” for content to be accessible.

- We know not every family has access to high-speed Internet that’s important for remote learning. We ask that families reach out to their school’s Family Access Network (FAN) advocate who will facilitate the process by which they can obtain home Internet access.
- English Language Learners, students receiving special education services, and students receiving academic interventions will receive additional support from school staff. Families can learn more by connecting with school staff.
- Culturally-responsive lessons will focus on equity and inclusion.

HEALTH & SAFETY



A return to in-person instruction in our school buildings means implementing new procedures and protocols to keep our students, staff and visitors as healthy and safe as possible. The Oregon Department of Education required each school district to develop an Operational Management Blueprint by Sept. 1, 2020, to address how the district will meet strict school health and safety requirements in the ongoing effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19, particularly in our schools.

The full Bend-La Pine Schools Operational Management Blueprint can be found on our Return to School web page, <https://www.bend.k12.or.us/district/home/return-school>.

- **Masks:** All students and staff will be required to wear masks while on school properties with few exceptions.
- **Hand-Washing:** Handwashing or use of hand sanitizer upon entry to the building is required for all. Hand washing is also required: after restroom use, prior to/after eating, when hands are soiled, after recess, before and after touching shared equipment, etc. Handwashing lessons will be provided at the elementary level.
- **Classrooms:** Classrooms will be at approximately 50% capacity to allow for physical distancing. There will be 35 square feet of space per person (including the teacher) when determining room capacity.
- **Transitions:** We will stagger classes of students in hallways to limit numbers in hallways at any time; we will create one-way traffic patterns in hallways as allowable to the extent possible.
- **Meals:** Appropriate physical distancing in cafeterias and use of alternative spaces at secondary level. Tables and surfaces will be sanitized between use according to facilities sanitization guidelines. Grab and go meals will be available for all students.
- **Recess:** Schools will stagger recess to limit the number of students together outside. Schools will designate playground and shared equipment solely for the use of one cohort at a time. School staff will design recess activities that allow for physical distancing and maintenance of stable cohorts. All outdoor equipment will be cleaned between cohorts.
- **Restrooms:** Each school will assign restrooms, classrooms, or other activity areas for the exclusive use of one or a small number of stable cohorts rather than the entire on-campus population.
- **Transportation:** We will work to provide at least three feet of physical distance between passengers. This may result in staggered routes and school start times.
- **Cleaning/Sanitizing/Disinfecting:** Surfaces frequently touched by multiple people, such as door handles, desks, phones, light switches, computers and faucets will be cleaned and disinfected at least daily. Our custodial and facilities staff will be using a combination of cleaning, sanitizing and disinfecting to keep our schools clean and safe. All staff will perform regular cleaning of their spaces (using approved district cleaning agents) between multiple student or staff uses of their space.
- **Ventilation:** Buildings will maximize fresh outdoor air and minimize indoor air recirculation. Allowing fresh air into a room dilutes and displaces airborne particles, which may decrease virus transmission. Bend-La Pine Schools will operate ventilation systems properly and/or increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible by opening windows and doors, using fans, and through other methods.

COVID-19 RESPONSE PROTOCOLS

Possible Return to Comprehensive Distance Learning

At any point throughout the 2020-2021 school year, the instructional model could change depending on our county's COVID-19 metrics, guidance from health officials, or restrictions put in place by the Oregon Department of Education. Our teachers and staff are prepared to quickly make the switch, if necessary.

COVID-19 in Schools

What happens if there is a presumptive or confirmed case of COVID-19 in my child's school?

In the event of a presumptive or confirmed COVID-19 case in a school in Bend-La Pine Schools, our Communicable Disease partners at county health will provide guidance as we lead response efforts. We will follow the COVID-19 Communication Plan for Exposure or Case. These tools are designed to help school districts prepare for potential communication efforts, in partnership with Communicable Disease staff, in communicating with parents, teachers and to both aid in prevention efforts and to share information about exposure. All district approved letters/emails to families will be provided in English and Spanish or other requested formats that ensure accessible to the school community.

What if a student or staff member develops possible COVID-19 symptoms while at a school building?

Any students and staff who report or develop symptoms of cough, fever, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, headache, congestion/runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches/pains, and/or fatigue while at school will be isolated in a designated isolation area in the school or building with adequate space and staff supervision, will be provided face covering, and symptoms will be monitored by a school nurse, other school-based health care provider or school staff until they are able to go home.

Contact Tracing

Each school will have a system for daily logs to ensure contract tracing among the cohort. A key strategy in reducing the spread of disease at Bend-La Pine Schools is establishing stable cohort groups in schools. Schools will create a process to ensure all itinerant staff and district staff (maintenance, administrative, delivery, nutrition, and any other staff) who move between buildings keep a log or calendar with a running four-week history of their time in each school building and who they are in contact with at each site.

TRANSITION INTO & OUT OF IN-PERSON LEARNING PHASES

Every week, updated COVID-19 metrics are released by the state and Deschutes County health officials. Bend-La Pine Schools' leadership will review the two-week average and determine if state guidelines: allow for us to continue with current levels of in-person learning; allow for the expansion of in-person learning to additional grades; or if they require us to transition back to Comprehensive Distance Learning. The district will report updated metrics each week on its Return to School webpage and will inform families about any changes in the guidelines, plans or reopening phases.

The initial transition from Comprehensive Distance Learning to Balanced/Hybrid learning will include a week of orientation for students to become familiar with safety and learning practices.

Reopening Phases for Bend-La Pine Schools

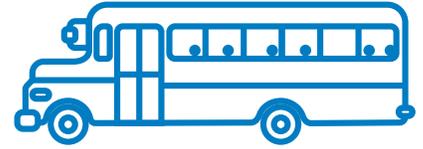
PHASE 1	PHASE 2A	PHASE 2B	PHASE 3	PHASE 4	PHASE 5
					
<p>K-12 Comprehensive Distance Learning All students receive instruction through Comprehensive Distance Learning.</p> <p>Where space is available, or conditions allow, some CDL students will return to school for limited in-person instruction.</p>	<p>K-3 Balanced/Hybrid Students in these grades will receive a balance of in-person instruction and distance learning.</p> <p>4-12 Comprehensive Distance Learning All students receive instruction through Comprehensive Distance Learning.</p> <p>Where space is available, or conditions allow, some CDL students will return to school for limited in-person instruction.</p>	<p>K-5 Balanced/Hybrid Students in these grades will receive a balance of in-person instruction and distance learning.</p> <p>Middle and High School Comprehensive Distance Learning All students receive instruction through Comprehensive Distance Learning.</p> <p>Where space is available, or conditions allow, some CDL students will return to school for limited in-person instruction.</p>	<p>K-3 All In Students in these grades will return to school full time for in-person instruction.</p> <p>Grades 4-5 Balanced/Hybrid Students in these grades will receive a balance of in-person instruction and distance learning.</p> <p>Middle and High School Comprehensive Distance Learning All students receive instruction through Comprehensive Distance Learning.</p> <p>Where space is available, or conditions allow, some CDL students will return to school for limited in-person instruction.</p>	<p>K-3 All In Students in these grades return to school full-time for in-person instruction.</p> <p>Grades 4-5 Balanced/Hybrid Students in these grades continue balance of in-person instruction and distance learning.</p> <p>Middle and High School Balanced/Hybrid Students in these grades transition to a balance of in-person and distance learning.</p>	<p>K-12 All In All students return to school full-time for in-person instruction.</p>

Bend-La Pine Schools Online offers remote learning options for students during any phase. Learn more: www.bendlapineschoolsonline.com



NOTE: Bend-La Pine Schools will determine phases in conjunction with the local health authority, following guidelines issued by Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority. Get up-to-date information on our Return to School webpage: <https://bls.fyi/return>. Updated, Oct. 30, per new state guidance.

WEEKLY SCHOOL SCHEDULES



While weekly schedules may vary between teachers, most grade levels will have similar structures for their schedules to achieve the same outcomes. The key for all schedules is consistency, a balance of live and not-live instruction, applied learning and fun!

**SCHEDULES TO BE
RELEASED SOON.**

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WWW.BEND.K12.OR.US

