



July 2, 2020

Dear Dallas School District Staff Member, Parents and Community,

This letter is to keep you informed about our planning efforts for reopening schools this fall. It also contains a link to an important parent survey.

What we know:

Under the guidance of the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA), Dallas School District administrators, teachers, and classified staff members have been working to develop a plan that not only protects the safety of our students and community, but also provides a quality education that is grounded in equity and customized to fit the needs of our students. Our district vision, “Know each student by name, needs, and strengths” remains the same and our plan has been created with that vision at the forefront of each decision.

Our planning efforts rely upon the ODE and OHA reopening guidance titled [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#), recently shared with school districts. Note the community and parent resources. Here are some of the specific highlights that guide our work:

- We must adhere to social distancing guidelines with each student allotted 35 square feet of usable classroom space for safety.
- A district communicable disease plan must be in place and approved by administration prior to opening schools in the fall.
- We will follow new sanitation and personal safety precautions to ensure our facilities are safe for students and staff.

Our Approach:

In order to do any education at school sites in person, we MUST be able to comply with the requirements of the guidance document. After reviewing our ability to do so, we have determined the need to use a “hybrid” model of instruction beginning this fall. A hybrid model is where students have on-site, in-person learning for half of each week and off-site/distance learning methods for the other half of the week. While there are many requirements to the guidance, the primary reason for the hybrid model is we simply cannot maintain the space per student required.

In a hybrid model, students will be placed in either Cohort A or B. This model maximizes the number of students in school, while still complying with OHA/ODE guidance regarding 35 square feet of usable space for students. Our goal is to have students from the same family attend school on the same day.

Here is a sample cohort schedule:

Andy Bellando, Interim Superintendent

Board of Directors: Michael Blanchard • Michael Bollman • Dave Hunt • Matt Posey • Jonathan Woods

Cohort	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	At School	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	At School	Distance Learning
B	Distance Learning	At School	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	At School

- A comprehensive distance learning model is a state required component of our reopening plan available to those students with medical necessity and those whose family select this model.
- Online Learning: We will utilize Canvas, a comprehensive learning management system, in grades 9-12. Online course offerings may be more limited than the hybrid option. Online learning can be used to supplement in-class instruction
- Home Learning: This is an extension of the classroom and not exclusively online. Students will expand learning opportunities from the previous in-class instruction that may consist of virtual check-in, individual projects, or short videos of instruction for review.
- Health and Safety: Our process includes following strict health and safety guidance for cleaning and sanitizing, as well as creating smaller class sizes to support social distancing. Students and staff will learn the importance of hygiene, masks and social distancing.

Next Steps:

- Building administration will be in touch regarding class schedules and K-12 placement and registration.
- Please complete the parent survey regarding attendance preferences, transportation needs, questions and other needs at this survey link --
- Future timelines and Key Dates:
 - Parent survey – <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XZ9C6MQ> Please complete by the end of the day, July 10, 2020. It is also available on the Dallas School District website www.dallas.k12.or.us.
 - Please use the COVID 19 tab on the district website for updates and information.
 - Registration and transportation – Communication from buildings regarding registration and transportation forms will be expected the week of July 20, 2020.
 - You will receive updated information later in the summer from your school principal, Kim Kellison, Director of Teaching and Learning, or me.

I truly appreciate your attention to this continued, unique circumstance and your willingness to partner with us in providing the best education possible to all students of Dallas School District. As always, please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Andy Bellando
Interim Superintendent