



KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 11, 2021

Dear Kelso School District Families,

I am excited to share our timeline for bringing all grades in for hybrid instruction. Like all other decisions of this kind, this one was made in consultation with administrators, labor leadership, and the school board.

Although local COVID-19 activity rates remain in the high level, the number of cases per 100K in a 14-day period is one of four metrics we consider in our decision-making process. Other metrics include transmission rate in our schools (one school-based transmission since September 8), county positivity rate (16.5%), and SW WA hospital capacity (adequate).

In their [Tools to Prepare for Provision of In-Person Learning](#) (updated December 16), Washington State Department of Health notes:

The decision to resume or expand in-person learning is complex and requires weighing both risks and benefits to children, staff, their families, and the broader community. With regards to COVID-19, DOH recommends that local leaders consider COVID-19 activity level (i.e., case rates, percent test positivity, trends, etc.) as well as the educational, social and emotional benefits of in-person learning for students.

...

In-person learning has a broad range of benefits for our children. In addition to educational instruction, schools support the development of social and emotional skills; create a safe environment for learning; address nutritional, behavioral health and other special needs; and facilitate physical activity. The absence of in-person learning may be particularly harmful for children living in poverty, children of color, English language learners, children with diagnosed disabilities, and young children, and can further widen inequities in our society.

And:

*Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels: When trends in cases and hospitalizations are flat or decreasing, **and the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, expand access to in-person learning.***

With all our elementary students already in hybrid, the following is the [timeline for bringing secondary students back in hybrid](#):

- January 25: Grades 11 and 12 in-person two days a week
- February 2: Grades 6, 7 and 8 in-person two days a week (2nd semester begins)
- February 8: Grades 9 and 10 in-person two days a week

For all grades, students with last names beginning with:

- A-K attend Monday and Tuesday
- L-Z attend Thursday and Friday

The health and well-being of our students and staff remain our top priority. We remain diligent in our safety protocols, continue to work with the Department of Health, and monitor key metrics on a weekly

basis. Timelines and instructional models are subject to change depending on our overall community health conditions.

We look forward to seeing all our students in-person again and preparing them for living, learning, and achieving success as a citizen of our changing world.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for entrusting us with your children.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent

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