



Helix School District

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Darrick Cope, Superintendent*

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Helix School District Parents,

On Tuesday, January 19th ODE presented updated COVID guidance. The reentry metrics were changed to advisory and will only be used by Districts to assist in planning their reopening timeline. Local, or zip code, COVID data for Helix is not really an option because of the small population, so we are looking at the Pendleton rates as a guide. The Helix School District has successfully had students in our building since late September utilizing Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI). The District gradually added grade levels and has averaged about 82% of our students attending during any given week.

As you all know, the Helix SD started LIPI back in September and slowly phased in all grade levels. CDL has been rough in some ways, but adding in 2 hours of LIPI has been a tremendous help for our students. We did not offer busing, or lunches, just the opportunity to have students in the building.

As we move forward in January, I feel LIPI has provided the staff and students with the chance to get accustomed to the social distancing, masks, screening process and to learn the health and safety protocol we needed to have in place to be in-person. Because of this, I feel the Helix SD is ready to take the next step.

My plan is to continue with LIPI through the end of the week (**Friday, Jan. 22nd**) for all grade levels. We will be starting with full-day, in-person classes for all K-5th grades students on **Monday, Jan 25th**. The buses will run on a very similar schedule as they have in the past and schedules will be distributed once the final times are determined. Students in 6th – 12th grades will remain in LIPI and attend classes from 1:00-3:00PM. However, in an effort to decrease transportation for parents, I am working with Mid-Co to provide buses that will run limited routes for the 6th – 12th grade students, starting around noon each day. More info will be provided on the LIPI busing once I work out a plan with Mid-Co.

The following **Monday, February 1st**, I plan to begin bringing in the 6th -8th grades, and the high school will remain on LIPI. On **Monday, Feb 8th**, the high school students will join the K-8th grades with full-day, in-person.

We could go with a faster timeline, but I feel this phase in approach works best for our staff as we deal with unexpected issues that may arise. I don't want to be too aggressive and have conflicts with my operational blueprint or make anyone uncomfortable (staff, students or parents).

For questions for comments, please contact the office at (541) 457-2175.

Sincerely,

Darrick Cope

Superintendent
Helix School District