

OAKRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT #76

Fall 2020 Reopening Information

July 20, 2020

Oregon Reopening Guidance Released

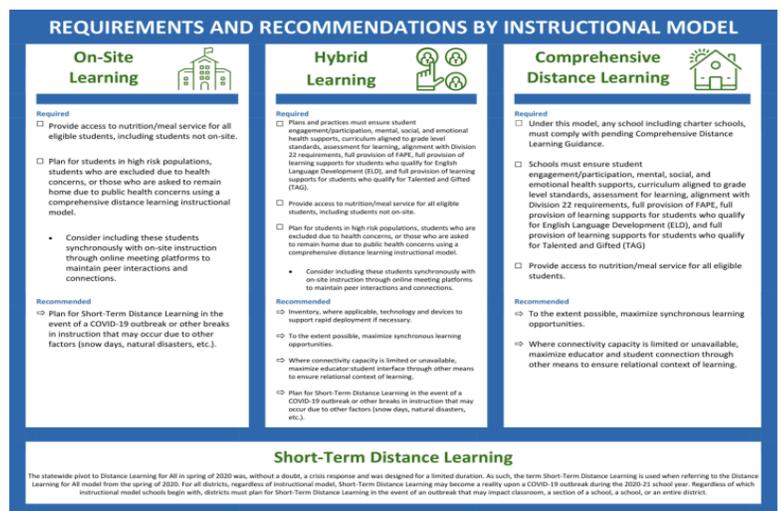
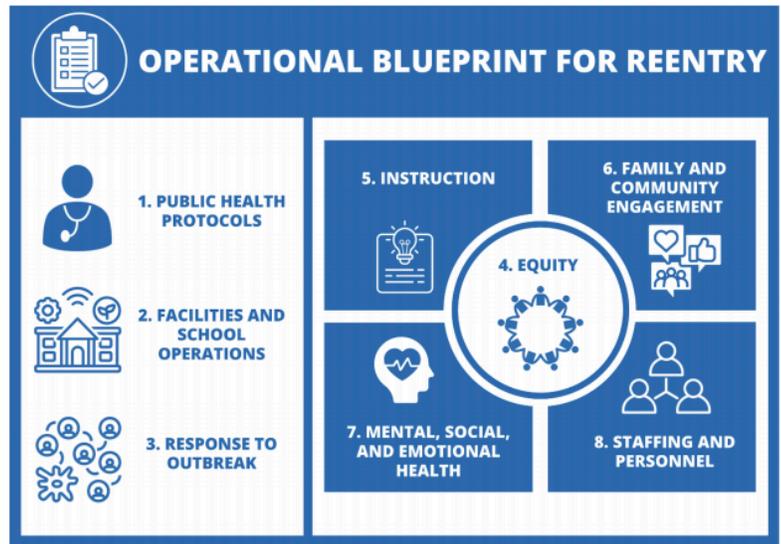
As we look towards the coming school year, Governor Brown has begun the process of reopening and building a safe and strong Oregon. This fall Oregon will begin a process to provide in-person instruction in our schools again. However, we will still be living under the threat of Covid-19 virus, and community-wide immunity is many months off.

On June 10, 2020, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance](#) designed for school leaders that puts forward the requirements and recommendations we will use to plan for the fall. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) epidemiologists helped create and vet this guidance so that we could have clear health and safety protocols to follow for a variety of scenarios. School districts will work through the summer to develop The Operational Blueprint for Reentry based on ODE guidelines in collaboration with local public health authority, Union County, Grande Ronde Hospital, parents, and students.

A Full Return To School

Oakridge School District is currently working to develop reopening plans that focus on a return to school for all students. School District Administrators have been hard at work looking at facilities, staff, schedules, busing, etc. to provide the 35 sq ft per student or 6ft spacing recommended by ODE and OHA for limiting the spread of COVID-19. We know that families and students want to go back to school, participate in athletics, and pursue their passions, and we are doing everything we can to make that happen within safe guidelines and state regulations and timeframes.

Oakridge School District is also working on contingency plans to support students either through Hybrid Learning or Comprehensive Distance Learning as outlined by ODE if an outbreak occurs or as directed by our local public health authority. These plans will be communicated to families once they are approved. We expect to share specific plans in mid August. Our goal is to be prepared and provide clarity to families on these contingencies while remaining flexible and adaptive to the situations as they happen.



Keeping Our Schools Safe

Within the ODE guidance for reentry they have released their "Key Principles for Reducing Potential Exposures." These "Key Principles" must be addressed in each school plan for reopening with required or recommended protocols or practices for operation during this COVID-19 pandemic. School District Administrators are working to develop these plans and communicate with stakeholder groups and local public health so that we can meet and/or exceed these requirements.

Students and families can help prepare themselves by practicing these "Key Principles" at home or when they are out in public. Your cooperation in helping us meet these requirements will help us to keep all students safe and our schools and programs open. We appreciate your help and support as we navigate these together!

Summer Timeline for Planning

Oakridge School District is working hard to develop operational plans based on ODE guidance released on June 10, 2020. Plans will be reviewed by stakeholder groups and the local public health authority and then approved by the school board in August.

ODE has already informed districts that updated guidance for reopening, special education, distance learning, and other components of our operation will be released throughout the summer as the COVID-19 situation changes and as barriers and "best practices" are identified state-wide.

Final plans, protocols, and training will be available in mid August for students and parents as we prepare for next school year. We would like to release these sooner, but recognize that significant changes are likely to occur in Oregon guidance and in our local context prior to mid August. We appreciate your patience and again reaffirm that **our goal is a safe return for our students to school.**

Educational Options

Oakridge School District recognizes that some students and families may have significant health concerns about a full return to schools with their peers. We are working to provide increased distance learning opportunities through Google Classroom and live streaming lessons in the short-term and through the School District's Acellus Online Program, our K-12 long-term online option. The Oakridge Online learning option is available for all families in Oakridge.

We ask families to complete the 2020-21 School Year Choice Options survey for each student. The survey is located on our website. We will continue to strive to meet your student's needs.

KEY PRINCIPLES for Reducing Potential Exposures

The mainstays of reducing exposure to the coronavirus and other respiratory pathogens are:

1. **Physical distancing** — minimizing close contact (<six feet) with other people.
2. **Hand hygiene** — frequent washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.
3. **Cohorts** — conducting all activities in small groups that remain together over time with minimal mixing of groups.
4. **Protective equipment** — use of face shields, face coverings, and barriers.
5. **Environmental cleaning and disinfection** — especially of high-touch surfaces.
6. **Isolation** of sick people and quarantine of exposed people.
7. With the above considerations foremost, outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities.



Oakridge School District

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