



KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURE COMMUNICATION

June 9, 2020

Dear Kelso Community,

As the end of this school year draws near, we have been putting considerable thought and attention on next year. Before sharing an update on this continuing work, I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the important and necessary conversations happening in our country regarding the injustice, racism, inequities, and pain all around us. Kelso School District is committed to listening, learning, and taking action around these issues. As we continue to learn and grow individually, and collectively as a Kelso community, we will be relentless in our hope for a brighter future.

At the state level, the Office of Superintendent Public Instruction (OSPI) has a task force developing options and guidance for school districts across the state, which will be released later this week. However, here in Kelso, we have already convened a Re-Opening Task Force to develop recommendations and expectations for a fall model that fits Kelso students, families, and staff based on data, feedback, and state agency requirements.

A draft re-opening plan for Kelso schools will be shared by June 19. Our plan will ensure alignment with the Governor's expectations, OSPI recommendations, and guidelines from the Department of Health (DoH) and Labor and Industry (L&I). Input from staff, families, and students also guide our task force conversations. Thank you for participating in our Thoughtexchange survey on re-opening. You can see the [top thoughts and themes here](#).

I want to assure you that, as always, the safety and well-being of our students and staff are our top priorities. As we develop a plan for re-opening in the fall, our three pillars will be: safety, sanitizing, and sensibility. Safety for students and staff will be foremost and considered in all decisions and actions. Sanitizing efforts will be bumped up with stricter cleaning and safety guidelines. Common sense will be used as we remember we are all humans doing our very best to stay healthy, look out for each other, and continue to provide a quality education for every student.

As we refine and hone our plans, please continue to reach out to me with your questions, feedback, challenges, and successes. I will continue to provide you with as much clear and timely information as possible. Together, we will get through this and make sure all our students and their families have what they need to succeed.

Respectfully,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent
marybeth.tack@kelsosd.org