

Bars to Bridges Program Fall 2020 Reopening Overview

DRAFT v2

We are excited to share our updated plans for reopening our school this fall. In this document, you will find information about our plans for opening schools safely and equitably.

This plan was developed using guidance from the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Multnomah County Correctional Health, the Multnomah County Health Department, and MESD School Health Services.

Looking to reopen, our goals are to:

1. Maximize the health and safety of all our students and staff, including those identified as medically at risk;
2. Ensure equitable access for all students, including those who are Black, Indigenous, a student of color and/or LGBTQIA+, to the full range of educational services and quality instruction; and
3. Provide individualized, specially designed instruction to all students in accordance with their learning needs.

Question: What is included in your plan?

Our plan takes into account eight main areas for reopening. These areas include (1) public health protocols, (2) facilities and school operations, (3) response to outbreak, (4) equity, (5) instruction, (6) family and community engagement, (7) mental, social and emotional health, and (8) staffing and personnel.

Question: Where can I access the draft reopening plan?

https://www.multnomahesd.org/uploads/1/2/0/2/120251715/b2b_blueprint_d2.pdf

The current draft version has been updated since our last published version to take into account the feedback we have received from staff, families, and community members. It also reflects updated guidance from ODE. We continue to welcome your feedback and will use it to update this plan again before our final plan is released on August 17, 2020.

Question: What is different about this plan from the one released in July?

Since our last draft, we have gathered input from more stakeholders: staff, students, parents, connected adults and community partners. We received feedback from personalized phone calls and email.

We have incorporated updated guidance from the Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon Health Authority, including mandatory face coverings and the more detailed health metric requirements for transitioning to in-person instruction.

Question: When will I know if students will be back in person or continue with distance learning?

On July 28, 2020, the Oregon Department of Education released [updated guidance](#) in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Governor's office. This guidance provides specific state and facility [metric requirements](#) for in-person and/or hybrid instruction to occur. At present the Multnomah County Correctional and Detention facilities meet these requirements.

We are planning to provide in person support services. This plan remains tentative as we continue to monitor conditions and listen to feedback. A final decision will be made by August 17, 2020.

Question: Will you be able to meet the individualized needs of students with IEPs?

Bars to Bridges is a support service. Our transition specialists will assist families in working with their education provider to ensure that the student is provided with FAPE in the least restrictive environment possible, in accordance with the student's IEP.

Question: How will you keep students and staff safe? Will the adults and students be required to wear masks?

Health and Safety are our priority. We continue to monitor and follow guidance from our health partners and will make adjustments as necessary

The following safety measures have been implemented when we have in person interactions.

- All staff will be required to wear face coverings. Masks will be provided.
- All students will be required to wear masks, except when medically not appropriate. Masks will be provided.
- All staff and students will practice recommended hand hygiene.
- Staff will clean all high touch-point surfaces before use and on a schedule multiple times throughout the day.
- Physical distancing (6 feet or more) will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Question: What is the process if a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19? How will I be informed?

Our program works closely with MESD School Health Services (SHS) to respond to all communicable disease cases. School staff will contact Multnomah County Corrections Health Department and the SHS Nurse Consultant who will collaboratively determine the extent of potential exposure and the needed response. The Nurse Consultant will coordinate with the local health authority as necessary. If it is determined that exposure was possible, communication will be sent to the appropriate school community members.

Question: What if a student becomes sick at home? How do we communicate with the school?

Bars to Bridges is a support service. We ask that families communicate directly with their designated transition specialist.

Question: Will there be opportunities for parents and guardians to learn how to navigate the devices for home learning? When will those take place?

Yes. We will be hosting multiple sessions beginning in late August. We will communicate with families about those sessions through Facebook, our website, and email.

Question: What are you doing to ensure equitable access for all students, including those who are Black, Indigenous, a Student of Color and/or LGBTQIA+, to the full range of educational services and quality instruction?

We are using the agency [Equity Lens](#) to support conversations and decision making as we develop and implement our plans. This lens supports our work in asking questions about people, place, power, process and plan, so we can act in a manner that maximizes diversity, inclusion, and equity.

We have also initiated and engaged in dialogue with students, parents, and community partners — culturally specific organizations, tribal liaisons, and community service organizations — to develop plans that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of our diverse students. Our hope and goal is to maintain, and further strengthen, our partnership with culturally diverse and inclusive partners as we endeavor to provide high-quality and responsive services.

Question: I have additional questions about plans for reopening schools, who do I contact?

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