

Bars to Bridges (B2B) Fall 2020 Reopening Overview

DRAFT v1

We are excited to share our initial plans for reopening the Bars to Bridges (B2B) program this fall. In this document, you will find information about our initial plan to safely reopen using a hybrid instructional model. This plan was developed using guidance from the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Health Authority, the Centers for Disease Control, 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: When will I know if students will be back in person or continue with distance learning?

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 15, 2020.

Question: Where can I access the initial reopening plan draft?

[Detailed Reopening Plan for Bars to Bridges 7/8/20 Draft \(17 pages\) \(PDF\)](#)

We will be updating this plan based on feedback from stakeholders like you and as additional guidance is released. Our next scheduled update will be posted on August 3, 2020, and we will ask for additional feedback. Our final update will be available on August 15, 2020.

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.

- All staff will be provided with and required to wear face coverings and/or face shields.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to wear masks, except when medically not appropriate. Masks will be provided.
- Staff will clean all touch-point surfaces before school 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 students be penalized for not attending school in person?

No. We will work with the facility, families, care providers, and students to develop plans to provide remote learning options on an as-needed basis.

Question: What if I do not feel comfortable with my student attending a school site? Can I have online distance learning full-time as an option?

Bars to Bridges is a support service. Our transition specialists will assist families in exploring options with their education provider.

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: 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 the MESD website.

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

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