

Functional Living Skills (FLS) Fall 2020 Reopening Overview

DRAFT v1

We are excited to share our initial plans for reopening the Functional Living Skills 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 our 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 a mixture of in-person and distance learning. Functional Living Skills students will be placed in stable cohorts that are approximately four to five students in size, which represents half the class rosters. Each cohort will attend on two consecutive days, with a day between cohorts to allow for cleaning and disinfecting. One cohort will attend on Monday and Tuesday, and the other on Thursday and Friday. On non-attending days, students will have access to live-streaming opportunities and learning opportunities, both virtual and analog. All students will have, with guardian approval, access to academic devices to continue and extend learning within the classroom and whilst engaged in virtual classroom opportunities on non-cohort days. The Functional Living Skills program recognizes the great complexity and obligations that we have to our staff and students, and it is important to emphasize this plan remains tentative as we continue to monitor conditions and listen to feedback. A final decision will be made by August 15, 2020 and communicated directly to all parents, students, and staff.

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

[Detailed Reopening Plan for Functional Living Skills 7/8/20 Draft \(18 pages\) \(PDF\)](#)

We will be updating this plan based on feedback from stakeholders like you and as additional guidance is released. Our next scheduled draft will be posted on August 3, 2020, and we will ask for additional feedback. Our final plan 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 who are 12 years and older are required to wear masks, except when medically not appropriate. Masks will be provided.
- All students will be required to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before entering the building and when making transitions to other instructional spaces.
- All students will be supported with frequent hand-washing or using hand sanitizer before and after meals.
- Staff will clean all touch-point surfaces before school and on a schedule multiple times throughout the day.
- Physical distancing (six 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 school/program works closely with the MESD School Health Services (SHS) department to respond to all communicable disease cases. School staff will contact the SHS Nurse Consultant who will 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?

We will send more detailed information about communication procedures to families when school starts. What we can share now is that we will be asking families and care providers to monitor students for symptoms at home. If a student or family/household member displays symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19, the family or care provider notify Melanie Hart, Program Supervisor, and keep their child home.

Question: Will students be penalized for not attending school in person?

No. We will work with families, care providers, and students to develop plans to provide remote learning options on an as-needed basis. We recognize that students and families have different needs, and we are committed to ensuring that all students receive the support that is appropriate for their situation.

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?

Yes. A complete online distance-learning option will be available if the guardian is concerned regarding on-site reentrance to school. Please contact Melannie Hart, FLS administrator, at 480-294-9022 or mhart@mesd.k12.or.us to discuss options.

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

Yes. Our special education team will work with families and students and the student's IEP team 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 Facebook, our website, and via email.

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

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