

Functional Living Skills Fall 2020 Reopening Overview

DRAFT v2

Greetings FLS family! 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, 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/fls_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 received feedback from stakeholders including teachers, paraprofessionals, related services staff, and facilities staff. We have worked with component districts to ensure that planning includes district lenses on elements such as facility capacity and transportation. Draft one feedback was open and the initial draft was accessible on the MESD website, with links provided on the FLS facebook page. Opportunity for feedback from all stakeholders. Draft one feedback closed on 20 July, 2020.

In looking at the initial parent survey that guided the first draft, notable feedback included 10.7% of respondents who stated that they would not send their student back to in person learning until there was a vaccine, and 25% who stated that they were unsure if they would send their student back until there was a vaccine. Most parents stated that a significant barrier would be requiring their student to wear a mask. About $\frac{1}{3}$ of respondents stated that they rely on school for childcare due to work or other obligations.

Regarding the staff survey, there were significant concerns relating to returning to the classroom as something that was very high risk for staff and students. Many staff stated that they had a positive experience building connections with families and other FLS staff in the Spring during distance learning, whilst others expressed trepidation on how we could best serve students, either in person, or in a distance model. Most staff identified the need for trainings in how best to support in a virtual environment, and the need for training and technology to staff.

During the feedback period, the themes that surfaced continued to be a deep concern on the safety of returning to the classroom, for both staff and vulnerable FLS students. There was an even divide amongst respondents to the questions, “the plan promotes safety for staff and students.” When asked about the reopening plan, staff provided input including concerns about contracting the illness, the high risk of exposure, and the possibility that providing in-person instruction would create additional stressors for students. Overall, there was appreciation for the detail of the plan, and a recognition that the plan is designed to promote student learning.

Based on feedback from families and staff, and in alignment with the governor’s direction, FLS will return to a hybrid model when [the metrics](#) for return are met. We have ordered devices for students to ensure that all students and families will have access to one-to-one academic devices for comprehensive distance learning, and when we are able to return to a hybrid model as determined by the metrics. We will provide staff training during the staff back to school week, and the initial week of school for students and families, to ensure that we are able to work together to deliver quality instruction in an online environment.

We have also 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 county-wide [metric requirements](#) for in-person and/or hybrid instruction to occur. Until those metrics are met on a regional and state level, by necessity, we will provide instruction using a comprehensive distance learning model. This means that we will

begin the school year on Sept. 1 for FLS Transition and FLS Knott Creek, and Sept. 8 for FLS CMS, CHS, and Oliver elementary in a comprehensive distance learning (CDL) model.

When OHA and ODE requirements are met in Multnomah County and Oregon, we will reach out directly to families and stakeholders through email, Facebook, and our website to develop a timeline for shifting to a hybrid/in-person instructional model. At this point, based on the current county metrics, we do not anticipate shifting to hybrid until late fall. The ODE guidance provides an initial period that will allow the FLS program to anticipate the imminent return to a hybrid learning model, and that is outlined in the metrics document, and is defined as

This plan remains tentative as we continue to monitor conditions and listen to feedback.

Question: Will distance learning look the same as it did last spring?

Our distance learning model will be loosely based on the model developed last spring but with an increased alignment to standards, additional depth of instructional strategies and lessons, a greater focus on equity, and additional support for families and students. Information about our spring distance learning model is available in the [MESD Distance Learning and Support document](#).

We are collaborating with our staff, students, families, community partners, and technology support staff to fully address the needs of our students using the distance-learning model and will be able to provide more details when we release our finalized plan. This plan will be available on Aug. 17.

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 a fair and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment possible, in accordance with the student's IEP.

Question: When we return to in-person learning, how will you keep students and staff safe? Will the adults and students be required to wear masks?

Health and Safety are our priority. To maximize the safety of students and staff we will begin the year using a distance learning model. We continue to monitor and follow guidance from our health partners to best determine how and when we transition to hybrid/in person. At minimum we anticipate the following safety measures will be implemented when we have in person interactions. **Again, these interactions will follow the [guidelines](#) set by Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Education, and will be implemented when the metrics in [Multnomah County](#) are met, as mandated by the governor's order on 28 July, 2020.**

- All staff will be required to wear face coverings. These will be provided.

- All students will be required to wear face coverings, except when medically not appropriate. Face coverings will be provided.
- All staff and students will practice recommended hand hygiene.
- Staff will clean all high 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 school/program works closely with MESD School Health Services 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 should notify the school classroom teacher, and the program supervisor, and keep their child home **when we have returned to in-person learning**.

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?

Melanie Hart

Supervisor for Functional Living Skills

480-294-9022

mhart@mesd.k12.or.us