

Outdoor School 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, 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?

[Detailed Reopening Plan for Outdoor School 8/4/20 Draft \(19 pages\) \(PDF\)](#)

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 listening sessions, website feedback, and email surveys. While many individuals expressed sadness for missing a traditional Outdoor School experience, many stakeholders expressed concern with programming where students had to travel on a bus or participated in an overnight setting. Based on this feedback, we have tailored the blueprint to clarify that programming would take place at the participating school grounds to reduce travel time and limit the overnight program

focus. Additionally, we have added specific information around our program and will be adding information about our Comprehensive Distance Learning models which will align with the participating school district learning models. 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 in a distance learning model.

When OHA and ODE requirements are met in Multnomah County and Oregon, we will reach out directly to schools and stakeholders through email, text, 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 October/November.

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 Outdoor School staff team will work closely with schools and teachers, 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. 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.

- 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 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 and keep their child home.

Question: Will there be opportunities for parents and guardians to learn how to navigate the devices for home learning?

Most likely. We will be working directly with your student's district teachers to align our distance learning model to the devices they will be utilizing for their distance learning model.

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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