

Outdoor School Fall 2020 Reopening Overview

DRAFT v1

We are excited to share our initial plans for reopening Outdoor School next year. 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, 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: When will I know if students will be scheduled for in-person Outdoor School or an alternative distance learning option?

We are planning to provide a mixture of in-person and distance learning during the 2020-2021 school year. Outdoor School programming will be developed in collaboration with school district feedback and needs. 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 through each school district, principal, or teacher.

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

[Detailed Reopening Plan for Outdoor School 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. However, we want to highlight some key features.

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 masks 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?

The Outdoor 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 necessary 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 prior to students attending. 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 the school 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.

Question: What if I do not feel comfortable with my student attending Outdoor School at the program site? Can I have an online distance learning program as an option?

Yes, please contact the MESD Outdoor School Office to discuss options.

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

Yes. Our special education support team will work with families, teachers, and students 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 distance learning options? 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 email.

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

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