

School Reopening Feedback – Round 1

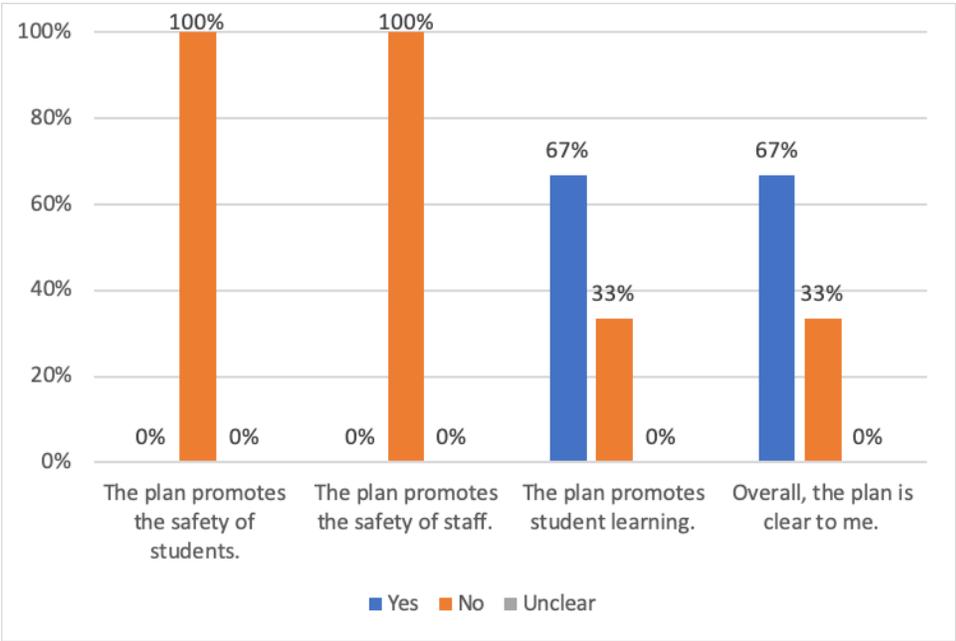
Outdoor School

There were five respondents who provided feedback about Outdoor School in the online survey form. Three were staff members, one was a community member, and one was a representative of a community group.

The community member and the representative of a community group both disagreed that the plan promotes the safety of students and staff. Both disagreed that the plan promotes student learning. Both agreed that the plan was clear to them overall.

Among staff members, the majority agreed that the plan promotes student learning and that it was clear overall.

Staff Responses to Statements



For the statement “The plan promotes the safety of students,” 100 percent of staff members said no.

For the statement “The plan promotes the safety of staff,” 100 percent of staff members said no.

For the statement “The plan promotes student learning,” 67 percent of staff members said yes and 33 percent said no.

For the statement “Overall, the plan is clear to me,” 67 percent of staff members said yes and 33 percent said no.

I still have questions about:

Staff members said:

- Why schools are reopening when Covid cases are at an all-time high.
- What is the vision of a week of ODS going to look like?

How many students will be on site a week?

How many schools or classes?

What is the schedule? How will we have the time to clean?

What happens when we have to do a deep clean? What are students to do?

A community member said:

- How 6th graders will be able to practice distancing of 6 feet at all times.

I am concerned about:

Staff members said:

- Schools reopening prematurely will only prolong this crisis. Reopening schools will endanger students, families, staff and faculty. The precautions that were taken in the spring were effective, but our sacrifices then will be meaningless if we move forward too quickly.
- Effective learning and community building cannot occur with children already frightened from being away from home in a typical outdoor school session. How do you expect to comfort these children in a world of a pandemic?

The way staff live at ODS (limited sleep, likely dehydrated, undernourished, in the elements, for weeks on end) make them more susceptible to getting sick.

- We are a fast-paced program. We do not have the benefit of a stable group of students or even a specific neighborhood clientele that we can reasonably expect to continuously serve, especially if we are on-site with high school volunteers to boot. The presymptomatic stage of this disease could easily be unnoticed, especially with the mere "encouragement" for staff to be tested.

Staff work 16 hours a day, nearly 6 days a week (with no overtime or accumulation of sick pay to reflect that) on a good day. We already do not get enough rest to keep healthy. Morale during a pandemic on-site will be low.

There is a lack of creativity in this plan. There is no clear vision on how this would be accomplished and what the layout of the site or schedule would be.

The comment period was not well-communicated with enough time for staff and community members to reflect and disseminate it out to all stakeholders.

Seasonal staff were not consulted or included.

A community member said:

- I am concerned about the push for in-person learning in the fall. Hybrid learning that is dependent on the status of covid-19 creates instability and uncertainty for individuals who are already experiencing extremely disrupted lives. This plan does not adequately prioritize the health and safety of staff, students,

families, and care providers. If in-person learning sessions are held in the fall, Outdoor School will be directly contributing to an increased risk that individuals will become ill or die due to covid-19.

A representative of a community group said:

- Overall safety. It is unsafe to have children on site, especially in an overnight capacity, abs the MESD should be helping to organize an educators strike, not planning for open schools.

I appreciate:

A staff member said:

- I truly appreciate all of the thought and care put into this plan, but I do not think it is enough. It is easy to feel pressured to reopen when everything around us is telling us to, but it is unsafe and unfair to rely on children to protect their own health and the health of others.

A community member said:

- I truly appreciate all of the thought and care put into this plan, but I do not think it is enough. It is easy to feel pressured to reopen when everything around us is telling us to, but it is unsafe and unfair to rely on children to protect their own health and the health of others.

A representative of a community group said:

- That there is still opportunity for the program to be distance learning ONLY.

Additional comments:

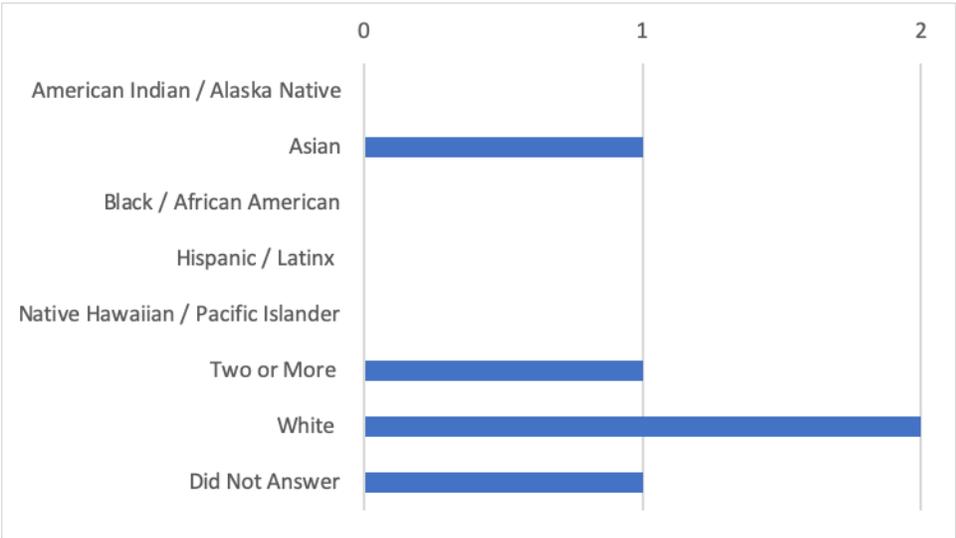
Staff members said:

- Covid infection rates in Oregon are at an all time high right now. We closed in the spring to flatten the curve, and it worked... for a while. But the curve has suddenly spiked, and it concerns me deeply to see MESD moving forward as if it is in students' best interests to reopen schools and ODS. I value education, and ODS specifically, above almost everything else in my life. But I value life itself even more. This is a life and death issue. Oregon is not ready to reopen schools.
- This feels forced and irresponsible. The energy being put into this should be focused on distance learning.
- On-site ODS will be a war of attrition we cannot win. It makes staff out to be like soldiers willing to give our lives one by one to the cause until we can fight on no more and our site will need to be shut down. It's unconscionable.

Requested follow-up contact:

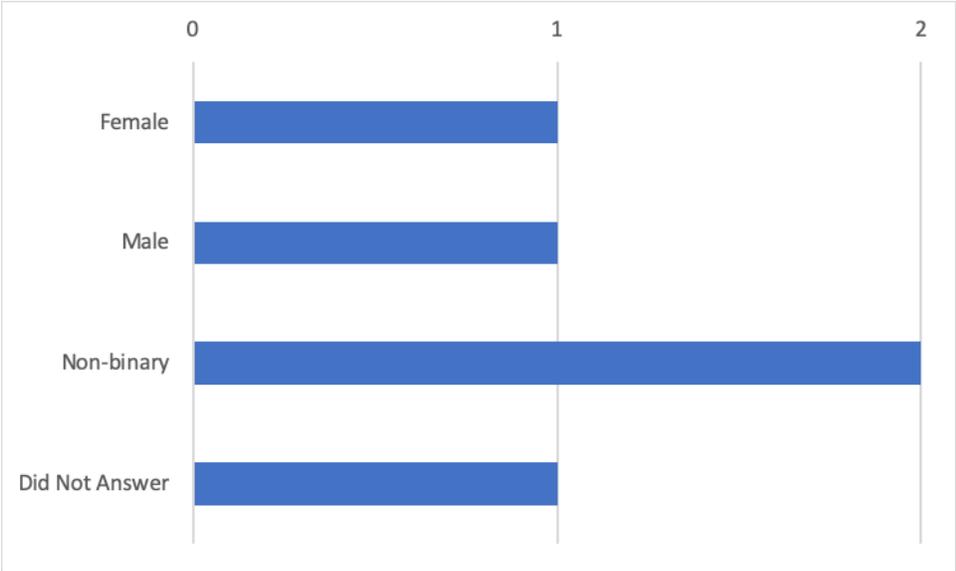
One staff member and one community member requested follow-up.

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents



One respondent self-identified their race/ethnicity as Asian, one self-identified as Two or More, two self-identified as White, and one did not answer.

Gender Identity of Respondents



One respondent self-identified their gender as female, one self-identified as male, two self-identified as non-binary, and one did not answer.