

## Frequenting Asked Questions

**February 1 update: Questions in red are new**

### RETURNING TO SCHOOL WITH A HYBRID LEARNING MODEL

1. Will students from the same family have the same scheduled days in school?

Yes; implementing a schedule that allows siblings to attend school during the same approximate hours was a priority when we developed our A/B student cohorts. Those same cohorts will remain in place as we transition to the Hybrid Model.

2. Will families be able to pick which days their children attend school?

We are not able to accommodate schedule requests. However, our top priority is to schedule siblings and members of the same household on the same day.

3. Why can't all students go to school every day?

We do not have enough space in our schools to accommodate all students while following guidelines for physical distancing.

4. What will my child's schedule be?

Class schedules/hours will be similar to the current Distance Learning schedule. Class schedules, reflecting any slight changes to accommodate transportation, will be available shortly.

5. Why are elementary students returning first?

Oregon's metrics for returning to in-person instruction has districts prioritizing elementary and adding grades over time if transmission rates are controlled. If elementary schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, and we meet the metrics, middle and high school grades may be transitioned.

6. Are schools really supposed to have no more than 100 kids on campus at a time?

The maximum number of students allowed in a school is determined by square footage. ODE's Ready Schools Safe Learners guidance mandates schools limit the number of students in the building, in part, by providing a minimum of 35 square feet per person when determining room capacity.

Students cannot be part of any single cohort, or part of multiple cohorts, that exceed a total of 100 people within the school week.

7. What is 'cohorting'?

- A stable cohort is a group of students no larger than can be accommodated by physical distancing guidelines, and this cohort (or group) will spend a sustained amount of time together.
- Ex: A group of students in a class would be a cohort. A reading group is also a cohort.
- Students are limited to participation in no more than two cohorts per day.

8. What is Hybrid Learning?

- A Hybrid program combines virtual/online and in-person learning.
- A Hybrid classroom involves two cohorts of students. While Cohort A attends in-person, Cohort B attends virtually (synchronously and/or asynchronously). All students have the same access to the classroom, whether in-person or virtual.

- Hybrid cohorts switch roles on alternating days
  - Cohort A: Monday and Thursday in-person; Tuesday and Friday virtual
  - Cohort B: Tuesday and Friday in person; Monday and Thursday virtual
  - Class schedules would remain the same as under full virtual instruction

9. What is the rationale for the split schedule?

With the schedule we have chosen: Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday, the longest period of time any student would be without in-person learning is 3 days. If we had chosen a Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday schedule, students would go 5 days with no in-person learning.

10. How would a teacher work with students both online and in-person at the same time?

While live-streaming lessons, teachers will be able to respond to students at home and in-person.

11. I don't want to send my child back to school in-person. Can he/she remain in Distance Learning?

Yes. If you do not feel comfortable sending your child back to school for in-person learning, he/she may continue with Distance Learning.

12. What will services look like for students on an IEP?

Case managers will contact parents regarding their IEP/504 services in a hybrid model.

13. How will the schools administer student medications?

Parents will need to coordinate with school office staff to arrange a time to drop off their student's daily medication and communicate a medication schedule. Parents should consider the limitations of the student's Hybrid/in-person schedule when establishing a timeline for the school to administer daily medications. Also, any medications that need to be given with meals must be given at home.

14. What if an Online student wants to switch to in-person instruction?

Students who participate in Online instruction would continue with the Online curriculum for the full 2020-2021 school year, and would not typically transition to the Hybrid Learning Model once schools reopen.

- The Edgenuity (grades 6-12) curriculum is distinctly different from OTSD's curriculum, so it would be difficult to transition mid-course. However, it could be considered at the semester break, depending on the student's participation and progress.
- Transitioning from SchoolsPLP (grades K-5) could also be considered depending on the student's participation and progress. *Transitioning from either Edgenuity or SchoolsPLP would require a consultation with your school principal.*

15. If I enrolled my child in an online charter school during CDL, can they return to their OTSD school when the school begins Hybrid Learning?

We would welcome back any students and families who desire to return to their community school. The best time for the student to transition would be at the semester break.

16. How will you enforce the requirement to wear a face covering? What happens to students who won't wear a face covering?

Face coverings are required for students, staff, and visitors. School staff may provide additional instructional supports to effectively wear a face covering. Students who abstain from wearing a face covering, or students whose families

determine the student will not wear a face covering during on-site instruction, will have their educational needs met through Comprehensive Distance Learning. If a student with a disability is unable to wear a face covering at school, the school/district will review the 504/IEP with the parent/guardian to determine the best option for the student to access instruction.

#### 17. What type of face covering is appropriate?

A face covering is defined as a cloth, polypropylene, paper or other face covering that covers the nose and the mouth and that rests snugly above the nose, below the mouth, and on the sides of the face.

The following are not face coverings because they allow droplets to be released: a covering that incorporates a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhalation, mesh masks, lace masks or other coverings with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents.

Face shields are allowed only by staff, such as by speech pathologists or K/1 teachers who need students to see their mouth and tongue movements.

#### 18. How will you ensure physical distancing?

We will follow the six-foot physical distancing guidance as much as possible. This will become part of teacher/student daily routines. Desks and tables are spaced apart, and close interactions will be limited. We will also coordinate moving through the hallways to minimize interactions with other classes.

#### 19. How will daily health screenings be conducted?

We ask that parents screen their students each morning before sending them to school. Students will also be visually screened for symptoms as they enter bus and again when they enter their school. Students exhibiting symptoms will be given a mask to wear under their own face covering, seated at the front, and isolated & monitored at school while waiting for parent pickup.

#### 20. How will classrooms be cleaned?

Classrooms and frequent touchpoints will be sanitized by our custodial staff per OHA/ODE guidelines.

#### 21. How will school meals be handled?

Breakfast and lunch will not be served or consumed at school. Meal packs will be picked up by students as they exit the school for home. Meal pack serving days will vary by school. Teachers may include snack breaks in the class routine and will share more information about this with their families.

#### 22. What happens if someone tests positive for COVID-19?

We will follow state and county health guidance. This includes isolation, parent notification, and cleaning/disinfecting. If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in our schools, our district nurse or county public health will conduct contact tracing. Privacy laws do not allow us to share the person's name.

#### 23. What will happen when a teacher is absent?

If a teacher is ill and unable to work, either in-person or remotely, students will still be provided instruction. School principals will determine the best arrangement which could include recorded lessons, online lessons, a partner-teacher, or a substitute teacher.

#### 24. Why can't you compel teachers to get the vaccine?

Oregon has not made the vaccination mandatory, and it is not a condition of employment.

#### 25. What are the student technology needs/requirements during Hybrid Instruction?

Students need tech at home and school and should carry their fully-charged school-issued Chromebook or their personal laptop to and from school each day. This is imperative. We do not have enough Chromebooks to have two assigned to a student for even one day.

We will send out a poll to find out which families will need a Chromebook only for use at school, so that we can make sure we have enough single-day Chromebooks available for your student's class.

#### 26. How will transportation work?

- Drivers and students wear face coverings
- 6 feet physical distance between driver & students
- 1 student per seat; staggered window/aisle to the extent possible
- Siblings sit together
- Passive visual screening for symptoms as students enter bus
- Students exhibiting symptoms seated at the front and given a face mask for added protection, then isolated & monitored at school while waiting for parent pickup
- Buses sanitized between routes

#### 27. How will attendance work?

Attendance will continue to be taken as it currently is; however, we will resume sending parent notifications when a student does not show up for class.

#### 28. Would the school close if a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19?

When we become aware of a case, we will follow protocols and work with public health to determine our course of action. Affected families and staff would be notified. There may be times when a class/cohort would be required to quarantine at home and return to Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) during the quarantine period. If it is determined the spread of the virus is great enough, an individual school may need to close, and all students would resume CDL.

#### 29. Will all schools follow the district blueprint?

Every school has a blueprint based on the district Blueprint for Reopening Schools template and tailored for each school.