



HOOD RIVER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HRCSD targets reopening schools for K-3 students by November 9

Hood River County is on track to meet Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) health metrics to reopen schools for in-person instruction for students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3). Students in fourth through twelfth grade (4-12) will remain in Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) until February 2, 2021, which coincides with the end of Semester One.

During the first four weeks of the 2020-21 school year, Hood River County School District (HRCSD) students have been learning online. The school district continues to closely monitor COVID-19 data with state and county partners. Each week, HRCSD meets with the Hood River County Health Department staff to review COVID-19 data as it relates to schools reopening. ODE and OHA set health metrics, which are outlined in [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#), that must be met for a school district to reopen its schools.

HRCSD is prioritizing a return from CDL to in-person instruction for K-3 students so they can build literacy and numeracy skills critical to their future success in school. Students that read and do math at grade-level by the end of third grade are more likely to experience success throughout their school years. Having the county's youngest students on-site will enable HRCSD staff to assess and respond directly and immediately to the varying learning needs of its students.

HRCSD plans to return K-3 students to their neighborhood schools for in-person instruction starting on Monday, Nov. 9, 2020, provided that Hood River County continues to meet the metrics for K-3 on-site learning. In-person instruction will occur Monday through Friday with a shortened daily schedule, approximately 7:45am to 12:15pm. HRCSD will continue to monitor the weekly metrics and keep families informed of school reopening plans. Families with K-3 students will receive an email from the HRCSD administration that includes more information regarding schools reopening.

Hood River County does not meet ODE and OHA health metrics to reopen schools for in-person instruction for students in grades 4-12. Students in grades 4-12 will remain in CDL until at least February 2, 2021, which coincides with the end of Semester One.

In order to reopen schools within HRCSD, the school district must develop and submit Operational Blueprints to the school district's board of directors, ODE, and Hood River County Health Department for review and approval. The Operational Blueprints include the health and safety precautions that schools within HRCSD must follow to safely reopen.

The district administration meets regularly to discuss logistical issues and make recommendations for the Operational Blueprints. The Operational Blueprints will be presented to the HRCSD board of directors in the public work session on October 28. Following that work session, the blueprints will be sent to ODE and Hood River County Health Department for review and approval.

HRCSD appreciates families' time and effort dedicated toward supporting their student(s) during online learning. The school district invites families to complete the [Online Learning Feedback Survey](#) to share about their experiences with online learning, either through CDL or Hood River Options Academy (HROA). HRCSD staff and teachers strive to improve programs and services for students, and families' input is valued.

HRCSD staff and teachers look forward to seeing all of their students on school campuses as soon as it is safe. In the meantime, HRCSD encourages community members to continue to wear a face mask, maintain a physical distance, stay home if sick, and wash hands frequently.