

January 21, 2021

Dear BSD Parents/Guardians,

Tuesday, January 19th, the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released updates to the [Ready Schools Safe Learners](#) guidance and [advisory health metrics](#) for returning to in-person learning.

The most significant change was to the advisory health metrics, which have now been aligned to Harvard Global health Institute recommendations. These metrics allow for a return to in-person instruction for elementary students at higher levels of community case rates than previously recommended.

Here is an excerpt from the new metrics:

Metrics & Models	On-Site	On-Site and Hybrid	Elementary On-Site and Hybrid Transition	Distance Learning
County Case Rate	<50	50 to <200	200 to ≤350	>350
Advisory Instructional Model	Prioritize on-site or hybrid	Prioritize careful phasing in of on-site or hybrid for elementary schools, starting with younger students and adding additional grades over time. Middle and high school should remain primarily in CDL with LIPI until elementary schools can demonstrate success.	Prioritize careful phasing in of on-site or hybrid for elementary students, starting with younger students and adding additional grades over time.	Prioritize Comprehensive Distance (CDL) Learning with Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI)

Aside from the changes to the health metrics, many elements of the Ready School Safe Learners guidance remain the same. These involve the need for physical distancing, which includes a requirement for each student to have 35 square feet of personal space in their classroom. Additionally, there are cohort limitations that don't allow for students to come into contact with more than 100 people per week, which continues to make scheduling for our secondary students challenging.

We are continuing planning for the return of students. This week, staff are participating in trainings on safety protocols and how to set up classrooms that meets the requirements of social distancing. We continue to plan our hybrid model for return of our students.

On February 1st through 3rd, we are conducting virtual conferences with each student and family. It is important that we know exact numbers with who is planning on returning in-person or who will continue to be in CDL (online learning). I do understand that more information is needed on exactly what our hybrid will look like. I plan on sending out updated information to parents/guardians next week with more information so you can make an informed decision on what option you choose for your child(ren).

We continue to move forward with planning and we are excited when we can return to some form of in-person learning. We have continued to increase the number of students on campus through Limited In-Person Learning.

As I stated earlier, I will send more updated information next week as we review the new guidance and requirements that were updated on Tuesday. That update will give more specific information on options for students for the remainder of the year.

Thank you for your continued patience,

Jeff Leo
Superintendent
Banks SD