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[4j_priority_mail] Return to Learning Update: New state metrics for reopening schools

From : Cydney Vandercar <vandercar_c@4j.lane.edu> Fri, Oct 30, 2020 04:35 PM
Sender : 4j_priority_mail <4j_priority_mail-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [4j_priority_mail] Return to Learning Update: New state metrics for reopening schools
To : 4J Staff <4j_priority_mail@4j.lane.edu>

Team,

Getting kids back to school in-person, safely, is a high priority for Oregon and for 4J. The Oregon Department of Education today released new guidance, adjusting the public health metrics that must be met for schools to return to teaching and learning on-site. You can find the announcement here: <https://bit.ly/3ecZr1u>

This does not mean that teachers and students will be back to school on-site right away. Most schools in our area so far have been unable to bring students back to school buildings for on-site instruction (except for some limited in-person supports for individual students), based on our local COVID-19 public health conditions and the state's metrics for schools. Lane County currently does not meet the minimum requirements to return to school in a hybrid model either for all students or for elementary grades, under either the original or revised metrics.

We continue to plan for resuming in-person learning in school buildings in a hybrid model after winter break, starting as early as the beginning of January, if public health conditions allow. The new metrics make it somewhat more likely that that will be possible.

Over the coming days and weeks, we'll be considering the new metrics and how they may affect our district's timeline and implementation of a hybrid model after winter break, applying an equity lens in our decision-making. We've learned a lot since we began the school year, and we are collecting your feedback now on distance learning so far. This will be informative as our teams review and revise our initial hybrid plans that were developed before we started school, in preparation for implementing hybrid learning in the new year.

Our priorities remain your health and safety, and our students' health, wellbeing, and academic learning.

We will share an update with parents and the public this evening. We will let you know when that message has gone out.

Be well,

Cydney

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Cydney Vandercar
Interim Superintendent
Eugene School District 4J

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