



September 23, 2020

Good Afternoon Parents, and Community,

Last week's State and County metrics were released through the week of September 19th. Following State and County Metric Reopening requirements, here is where we are:

**For Grades 4-12:** The State numbers of 10 cases or less per 100,000 and a test positivity rate of 5% or under **were not met**. This means the lion share of districts across the state **must follow Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) only**. Hybrid (in-person) learning is prohibited. (There are separate provisions for schools that started the year under Hybrid Learning and small-rural schools in Oregon).

**For Grades K-3:** Linn County **met the 30 cases or less per 100,000**, but the County **did not meet the test positivity rate of 5% or less**. This means districts in Linn County **must follow Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) only**. **Not meeting one County metric also resets the three-week cycle requirement of meeting all standards**.

For specific data references and historical data, please see [Link to State and County Metrics](#). Also, please see the ODE decision-making flowchart link "[Following the Metrics: Plan Transition](#)". This document will also explain the planning and decision-making process for other counties and small rural districts/schools in Oregon.

**The Forecast:** The good news is even adding the additional three-week cycle, we are still in the mid-October window to begin onboarding K-3 students for Hybrid instruction in Sweet Home. The challenge is and will be adapting to the possible volatility of the weekly reports. We want our kids back in school. However, we must be in compliance with county, state, and ODE metrics.

#### **Here's what we can do:**

- Continuously refine, adapt, improve, and share our best Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) practices. Are our practices perfect? Of course not--we are just beginning, and together we will improve.
- Continuously find and fix any and all gaps in the delivery of services: There are a myriad of challenges that families, students, and our district face daily. We must keep adapting to the challenges, whatever they are.
- Be abundantly aware and sensitive to our students' and families' social and emotional wellness. Students crave socialization and connection to their peers and their school programming--academics, clubs, and athletics. We need to keep working hard to connect and lift our students up during this time period.

- Continue to develop ODE Limited In-person Instruction (LII) for students: Under these ODE provisions, it is acceptable to provide limited in-person instruction to students following all health and safety OHA and ODE LII requirements. There will be more information coming. Principals and Student Services are working with our staff, families, and students on these provisions. Our Blueprint Safety Protocols submitted to the state and county enable us to utilize in-person instructional support through ODE Limited In-person Instruction.
- Lastly, it is imperative we follow all health and safety protocols. As an organization, community, county, and state, the stronger we are at stomping out COVID-19, the sooner we can get all our students back in school--and all of us back to some semblance of normalcy.

**New Chromebooks update:** We are optimistic that within the first week of October, our 500 plus shipment of new Chromebooks will arrive. What we have learned through the process, that even though Sweet Home ordered these devices in July, there is a worldwide shortage and an extraordinary demand. Beyond our 50 states and all the districts who are distance learning, we are competing with Japan, China, Europe, and beyond. As of today's status report, we have so far filled the device demands of our schools by reconfiguring and distributing our older laptops and iMacs. When the new devices come in, schools will be reaching out to families to replace older devices.

As a district, we will dig in, work together, and continue to lift our students, families, community, and each other up.

We are Sweet Home Strong!

Sincerely,

Tom Yahraes Superintendent.