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Corbett School District No. 39

To the Board Members of the Corbett School District,

I want to first thank you all for being so flexible and allowing our drivers to do other duties during these challenging times. We have slowly started transporting more and more students these past few weeks and I can see the drivers are relieved to be going back to their normal duties. I am writing in regards to the upcoming plans for return to in-person learning and how the transportation department will be impacted. It is our intention to do the most that we can in order to best meet the recommendations for workplace/student safety put out by OSHA, CDC, OHA and ODE. With that said, this will greatly reduce the capacities of our bus routes and could significantly increase the hours that the transportation staff will have to work in order to meet the transportation needs of all of our students and their families. The new cleaning protocols required for transportation will also add significant increases in the time drivers will need to work.

Currently, there are no requirements for social distancing on an Oregon School Bus. ODE recommends that students are spaced 3 feet apart on the bus. The Blueprint we are currently operating under says: As much as possible, three feet of physical distance between passengers and six feet of distance between the driver and passengers will be maintained. CDC has employer information for bus transit operators which discusses engineering and administrative controls to reduce the risk of exposure. Two items listed in this document for administrative controls are to maintain social distancing (at least 6ft) in the bus and limit the number of people on the bus at one time. One of the questions in OSHA's Exposure Risk Assessment Form asks: How have the workplace or employee job duties, or both, been modified to provide at least 6-feet of physical distancing between all individuals.

Loading and unloading the bus will not allow for 6 feet of social distancing, but we can limit the number of students on the bus and maintain 6 feet social distancing with assigned seating in order to follow the administrative controls suggested by the CDC. If we do this a 77 passenger bus will be limited to 9 seats or passengers if households are not grouped together. This puts the isolation seat for possible sick students 6 feet from the driver and 6 feet from the first available student seat. Every available student seat after will be about 6 feet away from any other passenger. This number could increase if we group families together as they are able to share seats. It appears from the survey results the number of students intending to use transportation is less than normal, but not all families filled out the survey. If the number of riders stays low, then we should be able to maintain the administrative controls suggested by the CDC without disrupting service for any of our families.

The blueprint we are currently operating under states that buses will be cleaned and sanitized between cohort routes. The focus will be to disinfect frequently touched surfaces. When we begin Hybrid, with the proposed models drivers will need to disinfect their buses at least 5 times a day. One of our disinfectants that is listed as effective against the SARS-COV-2 virus has to stay on the surface for ten minutes before being wiped down. We have wipes that are also listed that take 2 minutes to sanitize, but there is a significant cost difference between these two. Time constraints might require us to spend more for the wipes in order for our buses to be ready for the next scheduled route. The amount of time cleaning also takes away from the amount of time the drivers are able to drive.

I am confident that with careful and creative routing we can manage our time and space limitations and provide transportation for all of our students.

Thanks,
Todd Williams

