

Recommended Changes in the 2020-21 Calendar December 2020

For the 2020-21 school year the Oregon Department of Education(ODE) is allowing districts to count 90 hours of professional learning and 90 hours of parent/family communication, training or conferences towards the minimum number of required instructional hours for the year. (900 hours in grades K-8, 990 hours in grades 9-11, 966 hours in grade 12)

At this point of the year we have conducted 72 hours of professional learning activities and have conducted or scheduled 24 hours of parent/family conferences. In August, we believed that this would be enough. Due to the constantly changing COVID-19 situation and re-opening guidance we have determined we need to request more hours in both of these areas.

Recommended changes to the 2020-21 school calendar:

1. Designate two student contact days as professional learning days with the dates to be determined based on each school's schedule and reopening timeline. For example: Students in grades K-1 at the Grade School and K-2 CAPS will most likely begin on-site learning first and will need the professional learning days before teachers who teach students in the higher grades.
 - This will Increase the total professional learning hours from 72 to 88.
 - This will give the teachers time to prepare for the switch to on-site instruction at a time that matches each school's immediate need.
 - Staff will have the opportunity to participate in the required health and safety training that is up to date and based on the latest state and CDC guidelines.
 - Families will be notified of the specific dates at least a week in advance.
2. Substitute the Friday, February 19 student contact day for a parent/family conference day.
 - This will increase the family communication hours from 24 to 32.
 - The Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) guidance requires schools to conduct at least four online or offline family conferences/home visits during the 2020-21 school year.
 - Two conferences have been held. One before school began and one in October.
 - One more is scheduled in May.
 - The addition of this day will give the teachers the time they need to conduct the required conferences.
 - Conferences will include questions about how the school can best meet the needs of students and families going forward.
 - Getting this feedback in February will give the teachers and building principals the information they need to successfully serve students and families for the second half of the school year.