

# Morrow County School District

Serving the Families of Boardman, Heppner, and Irrigon in Northeastern Oregon



P.O. Box 100  
Heppner, OR 97836  
<http://www.morrow.k12.or.us>

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**DRAFT.....DRAFT.....DRAFT**

August 5, 2020

Governor Brown  
900 Court Street, Suite 254  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Brown,

In June and July, Morrow County School District (MCSD) worked on and completed school reopening plans entitled, Ready Schools, Safe Learners. One of our first steps was to survey our parents for which 70% wanted to have the school district use the Hybrid model. The other 30% wanted to use the virtual distance education model that we have successfully implemented in Morrow County School District for the past five years. MCSD completed these plans with Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) input to successfully meet the various safety requirements of cohorting, physical distancing, facial coverings, etc.

On Wednesday, July 28, you, along with the Oregon Health Authority released state metrics for reopening schools. These metrics restricted school openings at both a state and county level to ensure safety for staff and students. Based on the state metric, Morrow County School District was limited to only offering Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL). **We are desperate to have students back in school at some level given the fact that school is the safest place for most students in our school district.** In an effort to support students through an equity lens we see no other alternative but to have students back in school to some degree.

Morrow County School District is fully aware that the COVID-19 rate is extremely high in the county, but we believe that we can balance the health concern of COVID-19 with the overall safety and education of students with a different plan. We propose to you the following plan that first begins with serving our underserved students: special education (15%), English Language Learners (30%), low-socio economic (72%), students without access to technology (28%), and CTE students. If we were able to reduce our current rate of ten new positive cases a day to five, then Morrow County School District would ask that we could allow subgroups of students into our school building using a class size ratio of 1 to 10 with a maximum number of 100 students in the building at a time. Once we were able to reduce new cases to two a day, then allow all students to attend at a ratio of 1 to 10 with a maximum number of students in the buildings to 150.

*Morrow County Schools, in partnership with families and communities, provide each student the opportunity to develop values, knowledge, skills and self-confidence to become life-long learners and responsible citizens.*

Morrow County School District prohibits discrimination and harassment on any basis protected by law, including but not limited to, an individual's perceived or actual race, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, mental or physical disability, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, familial status, economic status, veterans' status, or genetic information in providing education or access to benefits of education services, activities, and programs in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and other civil rights or discrimination issues; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as amended the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.



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Current Metric	Rate
Comprehensive Distance Learning (Current MCSD plan)	Present level – 10 new cases per day
Hybrid K-3 / Hybrid 4-12	3 new cases per week / 1 new case per week

Proposed Metric for MCSD	Rate
High needs students (small group instruction) 100 students per building maximum (70 sq ft per student)	5 new cases per day
All students (small group instruction) 150 students per building maximum (70 sq ft per student)	2 new cases per day

We, the Morrow County School District Board of Directors, suggest a waiver system allowing our County Commissioners and LPHA to serve as an “authority” to approve and monitor district plans. Additionally, we agree that a probationary period needs to be established to ensure safety requirements are met with the LPHA. We believe that it would build statewide public health compliance momentum by opening small community schools. This would in turn encourage other communities to follow public health guidelines to decrease their numbers so that their schools could open using the hybrid model.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter from Morrow County School District School Board of Directors on behalf of the children and families of Morrow County.

Sincerely,

NAME OF BOARD CHAIR

Morrow County School District Board of Directors Chair