

# Rainier School District #13

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January 21, 2021

Dear Rainier School District Community,

On January 19, 2021, Oregon Department of Education Director, Colt Gil announced updates to the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) guidance. One of the biggest changes to the advisory guidance is an update to the metrics informing districts of reopening options. While the metrics provide greater flexibility for initiation of elementary hybrid, it is stated that junior and high school must be below 200 cases per 100,000, therefore limiting some of the flexibility provided to school districts.

Other changes of particular importance are:

- Transition from mandatory to advisory metrics in alignment with Governor Brown's December 23, 2020 announcement.
- Updated Metrics ([Metrics Explainer](#)).
- On-site COVID-19 testing requirement.
- Guidance for outside learning.

In light of these updates, our leadership team has been working to update our Operational Blueprint for reopening. Additionally, I continue to advocate for vaccination of our staff who choose to be vaccinated.

On Tuesday, Columbia County Case Rates were released and for the last two-week window we saw an increase in cases resulting in 301.4/100,000 cases. The plan presented at the January Special Board meeting outlined two options:

	Hybrid (option 1)	Hybrid (Option 2)	CDL	Athletics & Activities
Preschool	2/1	2/16	Continue w/o live. Students would have pre-recording and asynchronous learning	Will begin on same date as Preschool and Seniors.
K-3	2/16	2/22		
4-8	3/1	3/1		
9-11	3/15	3/8		
Seniors	2/1	2/16		

With the increase in cases last week, we require a downward trend prior to reopening, therefore "Option 1" will be unlikely. My hope is that through a community focus on safety practices and distribution of a vaccine, we will see case rates decrease which will assist us in meeting our February 16 goal.

RSD is committed to the physical and mental well-being of students and staff and is working to ensure we can meet the following conditions for bringing back students to in-person learning as soon as possible:

- 1) Provide opportunities for staff to be vaccinated.
- 2) Meet the thresholds of the advisory health metrics (for all grades).
- 3) Ensure we can abide by all required health and safety protocols outlined in the *Ready Schools, Safe Learners* guidance.

As always, if you would like clarification, have question, or wish to discuss reopening further, please contact your child's school or the district office.

Your partner in Education,

Dr. Hattrick  
Superintendent