

Reopening Washington Schools: State & District Planning for Fall 2020

Throughout the spring 2020 school facility closures due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has kept compassion, communication, and common sense at the center of our work. Partnership with the Governor's Office and the Department of Health is an ongoing element of the state planning process. Several weeks of experience through remote continuous learning has given us a starting point from which to build an even stronger educational program for the 2020–21 school year.

Now, school districts must plan for a non-traditional start to the school year and should be prepared to pivot to a more robust continuous learning model as needed based on county and state health guidance. Planning of this type engages many stakeholders and experts and led to the creation of the [Reopening Washington Schools 2020–21 Workgroup](#). This document outlines the stages and timelines districts can anticipate while preparing for fall 2020.

The Workgroup includes over 120 members, representative of the diversity of our state, who share expertise and knowledge from the following perspectives:

- Teachers, education support professionals, school support staff, school principals, and district administrators
- Appointed statutory advisory groups
- Community-based organizations
- Education partners
- Elected officials

On May 13, the Workgroup provided feedback on several potential models for reopening our schools in the fall. Several smaller groups of technical experts will build upon the Workgroup's reactions and feedback to shape the tools OSPI will publish for school districts by mid-June. The table below details the steps in OSPI's planning process. Pre-planning questions for districts to consider are also included in this document.

Timeline of Workgroup

May 13	Reopening Washington Schools 2020–21 Workgroup Kickoff Meeting
May 18–22	Pre-Planning Questions for Districts
May 25–29	• Small Group Meetings (School District Operations) • Small Group Meetings (Instructional Services)
June 1–5	Reopening Washington Schools Workgroup Update Meeting
June 8–12	Release OSPI Guidance Document & Resources



Pre-Planning Questions for Districts

The Reopening Washington Schools 2020–21 Workgroup provided feedback on several potential models for reopening schools in our state, and small groups of technical experts will be further refining the models over the next two weeks. Several states, countries, and policy groups have already released excellent resources for states and local districts to utilize when planning for fall 2020. Some of these resources are included below.

As the Workgroup continues to refine their recommendations with the goal of having the guidance out by mid-June, districts are encouraged to begin conversations at the school, district, and community levels to discuss the following considerations.

When and How to Open? <i>Example Considerations</i>	How to Serve? <i>Example Considerations</i>
- How will schools efficiently and effectively conduct health screenings? - What should expectations be for virtual and in-person student and staff attendance? - How will your selection of a learning management system provide consistency for students, staff, and families? - How will you survey staff to understand their needs for professional development and other supports? - How will you modify the grading system so it is sustainable next school year?	- How will you know which students engaged during spring 2020 continuous learning? - What kind of data have you collected and how is it going to be used to determine future student needs? - How will you disaggregate data to understand which student groups need additional or specific supports? - How will information about student connectivity and technology needs be included in district planning? - Based on what you know now, how will you serve those students who did not engage?
Related Resources	Related Resources
Learning Policy Institute Reopening Schools in the Context of COVID-19: Health and Safety, Guidelines from Other Countries - Washington Association of School Administrators K–12 District Reopening Checklist B.C.'s K–12 Education Restart Plan	OSPI Continuous Learning 2020 OSPI Student Learning and Grading Guidance OSPI Special Education Guidance for COVID-19 OSPI Supporting Multilingual/English Learners During School Closures Maryland Recovery Plan

