

Oelrichs School District Fall Reopening 2020



The Oelrichs School District's reopening plan for Fall 2020 has been developed using a variety of resources that includes guidelines and guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), South Dakota Department of Health, South Dakota Department of Education and Oglala Sioux Tribe resolutions and ordinances. This reopening plan is intended to serve as a resource and guide to all stakeholders. It is important to note that the steps set forth in this document can only mitigate, not eliminate, the spread of COVID-19. The District reserves the right to make changes to this plan to adapt to any changed circumstances.

The District's overall goal is to resume in-person instruction when it is safe and practical. As ample research shows, most students gain both academically and socially from daily interaction with peers and teachers. However, with that said, the District is committed to reopening in as safe and prudent manner as possible which means the need for a plan that incorporates creativity and flexibility in instructional practices and school operations.

The District, working with local public and health officials, will constantly monitor the community spread of COVID-19 to include areas where the majority of our stakeholders are located. Consequently, the reopening plan must take several factors into account.

First, the District will adhere to OST Ordinance 20-18 which mandates a shelter-in-place for all residents which means we are currently unable to transport students to and from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. These students, to the best of our ability, will be provided with additional resources and distance instruction to continue their education until such Ordinance is modified or rescinded.

Second, the District also serves students who reside locally and it is our intention to provide in-person instruction to the fullest extent possible. Please note that local students, with parental or guardian permission, can opt to enroll in distance education if they feel that is in their best interest. This part of our plan will be modeled around three phases of school operations:

- Phase I: low to moderate risk. The incidence rate of COVID-19 is either flat or decreasing. Other factors will include regional health care systems are operating within capacity and there is no evidence of widespread exposure in large communal or mass gatherings. In this phase, local students will receive in-person instruction.
- Phase II: Moderate Risk. The incidence rate of COVID-19 is increasing with a higher likelihood of exposure and/or transmission. In this phase, the District will move to a blended instructional model and reserves the right to take additional precautionary steps.
- Phase III: Substantial Risk. The incidence rate of COVID-19 includes large-scale community spread and with regional health care systems operating at or over capacity. In this phase, all instruction will move to a distance format.

School Start Date and Times:

The District, like many others, will alter its calendar to give teachers and staff the time and resources to reconfigure and adapt their instructional practices in this ever-changing environment. Teachers and essential staff will report to the school on August 18, 2020. Instruction, both in-person and on-line, will begin on September 8, 2020. For in-person instruction, the day will be from 8:15 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided daily. On-line students will be notified about course scheduling and requirements in August. Breakfasts and lunches will be provided to these students daily and drop off times will typically be before 2:00 p.m. Further information about delivery times will be provided in late August. Teachers will be expected to be on-site from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily.

General Guidelines:

The following will serve as general guidelines for in-person instruction:

A. Personal Protection Strategies

Pre-Screening for Students and Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents/guardians will be provided with a CDC approved checklist to screen their children at home for fever or chills, breathing difficulties, cough, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, or diarrhea.• Parents/guardians are encouraged to seek medical advice if symptomatic.• Parents/guardians should keep their children at home.• Staff will be provided with the same checklist and will be encouraged to stay home and seek medical advice if symptomatic.
Personal Protection Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face Masks/Face Shields are highly recommended when physical distancing is not possible. All students and staff will wear Face Masks/Face Shields when in hallways or common areas. While parents/guardians are encouraged to provide face coverings, the District will have masks available.• Face Marks/Face Shields are optional for students and staff during instruction. Rooms will be configured to maximize physical distancing.• Hand Sanitizer will be available near all entrances, classrooms and other common areas.• To the fullest extent possible, items such as bathroom faucets and soap dispensers will be touchless.• All water fountains for individual use will be closed. Students and staff will be encouraged to use refillable water bottles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Besides physical distancing, students, when appropriate, will be asked to “cohort” with their classmates to reduce contact with students. • Students will walk on the right side of the hallways and there will be no loitering around lockers or other common gathering areas. • Plexiglass shields will be used in high traffic areas. • Stay healthy guidelines will be provided to all students, parents/guardians and personnel. • Students will use individual school supplies and the use of group manipulatives will be eliminated to the fullest extent possible.
Food Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tables will be spread apart with seating limited to half capacity. • Lunch periods will be staggered to minimize the number of students and staff in the serving area. Students will follow assigned seating. • Whenever possible, food will be prepacked to minimize the risk of contamination. • Food service workers will wear masks and gloves. • Salad bars will be eliminated for the time-being and pre-packaged salads will be provided
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to school employees or students will be limited to reduce outside exposure. All visitors will be required to make a prior appointment and will wear a mask. • Vendors and delivery persons will only be allowed into the front entry. • Consultants will be permitted into the buildings but must make prior arrangements and practice physical distancing when appropriate. • All scheduled parent/teacher conferences and back-to-school nights will be suspended temporarily. Teachers and Parent/Guardians will be encouraged to communicate frequently.
Students and Staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms during the day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District will follow guidance from the SD Department of Health. If a student or staff member becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, the student/staff member will be isolated and then sent home. Parents/Guardians are responsible for student transportation. See the following for detailed information: https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/DOE-DOH-073020.pdf

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom and other contact areas will be thoroughly cleaned.
Positive Cases and Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District will follow guidance from the SD Department of Health. If a staff/student has been confirmed by the SD Department of Health or other recognized public health entity to be COVID-19 positive, the school will follow SD Department of Health or other recognized public health guidelines for contact tracing and school closure. The District reserves the right to exclude individuals from school based on advice from the SD Department of Health and SD Codified Law (13-28-7.3). See the following for detailed information: https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/documents/DOE-DOH-073020.pdf
Social/Emotional Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District has a full-time behavior specialist. This individual can be utilized by both on-line and in-person students.

B. Extra-Curricular Activities

Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education classes will be provided to all in-person students. The activities will be conducted following all social distancing requirements. Equipment will be sanitized between classes. Physical Education for on-line students will be provided and more details will be given in August.
Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District will not conduct field trips for at least the first quarter of school.
Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District will follow guidance from the SD High School Activities Association, SD Department of Education, SD Department of Health and OST Ordinance No. 20-18. The latter (Shelter-in-Place) prohibits students who reside on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation from participating in school sanctioned sporting events.

C. Remote Learning

Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District is currently in the process of acquiring devices for all students to facilitate on-line learning. Students in grades K-1 will use IPADs, grades 2-8 will be issued Chromebooks, and high school students will be provided with a laptop.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District is currently in the process of acquiring several dozen digital access points for families who do not have internet connectivity. The District is also working with the OST, area schools and Golden West to expand the availability of digital access points. Additional information will be forthcoming in August.
Learning Platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The District is currently in the process of assessing several communication platforms (e.g. Microsoft Teams) and Learning Management Systems (e.g. Google Classroom). The intent is to standardize both communication platforms and Learning Management Systems District-wide so students and parents/guardians will not have to learn a myriad of systems which can be time-consuming and confusing.
Expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The intent is to provide a robust learning curriculum that mirrors the District’s in-person curriculum to the fullest extent possible. Students will be expected to be “present” during school hours to engage in virtual meetings (e.g. Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom) and all assignments will be completed per instructor requirements and District policy. Grading, assessment, attendance and rigor levels will be the same for all learning options.

D. Transportation

Bussing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this point, the District will minimize student bussing due to social distancing issues. If a bus is used to transport students, the following will be observed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will be required to wear masks. Students will be assigned 1 per seat although family members may sit together. Windows will be lowered (weather permitting). Busses will be sanitized after each use. Drivers will be required to wear masks.
School Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this point, the District will also minimize students riding in school vehicles (e.g. Suburban). Given the inability to social distance, parents/guardians need to develop plans to pick up a child in the event he/she needs to be taken home during the school day.

August 5, 2020

E. SPED Services

Services	All students, whether on-line or in-person, will continue to receive appropriate services as outlined in the IEP.
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