



Ready Schools, Safe Learners

Office Hours: June 28, 2021

Office hours are designed for School and District Leaders in an effort to...

- *Provide clarity around the RSSL guidance.*
- *Create a space where questions and ideas from other practitioners may inspire new thinking or solidify current planning.*
- *Reinforce anchor ideas and values in the guidance that frame all instructional models.*
- *Offer two way communication as we work together in design and implementation of the 2020-21 school year.*

Structure for Today

Today's Facilitators: Jennifer & Scott

Today's Presenters: Colt & Kati

Today's Chat Navigators: Ashlee & Michelle & Jennifer

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Sharing on Key Topics**
- 3. Please use the chat for specific questions and sharing.**
- 4. We will record these and post them so they are available for others to view as well.**

Goals for Today

- Review some content from **the Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year**
 - Centering Equity
 - Providing Mental Health Supports
 - COVID-19 Health and Safety Advisory Protocols
- Share next steps
- Next year's focus: Extending care and connection, with a focus on renewal, resiliency, and acceleration...
- Answer clarifying questions about the Resiliency Framework

Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year

June 25, 2021

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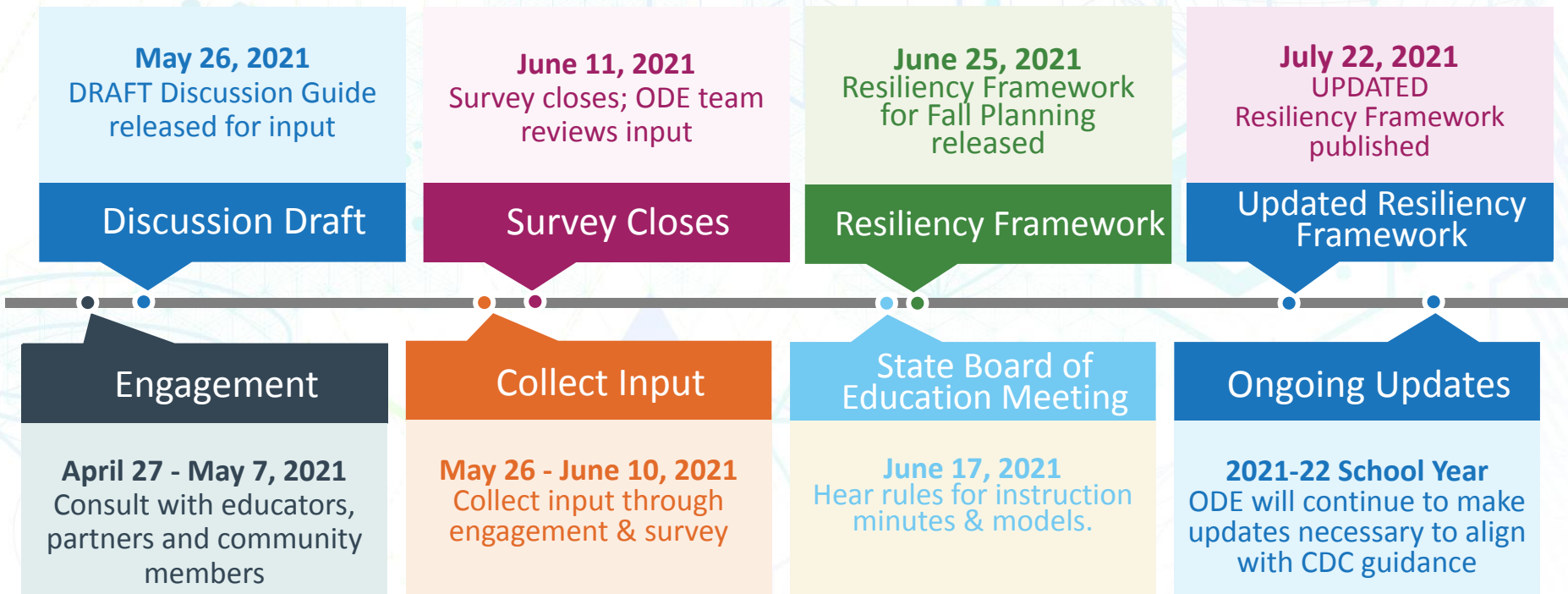


OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Oregon achieves . . . together!

Oregon's **Ready Schools, Safe Learners** **Resiliency Framework** for the 2021-22 School Year

Roadmap to Final RSSL Guidance



Effective Dates

- This **Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework for the 2021-22 School Year** replaces *Ready Schools, Safe Learners: Guidance For School Year 2020-21 version 7.5.2* issued on May 28, 2021.
- By July 22, the **Resiliency Framework** will be updated with links to additional supports for schools.
- The **Resiliency Framework** becomes effective on June 30, 2021.
- The **Resiliency Framework** may be used for summer school 2021 as well as school year 2021-22.

Going Forward: More Local Decision-Making

Oregon is entering the next chapter of the pandemic. For Oregon schools, that will mean a shift to a more traditional, local decision-making model, so that communities can make the best public health and safety decisions for their local conditions and that serve students best.

We have grown stronger as partners and as an education system as we've responded together to this pandemic over the last two school years.

We are practiced and ready to bring what we have learned forward into the next school year.

Key Takeaway

The Resiliency Framework is comprised of equity, instructional, and mental health recommendations as well as *advisory* health and safety recommendations that provide for flexibility to:

- Return to full-time, in-person instruction every school day for all students,
- Honor and recognize the uniqueness of communities across Oregon, and
- Support schools in health and safety planning to meet community-specific needs and strengths.

The transition to *advisory* guidance adds new flexibility *and* new responsibilities

Equity

Guiding Values Unchanged:

- Ensure safety and wellness.
- Center health and well-being.
- Cultivate connection and relationship.
- Prioritize equity.
- Innovate.

Safeguarding student opportunity remains critical.

Mental Health Supports

- **Prioritize student and staff health and well-being** to attend to academic achievement.
- **Devote several days of time and space at the beginning of the school year**, and ample opportunities throughout the year, for students and staff to connect and build relationships in and out of the classroom.
- **Provide ample class time at the beginning of the school year, as well as ongoing time, space, and creative opportunities and outlets** (art, music, movement/dance, creative writing, clubs and interest groups etc.) for students and staff to make sense of their experiences, and to process personal and professional stresses, emotions, trauma, grief.
- Prioritize linking students with **culturally responsive mental health services and supports**.

As Schools Plan for COVID-19 Health and Safety...

As schools plan for the fall 2021 in person school year, it is important to remember:

- Our communities will be living with the virus until there is widespread immunity.
- COVID-19 continues to mutate with new variants, and our knowledge of mitigation efforts evolves over time. For these reasons the guidance for responding to COVID-19 also evolves.
- Right now, the best tools to protect individuals who are not able or eligible to be vaccinated are:
 - physical distancing,
 - face coverings,
 - ventilation and airflow, and
 - handwashing.
- Opportunity for transmission decreases with each mitigation effort that is implemented.

The Washington Post

Coronavirus infections dropping where people are vaccinated, rising where they are not, Post analysis finds

By [Dan Keating](#), [Naema Ahmed](#), [Fenit Nirappil](#), [Isaac Stanley-Becker](#) and [Lenny Bernstein](#)

June 14, 2021

States with higher vaccination rates now have markedly fewer [coronavirus](#) cases, as infections are dropping in places where most residents have been immunized and are rising in many places people have not, a Washington Post analysis has found.

States with lower vaccination also have significantly higher hospitalization rates, The Post found. Poorly vaccinated communities have not been reporting catastrophic conditions. Instead, they are usually seeing new infections holding steady or increasing without overwhelming local hospitals.

As recently as 10 days ago, vaccination rates did not predict a difference in coronavirus cases, but immunization rates have diverged, and case counts in the highly vaccinated states are dropping quickly.

The Atlantic

Expect the Unexpected From the Delta Variant

There's no way of knowing how bad things will get in the U.S. In a way, that's a luxury.

By Sarah Zhang

June 18, 2021

This much is clear: The coronavirus is becoming more transmissible. Ever since the virus emerged in China, it has been gaining mutations that help it spread more easily among humans. The Alpha variant, first detected in the United Kingdom last year, is 50 percent more transmissible than the original version, and now the Delta variant, first detected in India, is at least 40 percent more transmissible than Alpha.

What's less certain, however, is how the virus's increased transmissibility will affect the pandemic in the United States. Alpha's arrival prompted worries about a new surge in the spring, but one never came. The proportion of Alpha cases kept going up, but the total number of cases kept going down. People got vaccinated. Alpha became dominant in the U.S. Cases fell even further. The virus had become more biologically transmissible, but it wasn't being transmitted to more people.

OAR and ORS Requirements

- **New:**
 - Operational plan
 - COVID-19 recovery services
- **Pre-Pandemic:**
 - Communicable Disease Plan
 - Isolation Space
 - Instructional Time
 - Instructional Materials
 - State Assessments
 - Attendance and enrollment

Local Decision Making In Action

- Equity - Attend to disproportionately impacted communities and students - Use a [decision tool](#).
- Be attentive to layers of health and safety protections, rather than relying on a single measure. Prevention means saving lives. It also means less time in isolation and quarantine and more time in school.
- With locally flexibility for health and safety protections, clear understanding becomes critical:
 - Invest in staff training for all your school staff and volunteers.
 - Teach new protocols to students with fidelity.
 - Develop clear communication tools for your community and visitors.

Local Collaboration Remains Important

- Decisions about when or how schools respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 involve collaboration across multiple actors.
- When determining how to best support in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year, schools should work in a collaborative manner with local public health authorities (LPHAs).
- In *general* **decisions of school health and safety reside with school and district officials.**
- School administrators are required to **exclude from school staff or students** whom they have reason to suspect have been exposed to COVID-19. (**OAR 333-019-0010; OAR 333-019-0010**)

Advisory = Flexibility and Responsibility

- *Advisory* protocols are based on CDC guidelines, with clarifications and refinement from OHA
- *Advisory* protocols were developed with a mostly unvaccinated population in mind
- *Advisory* protocols call out the importance of layers of key mitigation tools
- Local decision-making will determine how/when these mitigation protocols are implemented

Advisory and Impact on Liability Concerns

On June 25, Governor Kate Brown signed a recovery-focused executive order lifting all remaining COVID-19 health and safety restrictions issued under Oregon's emergency statutes. The recovery order extends the emergency declaration for specific purposes related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- **In the RSSL Resilience Framework:** *"The vast majority of health and safety measures in this Resiliency Framework are advisory, and are offered to schools to support successful full-time, in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. Where this framework does not require a specific action by a school district, a district may choose whether to consider or implement advisory information or recommendations."*
- **In the RSSL Resilience Framework:** *"Nothing in this framework is intended to provide legal advice. ODE encourages districts to consult with their own legal counsel and to consider other state and federal guidance and laws when implementing any recommendations."*

Advisory Health and Safety Protocols

KEY PRACTICES FOR REDUCING SPREAD OF COVID-19 IN SCHOOLS

The mainstays of reducing exposure to the coronavirus and other respiratory pathogens are:



Vaccination – The most powerful tool available to stop the spread of COVID-19.



Protective Equipment – Use of face coverings, barriers and face shields.



Cohorts – Conducting all activities in small groups that remain together over time with minimal mixing of groups.



Physical Distancing – At least three feet with other people.



Isolation & Quarantine – Isolation separates sick people from people who are not sick. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.



Hand Hygiene – Frequent washing with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.



Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection – Especially of high touch surfaces.



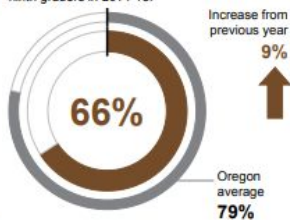
Airflow & Circulation – Outdoor activities are safer than indoor activities; maximize airflow in closed spaces.

Next Steps...

- RSSL and additional materials, resources, toolkits, and a complete and updated guidance document will be released by July 22.
- Develop and implement an inclusive process to create quality standards for online learning in Oregon.

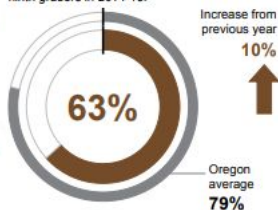
ON-TIME GRADUATION

Students earning a diploma within four years.
Cohort includes students who were first-time
ninth graders in 2014-15.



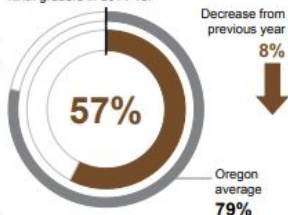
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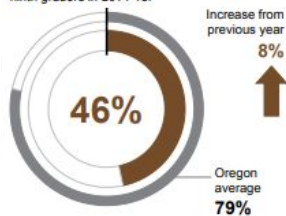
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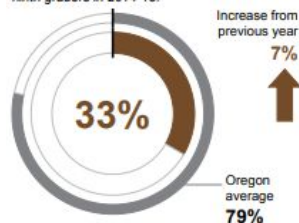
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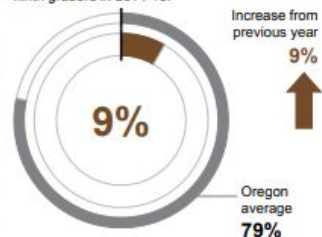
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Shifting the Narrative

SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

"Learning Loss"

Unfinished
Learning

"Remediation"

Acceleration

"Recovery"

Renewal

- This is a strength-based framework, focused on resilience for our students, staff and families
- ODE released an [Unfinished Learning Framework](#) reframing much the deficit-centered language in the field and media that center on Learning Loss, Recovery, and Remediation.



Clarifying Questions?

