



Building Our Road Back To School

Granger School District
COVID-19 Reopening & Response Plan

Introduction

This document presents several strategies and considerations intended to provide plans for Granger School District's (GSD) community and schools in preparation for a successful re-entry into the 2020-21 school year. This planning document will likely change, be amended, or augmented as we continue to learn more about COVID-19 and the conditions surrounding the crisis. The district will follow the most recent requirements and guidance from the Yakima Health Department, Labor and Industry, and OSPI.

Our Vision

To develop essential actions required for a safe, equitable, efficient and cohesive return to the 2020- 21 school year.

- Address the physical, mental and emotional health of our students, staff and community
- Provide an equitable education for each student
- Engage the whole community in finding the most appropriate solutions
- Meet the essential needs of students so they can be fully present in learning

Our Starting Points

Teaching, engaging, and inspiring students in schools is our ultimate goal. Doing so in the time of COVID-19 requires careful planning and preparation. In beginning this work, district staff acknowledged that factors beyond local control may impact reopening plans. It is also possible that the reopening of Granger School District schools will not resemble that of other school districts across the state due to Yakima County designation in a more restrictive phase of the state's Safe Start plan. Finally, the district needs to be prepared for the possibility that school buildings could close again if the risk from COVID-19 resurges. Guidance, recommendations and direction from state leaders in education, public health and labor were all considered in all district planning. District staff also knew that engaging students, families, staff and community members in planning efforts would be critical to success.

Our Process

Developing a plan to reopen our schools required collaboration with everyone in the **GSD** community. This was paired with the additional challenge of developing reopening plans in a very short time frame—by **July 27**—to allow the district, families and staff to plan themselves. Here is how the district started with public input and used it to inform and shape how the district would move toward welcoming students back in the fall.

Stakeholder Input

The district relied on online surveys to ensure the broadest reach and engagement possible in planning efforts. Staff, student, and parent perceptions will be gathered around:

- Safe & Supported Learning Environment
- Transportation & Food Safety
- Teaching & Learning
- Access & Engagement
- Scheduling & Staffing

Return to School Working Groups

District and school leaders, teachers, and other school staff identified challenges of reopening our schools and considered potential solutions informed by stakeholder input, current community conditions and state-level guidance related to COVID-19. Those potential solutions were provided to the district's Return To School Committee to craft recommendations

Granger School Board

The Board will review the recommendations and make the final determination on the district's path toward reopening schools.

Our Plan

These recommendations are dependent upon Yakima County being, at a minimum, in Phase 2 of Washington's Safe Start Plan by August 17th. **If Yakima County remains below Phase 2, students and their families should be prepared to begin the 2020-21 school year in a full at-home learning model.**

More information for the start of the 2020-21 school year will be shared with the community later in the summer of 2020.

It is possible that even if schools open to some in-person instruction at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, school buildings may be ordered to close at some point during the year either in response to an isolated outbreak or worsening conditions in the community from COVID-19. The district will transition to an at-home learning model if a closure should occur.

School Operations (Scenario 1)

Schools will operate in a hybrid model that mixes in-person instruction in classrooms with at-home learning. These models are necessary to ensure the district meets physical distancing requirements in schools as set by the Washington Department of Health (DOH). Families will have the option to choose a Continuous 2.0 (distance learning) model regardless of county phase during the 2020-21 school year.

This hybrid model could follow a variety of formats including:

- Students spend alternate days learning at school and days at home
- Students with more intensive learning needs (special education) may have more in-person instruction than other students
- Option for families to choose Continuous Learning 2.0 (Distance Learning)

Hybrid Schedule

Day of week	Mond.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Friday
Group A	In person	In person	Remote	Remote	Remote
Group B	Remote	Remote	Remote	In person	In person

*Wednesday: Distance Learning, PLCs, Professional Development

Every effort will be made to accommodate family needs with any format (e.g. having a family's students all attend school on the same day, etc.).

School Operations (Scenario 2)

Granger School District will implement Distance learning 2.0, at home learning model due to the Yakima Department of Health requirements. Granger School District will work with students and families to engage them in high quality learning through consistent online platforms, schedules and support.

Physical distancing requirements

Physical distancing of 6 feet will be required in the 2020-21 school year during the school day. We are required to do adjustments to our district-wide operations to meet OSPI and Department of Health requirements. District and school staff will develop action plans to meet these requirements while preserving the breadth of services as much as possible.

Wellness & Hygiene

Schools will have set standards in place for students and staff to self-assess for illness before arriving on campus. Students will be screened as they arrive at schools, which may include temperature checks and questions regarding how they are feeling. The district will work with state and local health authorities in developing procedures to address students or staff who become ill at school, communicate with families about potential or verified exposure to COVID-19 and when to quarantine students and staff in response to a potential or verified exposure to COVID-19.

All individuals inside schools—staff, students, parents, other visitors—**will be required to wear cloth face coverings** as directed by DOH and the Washington Department of Labor & Industries. There are limited circumstances under which individuals unable to wear a mask for health or behavioral reasons may instead wear face shields.

Schools will establish training and positive reinforcement of good hygiene practices among students and staff, including hand washing procedures.

Custodial staff will augment their cleaning regimens to align with requirements set by DOH to minimize the risk

of any possible transmission of COVID-19.

Student & Staff Mental Health

The disruption to our community caused by COVID-19 and the precautions taken to limit its spread have taken a toll on students and staff alike. Schools will designate mental health liaisons for the 2020-21 school year to coordinate resources and assistance for students struggling with the impacts of the pandemic. Staff will continue to have an Education Assistance Program to support their needs. There will also be an ongoing effort to bring more resources and staff to assist students as much as possible. The district recognizes the need for social-emotional learning and is a critical component as students transition back into our schools. During the COVID-19 crisis, depression, anxiety, and stress are all at heightened levels. The district will provide additional training for staff on social emotional learning and how to meet student needs regardless of the educational model.

Instruction

Teachers, administrators and other stakeholders reviewed state learning standards and the district’s own curriculum resources to begin crafting an intentional and cohesive instructional plan. This plan will be flexible and adaptable to a variety of potential learning circumstances, whether students are at-home, in school or a mix of both. This includes:

- Distillation of essential learning standards
- Strategies to support inclusionary practices, instruction, and student feedback
- Staff professional development

A set of learning platforms will be used to keep instruction and communication consistent across the district:

- Google Education Suite & Google Classroom(4-12)
- Zoom K-12
- Classroom Dojo/Seesaw (K-3)

Staff will be trained on these platforms and parents will be provided training and resources to help them work with their children at home and connect with teachers. Student academic work will be graded as during a typical school year. There are currently no changes in the state graduation requirements for the Class of 2021 in response to COVID-19.

Support For Special Populations

The district’s Special Education department is developing plans and procedures to ensure students with disabilities receive their special education services and support (including specially designed instruction or SDI) in-person at school as much as possible. These efforts will be aligned with each student’s Individual Education Program (IEP) while following requirements for physical distancing and public health. The intention is to build a plan that allows students to receive programs as outlined in the IEP under conditions that maintain physical distancing and safety. Further guidance from OSPI on serving students receiving special education services is expected and will be incorporated into the district’s reopening plan. Similarly, the district’s English

language learner program will work to ensure the students receiving its services are supported and continue to make progress.

Cocurricular & Extracurricular Activities

Every effort will be made to preserve the cocurricular and extracurricular programming that sets GSD schools apart and which many in our community deeply care for. These activities, which include the performing arts and athletics, are also subject to public health requirements for physical distancing and cloth face coverings. Further guidance from OSPI, DOH, and Washington Interscholastic Athletics & Activities (WIAA) is forthcoming and will be incorporated into this plan.

Post-Secondary

High school students depend on schools to help them explore opportunities for their future after graduation. The school counselor, administrators and other school staff will continue to provide resources and services to students considering their options and will respond to any limits on typical delivery models by modifying activities or providing alternatives.

Technology

The district's Technology Initiative includes system-wide upgrades. Over 600 computers were purchased this summer to support distance and in-person learning. The GHS has a hotspot located in the parking lot behind the competition gym to support students access to the Internet.

Assess need for additional capacity and support

Continuity and consistency in planning and communication is important when considering opening schools in the fall. As such, GSD has developed a network of state and local contacts for the purposes of coordinating efforts, providing continuity, developing strategies and seeking assistance.

The Superintendent has maintained contact and provided information to district staff and planning teams. This will continue moving forward. As status and responsibility changes in the GSD, others will be identified to carry on these communications.

Currently, the following agencies and individuals are included in regularly scheduled Zoom meetings regarding COVID-19 topics:

- Kevin Chase, Superintendent, ESD 105
- Ryan Ibach, "local decision maker", Yakima Health District
- All ESD 105 Superintendents
- OSPI

Reopening Scenarios

Being prepared for the start of the 2020-21 school year includes contingency planning for the possibility of future emergency short-notice school closures. Such strategic planning begins with an evaluation of the response to 2019- 2020 closure. Contingency planning must include a focus on the continuation of teaching and learning and all key functions of the GSD. The district will consider multiple scenarios for reopening schools and closing schools in the middle of the year with a goal to move to online instruction.

Scenario Planning:

- School begins on time face-to-face learning (Social Distancing) and families have an option to choose Continuous 2.0 distance learning
- School begins on time then closes due to a second COVID wave
- School begins remotely as determined by Yakima Health Department

Establish the Return to School Schedule for Fall 2020

Proposals for each opening scenario published in the June 11, 2020 OSPI Guidance have been analyzed to include OSPI restrictions and requirements and impacts on associated staff, students and families. There are two scenarios currently under consideration for the possible opening of school beginning in the fall of 2020 should full onsite learning not be feasible:

- Rotating Schedule & Continuous Learning 2.0 Distance Learning Option
- Continuous Learning 2.0

Each scenario poses its own set of challenges and will be influenced by health considerations, funding, space, transportation, and facility design/limitations. Each scenario must be fully considered and each impact and limitation outlined to allow for a decision regarding opening and to shift at any time based on conditions.

*Please note that due to social distancing requirements face-to-face learning for all students is not attainable due to needed class size, etc.

Prevent the spread of infection and promote wellness

GSD will implement district-wide health guidelines in compliance with local and state agency directions. All students, staff, volunteers, and guests must wear cloth face coverings in K-12 settings per state requirements. (Cloth face coverings should not be worn by those with a disability that prevents them from comfortably wearing or removing a face covering; those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing; those who are deaf or hard of hearing and use facial and mouth movements as part of communication; or those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.)

Staff and students with any illness must stay home. Staff and students will be checked for signs of illness at entry each day. Screening will include the following questions:

- Do you/Does your student have any of the following symptoms (on the first day after a break or for a new student, please ask about symptoms in the past three days [72 hours]):
 - A cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fever of 100.4°F or higher or sense of having a fever A sore throat
 - Chills
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea

Congestion/running nose—not related to seasonal allergies

Unusual fatigue

- Does anyone in your household have any of the above symptoms?
- Has your student been in close contact with anyone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19?
- Has your student had any medication to reduce a fever before coming to school?

The student must be excluded from school if the answer to any of the above questions is “yes.” If the answer to all of the above questions is “no,” check the student for signs of being sick, such as flushed cheeks or tiredness. Keep a distance of at least six feet of space or have a physical barrier between you and the student during assessment.

Any child or school staff who develops respiratory symptoms while at school should be provided and wear a surgical mask, quarantined in a health isolation area that the district identifies and sent home until cleared to return to school by a qualified health professional.

GSD may institute limited contact policies which may include limiting close contact between students; amend schedules and spread desks/seating arrangements to conform with physical distancing guidelines; and utilizing virtual meetings when possible.

GSD will train staff in health and safety protocols, including how to screen for symptoms, maintaining physical distance, wearing and using appropriate PPE, frequent cleaning and handwashing, and what to do if someone develops signs of COVID-19. Staff will be trained on the reporting procedures and requirements regarding COVID-19 illnesses and/or possible exposure to COVID-19. School health room practices/procedures have been developed for dealing with COVID-like symptoms in students and staff. The district will communicate regularly with families

and staff, and emphasize the importance of staying home when sick, physical distancing of six feet, and hand hygiene.

Staff and students will be introduced to best practices of hand washing by using and posting signage. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Children and adults should wash hands when they arrive at school, before meals or snacks, after outside time, after going to the bathroom, after nose blowing or sneezing, and before leaving to go home. Staff will assist young children to make sure they are washing their hands correctly.

Staff will train students (and adults) not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand gel with at least 60 percent alcohol (preferably fragrance-free). Supervise use of alcohol-based hand gel by young children. Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. Clean hands with soap and water or hand gel.

Communicate to parents that children must have current vaccinations before the start of school. Once COVID-19 vaccinations become available, the district will comply with new regulations from the Washington State Department of Health. Some school-based health screenings that require close contact may be modified or deferred (hearing, vision, etc). Screenings should follow NASN, local, state, and national guidelines. If screening cannot be done within the guidelines, screening will be delayed until Covid-19 health risk has been reduced.

Assessment

Preschool, Elementary, Middle and High School Assessment Recommendations

The district recommends a priority be placed on scheduling diagnostic testing within the first three weeks of school regardless of the model.

Grades

K-12 Grading Recommendations

The district recommends following OSPI guidance regarding grading. This recommendation includes returning to the traditional grading model.

Professional Development Recommendations

- Essential standards, assessment, PBIS, and PLCs
- Online instructional tools (Google Education Suite & Google Classroom, Zoom, Seesaw, Class Dojo, etc.)
- Social-Emotional Learning focused on the transition of students back into our schools. Establishing classroom routines to ensure safety (masks, handwashing, social distancing, transitioning)

Paraeducators Support Learning

Granger School District sees immense value in the work that paraprofessionals do on a daily basis to assist in the instructional process and outcomes for students. Since this work is made more difficult online, we have had open discussions about what paras could do in the future to assist learning if the district is restricted to entirely at-home learning or a blended model of at-home and at-school learning.

Common Platforms

As we move into reopening in 2020-21, there is a high likelihood that some (if not all) of our students might be learning from home at some point during the year. We want to make this as easy as possible for parents who have multiple students at multiple grades. We are going to this by reducing the number of different learning

management systems, platforms, and apps that teachers use. Narrowing the number of platforms and apps used will also help us provide better support for our teachers through targeted professional development and technical support.

For the 2020-21 school year, the Granger School District will be focusing on these central instructional technology tools :

- Google Education Suite & Google Classroom (4-12 classroom tools and learning management)
- Zoom (K-12 Live video/recorded)
- Class Dojo, Seesaw (K-3)

Opportunities for training on these platforms will be provided to teachers through professional development. Individual schools will develop site-specific plans to align parent communication tools, and reduce the number of supplemental apps teachers use beyond the recommended instructional tools.

Maintenance & Operations

GSD Maintenance & Operations (M&O) primary responsibility is providing a clean and safe physical school environment. Below are services we are implementing to achieve our goal of a safe reopening of our schools and our ability to respond to additional COVID-19 or other health issues.

Personal Protective Equipment, Supply and Use

We have examined our job functions in light of the COVID-19 concerns and will be issuing updates in our PPE supplies and usage procedures. We have increased our PPE district-wide to be in accordance with OSPI and DOH guidelines. In conjunction with the ESD 105 Cooperative, our department has assisted in the purchase of PPE for the GSD, and will organize the distribution of these materials.

Employee Fever/Health Checks

The GSD will utilize a daily attestation through Frontline for all staff members. The district will install InfraRed (IR) scanning systems within each building to screen students. Daily health checks are required daily by OSPI and Yakima health department.

COVID-19 Event Response

We are developing response protocols for use within the district regarding COVID-19 concerns. M&O are also developing a process to quickly secure, clean and disinfect any potentially contaminated area.

Custodial Training/Assistance to District Staff

Our custodial staff are trained in disinfection techniques, processes, and procedures. We have implemented new training and protocols aligned to CDC recommendations and requirements. Prior to the start of school maintenance and custodial staff will be trained in these new procedures.

Food Service

The district will continue to provide meals for students regardless of the educational model (i.e., distance learning, rotating schedule, etc). Gathering size will be limited and students may be eating meals within their classroom to limit mixing of classrooms and groups. Mealtimes will be staggered to arrange the flow of students to reduce crowding in typically busy areas such as handwashing sinks, food vending areas, etc.

Transportation

The district will continue to provide busing for all students within their appropriate boundary. According to DOH and OSPI buses can be occupied at normal capacity, but the district will provide clear protocols for students to maximize physical distance on the bus for as long as possible. All students riding the bus are required to wear a face cloth covering and additional paraeducator support will be provided to assist students on bus routes. The transportation department will reconsider bus routes to ensure that the furthestest pick-ups and drop-offs have the fewest students on the bus. Windows on buses will remain open to increase ventilation when weather and air quality permits.

Supporting Materials

Reopening plans for schools must be aligned with guidance and comply with state and federal directives to provide all students access to a free and appropriate public education. The resources listed below informed the district's reopening efforts to ensure plans are equitable and in compliance with requirements.

- [**Yakima Health District**](#)
- [**Considerations For Schools \(CDC\)**](#)
- [**Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District Planning Guide \(OSPI\) Safe Start Washington Plan \(WA Governor\)**](#)