



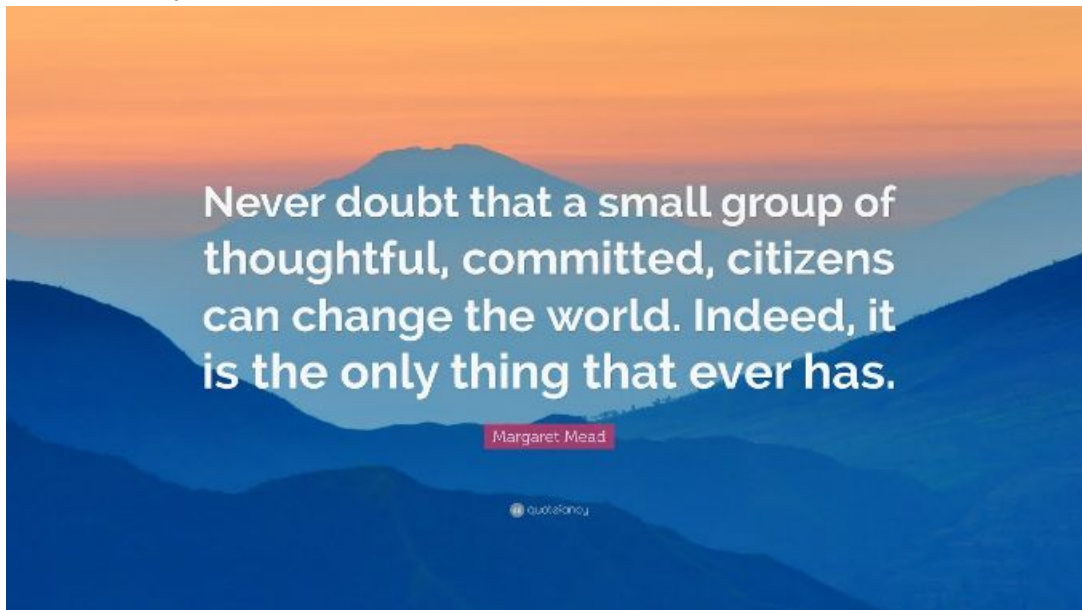
Ellensburg School District #401

1300 East Third Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926, www.esd401.org, Phone: 509-925-8000, Fax: 509-925-802

June 19, 2020

Dear Amazing ESD TEAM: Parents and Staff,

We made it to the finish line! Thank you for your commitment (through our last three somewhat turbulent months) to working together to support the needs of our students. More than ever, we pulled together to do our best for children. It has been a really hard road for many, to both support their child's school work and their daytime jobs. Thank you for the many sacrifices that have been made this year to continue the educational process for our students. While we have had our ups and downs (including Zoom fatigue), we continued to press forward to do our best to connect with students and promote their learning. I have used this quote before, but we put it in action this year.



We worked together as this small group (in the context of our world), and when we support our children, we are supporting the potential for a brighter future for all of us.



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Looking Forward to the 2020-2021 School Year

I appreciate our Ellensburg community and the willingness of all of our stakeholders (parents, students, staff) to engage in dialogue concerning the instructional model that will best fit the needs of our students and families in Ellensburg School District. We successfully facilitated nine focus groups with over 200 stakeholders to ask for their input concerning the reopening of schools for next year. These groups included:

- June 9: Two student focus groups, one group with special education parents
- June 15: Three focus groups: Two with elementary and then secondary staff and one with our Spanish speaking parents
- June 16: Two focus groups: one with elementary parents and then one with secondary parents
- June 18: Two focus groups with special education parents

On June 17th, we facilitated a meeting with over 70 stakeholders (parents, students, staff) to review the feedback from the focus groups regarding different instructional models, and we attempted to come to consensus regarding one instructional model. The outcome of this meeting was that all participants were able to hear multiple perspectives which is important to understanding the complexities involved with reopening schools. Many stakeholders left that meeting with a better understanding of the difficulty of this decision. After much dialogue, we as a group were not able to reach an overall consensus of choosing one model over another.

Therefore, in order to gather more information from stakeholders, we are asking all parents and staff to give us their feedback concerning their preferences for the model that will best fit ESD by clicking on this [link](#). We are also considering the possibility of starting school with the hybrid model and then transitioning into a more “all back to school” scenario. The chart below demonstrates another way to look at these scenarios.



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ESD BACK TO SCHOOL OPTIONS

Bring All Students Back (Full Time)	Hybrid Model (Modified)	ESD Virtual Academy
<p style="text-align: center;">K-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five days a week • All students will have access to a district-provided Chromebook, as needed. • Physical distancing: while six feet may not be possible in all circumstances, physical distancing to the extent possible will be expected • Enhanced cleaning and safety protocols • Face coverings are required (with potential exceptions as approved by Dr. Mark Larson). • Elementary classrooms stay together at recess. • Materials will not be shared. • Electives/specials will observe physical distancing and safety protocols. • Social and emotional support to promote student, staff and family wellness 	<p style="text-align: center;">Pre K-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five days per week • Blended model that provides both in-person (2 days) and remote learning (3 days) experiences • Students who have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) may attend daily, dependent upon the IEP team decision. • Allows for physical distancing by reducing the number of students in the classroom • While on campus, students will adhere to all in-person learning experience protocols. • All students will have access to a district-provided Chromebook, as needed. • May participate in extracurricular activities and high school athletics, following in-person guidelines and safety measures • Social and emotional support to promote student and family well-being 	<p style="text-align: center;">K-12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five days a week or hours equal to this time period • All students will have access to a district-provided Chromebook. • All classes will be conducted on a district purchased online courseware platform with teacher oversight. • Students will experience a high-quality online curriculum through ESD Distance Learning Program (K-12). • Social and emotional supports will be available to promote student and family well-being. • Students will be able to participate in extracurricular activities and high school athletics, following the in-person guidelines and safety measures. • The special education team will work with families to schedule required in-person therapies, including tele-therapy when appropriate.



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As a friendly reminder, we will be presenting our official recommendation to the ESD Board of Education at the June 24th Board meeting starting at 6:00 pm. A special thank you to Dr. Mark Larson, Kittitas County Public Health Officer for also being able to attend this meeting to answer questions that the Board may have regarding the recommended model for next year. We encourage you to attend, and the Zoom address will be shared on Monday when this meeting is officially posted.

Again, thank you for your dedication to providing a quality education for our students. I personally believe that we are designed for human connections, and we are eager to bring our students back to school. Working together we will identify a model for next year that will best fit the needs of students and empower them to thrive.

Sincerely,

Jinger Haberer, ESD Superintendent