

Reopening Planning Mount Vernon's Remote PLUS Model for a Safe Start

Summary of Model

Mount Vernon's Remote PLUS Model features opening schools on September 2 with a remote learning model **PLUS** a level of "at-school" opportunities for specifically identified students. This would provide targeted students some opportunities for face-to-face instruction with staff. **PLUS** services would support special needs students, English language learners, kindergartners, and other students "furthest from educational justice." Mount Vernon would remain in this model up to December 18. The status of public health in our community will be monitored and our plan will be modified as appropriate for the second half of the school year.

Rationale for the *Mount Vernon's Remote PLUS Model*

- Skagit County's data points are not improving. The State's data points are not improving. This leads to more restrictive requirements and suggests those restrictions are unlikely to improve in the immediate future. Returning to “at-school” learning in this environment is modeled to increase the number of cases.
- With any “at school” model it is highly likely that we will quickly have staff and student cohorts quarantined due to exposures. This will create significant disruptions and no predictable teaching/learning model. Students and staff perform most effectively with a stable, consistent instructional plan where expectations for attendance/engagement and learning are implemented.
- It is very difficult to keep cohorts of students separated. Think about secondary school schedules. Even at elementary a cohort of 4th graders will see several staff over the course of a week, such as PE, Music, Library and other specialists. Exposures will subject larger numbers to quarantine because of "cross-cohort" interactions.
- Committing to this approach now allows all district resources and energy to focus on improving the “at-home” model, based upon learning from our spring experiences.
- Committing to this approach now allows district staff to focus on opportunities for specifically identified students with unique needs, such as kindergarteners, special needs learners, and other students “furthest from educational justice,” to have some level of “at-school” or in-person interaction with staff. These will be tightly managed experiences, while adhering to all OSPI/DOH/L&I guidance. Services to these learners is the ***PLUS in Mount Vernon's Remote PLUS Model.***
- Committing to this approach now would provide parents with a "known" model earlier in order to make child-care plans. It helps us develop ways that we can contribute to child care options, as we did during the spring, and perhaps as partners with local child care providers. It also gives local child care providers an opportunity to develop programs during normal school hours for school-aged children.

Next Steps in Remote PLUS Development

- July 29 MVSD School Board Meeting
 - Continue focused work on remote teaching and learning
 - Clarifying expectations for teachers and other staff for remote teaching
 - Begin identifying PLUS components of the plan (transportation implications)
 - Continue work on surveying/communicating with parents and staff
 - Continue work on grading practices and attendance practices
 - Continue work on meal planning
 - Build off of tech support from the spring
 - Continue work on staff and student daily check-in procedures as per health department guidelines
 - Finalize exposure protocols and reporting/contact tracing by Skagit County Health Department
 - Continue childcare planning similar to the spring, partnering with other childcare providers
 - August 5 MVSD School Board Meeting
- Resolution supporting reopening plan as required by OSPI