

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Stacie Olano

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

All Students and teachers (staff) at a MINIMUM need to be wearing masks. Covid vaccines should be required for those who are able to get it, just like all the other vaccines that are required for public school.

Submitted: 7/23/2021 20:07:22

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Stephanie Wagner

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

If there is not a mandatory mask policy for elementary school students this upcoming year, my daughter will not be attending kindergarten. My number one priority is keeping my daughter safe, and if masks are not required for students who are not vaccinated against Covid-19, school is no longer a safe environment for kids.

Vaccinations are required for kids to attend school, why should a mask requirement be any different? Masks are the only way to protect children from Covid-19. We are still living in a pandemic, and if we choose to ignore the science and recommendations from Public Health Experts, we are putting our children at risk.

What support will the school district be offering to families who are not comfortable sending their children to school if there is not a mask mandate? Would you assist in connecting families who are not comfortable sending their kids to school to form groups in order for them to socially interact? My family has been socially distancing since the beginning of this pandemic, and my daughter needs to have social interaction with kids her own age. It is not fair to the families and children who have been adhering to safety guidelines throughout Covid to either put children in an unsafe learning environment, or have them miss out altogether because people are tired of wearing a mask.

Submitted: 7/25/2021 10:47:39

Public Comment:

Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings/Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona.

Daniel Farrington

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

I would like the data for SOR's make public from 2016 to the present! I have only heard success stories! I'm worried about the safety of all children in our school district.

I would like to see the curriculum for 2021-2022 K-8 grade made public for everyone's review, I have grand children in the district.

Thank you!

Submitted: 7/25/2021 13:50:09

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Naomi Khan

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

Dear Board, I have worked as a Psychotherapist in the Salem Community with kids and families for over 30 years and love Howard Street School. I am writing to voice my concern over masking children. We do not yet know the full psychological effect in development of our young people in not being able to read full faces. We do know that facial expressions are important to developing emotional well being. There are some educated voices that also speak of being masked all day as dangerous to our health, an increase in carbon dioxide. It is also known that children rarely get Covid 19 and if they do they have mild cases. I am concerned that masking does more harm than good and would hope you will consider letting families decide if they are going to mask or not. Sincerely Naomi Khan

Submitted: 7/25/2021 14:50:00

Public Comment:

Public Comment Proposal for In-person Board Meetings/Propuesta relacionada con la presentación de los comentarios públicos en las reuniones de la Mesa Directiva en persona.

Melissa L. Stephenson

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Keizer

I would like receive a copy of the curriculum for the fall school opening. I want to see the lesson plans and classroom discussion materials so that I can see what you are teaching children about CRT, Human Sexuality, Transgender Issues, LGBTQ, Gender Identity and Formation of the Family. Thank you for teaching our children. I look forward to working with you.

Submitted: 7/25/2021 20:10:15

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Jenifer Trivelli

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Salem Keizer School Board Members,

I am not writing you today to debate the efficacy of masking our youth in schools. I'm not even here as the mother of an 11 year old who is medically exempt and on a 504 plan, but because her physical disability (genetic heart condition) is not visible, any accommodation the school can provide would exclude and isolate her (whether physically or socially) from her peers.

I'm writing to you as an expert in social-emotional education and resilience training for our community's youth since 2011.

I'd like to start the conversation with some definitions of trauma and resilience from the fields of trauma-informed care, counseling, and education. One definition of trauma is having your choice taken away; marked by a feeling of overwhelm and without the presence of a stable other to accompany you (usually an adult). Resilience is often described as the ability to encounter stress and recover from it with some ease. Please consider pausing here to reflect on these definitions and our young people in the context of the last year and half.

My ask of each of you: adopt ODE and OHA's Resilience Framework language by strongly advising masks for students. Allow our community the opportunity to experience the resilience and sense of self-efficacy that comes from having choice. Empower parents and students to direct health and safety choices for their families. Promote flexibility and inclusion of special populations of kids, like my daughter, for whom we cannot possibly cover - especially those who don't have a voice, who didn't know about this meeting, or who didn't know that their seemingly small piece of this District mattered.

I implore you to consider the ethical principal of "first, do no harm". And the special education principal of least restrictive environment. I implore you to consider the common ethical principal of "first, do no harm". And the special education principal of least restrictive environment. Last, and most importantly, consider all of the voices brought here to your table and the impact to the students and families you serve.

Thank you,
Jenifer Trivelli

Submitted: 7/25/2021 21:55:14

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Sara Hutches

Parent / Padre de familia

Keizer

I am writing in regards to the districts mask policy for 2021-22 school year. I have two students in the SKPS system, one in middle and one in elementary school. Regarding my middle schooler, he chose to be vaccinated because he knew it meant he no longer had to wear a mask in most public situations. It seems unfair and illogical to make him wear a mask at school after following the steps the CDC required that are good enough for most everywhere else in the state.

Overall, regardless of vaccination status masks create a barrier to relationship building. I don't think anyone would disagree that having a conversation or even recognizing people sometimes in a mask is challenging. It gives you a feeling of isolation even in a group of people you know. If we are truly looking to create schools that are welcoming and a place of belonging for our students, we need to do all we can to break down barriers. Given that the adults working around the students can be vaccinated, and the risk of infection to children is relatively low it seems that the benefits of not wearing masks strongly outweigh the risk. I urge you to consider making masks optional for only those students who wish to wear them.

Submitted: 7/26/2021 7:39:59

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Mike Slagle

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad
Salem

Chair Avila, Board Directors, Superintendent Perry

Thank you for your plan to re-open schools completely after all the challenges we had to go through during the pandemic.

As we reopen , we are aware that our children and students have a lot to catch up on. As parents, grandparents and community members, we want to be involved in overseeing their education and academics. We ask that you make the curriculum and what is taught available to the students and families so that we can work along with the teachers and help our students in their homework, school work and help them catch up to their proper level of education for their age. According to data, Oregon is behind in many areas of education and we are concerned about what is being taught.

Will our students be asked to wear masks when inside the school, fields, sports? If so can the district provide scientific data that shows that masks are effective and absolutely necessary?

Now the SRO's are no longer available, what specific steps are in place instead to ensure our children and student's are safety? What will be done with the funds used for SRO's if they do not return to in school security?

Submitted: 7/26/2021 7:46:50

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Joan Mann

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

I am very concerned that the district would consider masking children again this school year. We now have studies that show masks don't work - even Dr Fauci's emails showed he stated they were ineffective. We also have studies that show they hold on to serious pathogens and would need to be changed hourly. We have studies that show children have dangerous levels of carbon dioxide when they are masked. Children are not driving the covid epidemic and asymptotic spread is debunked. Psychologically masked do harm to developing children. We are responsible for the well being of our children and will be accountable for harming them. Please choose health over political agendas.

Submitted: 7/26/2021 8:00:42

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Richard P

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

School Board Members and Superintendent Perry

As a community member, I want all children to catch up in reading, writing and math. Prior to the pandemic I watched on TV where teachers were spending so much time on behavior issues, even violent behavior that disrupted education sometimes on a daily basis. Were there issues of this type of disruption during COVID? I'm worried that as children return to their classrooms there will be pent up emotional problems due to the pandemic that will spill out into the classrooms right at the time when teachers will be trying to catch students up in their education.

How is the district going to handle unruly or even violent behavior? What plan is in place? I'm concerned we currently don't have SRO's working with our district. The SRO's were trained to work with staff, students and their families and the general police are not. What is in place to get the district and area police to work together when these safety issues arise in our diverse community?

Sincerely, Richard

Submitted: 7/26/2021 10:20:16

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Patricia P

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

School Board and Superintendent Perry,

SKPS can support families returning to five-day-a-week in person instruction by ensuring the safety of all students and their families in our community.

With this goal in mind, how will SKPS address the following?

Will staff and students be required to wear masks? What if a person is already vaccinated, will they need to wear a mask? What safety protocols other than masks will be in place? How will information be given?

How is the district addressing learning gaps in core subjects for all students? Will families have access to curriculum to be better able to assist their students throughout the year? What will the district be doing to support families of non-English speakers to access these materials?

How is the school board addressing safety at in person school board meetings? What protocols are in place to hear diverse voices and protect people from retaliation if disagreements occur? I personally know people who are afraid to speak up.

Thank you, Patricia

Submitted: 7/26/2021 10:41:01

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Ben Lambert

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Can we get a copy of the books that our students have to use and what course materials are being taught? If not what is the reason.

Can parents call the school district staff and ask for a copy of the school curriculum, videos, text books, reading material, homework that is given to our students?

Will students get to participate in field trips, sports, after school programs? Can family members act as chaperones?

Will we have parent teacher conference and meetings in person or via videoconference?

Will our students be asked to wear masks when inside the school, fields, sports? If so can the district provide scientific data that shows that masks are absolutely necessary?

Now the SRO's are no longer available, what specific steps are in place instead to ensure our children and student's are safety? What will be done with the funds used for SRO's if they do not return to in school security?

Are you planning to start the state testing again as we are not meeting the Division 22 requirements that we are now a non standard school. This will cause losing the Title 1 funding and what steps do you plan to take to get us back to meeting the standard state testing requirements again? Will this impact our students future and will they be considered graduates of non accredited school?

Submitted: 7/26/2021 10:52:50

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Rebecca Wells

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Hello, I am parent with children in the Salem Keizer School District. I am writing to show my support of students being back in school this fall 5 days a week with NO MASKS and NO segregating of students based on vaccination status.

I am NOT worried about Covid. The infection rate among students under the age of 18 is extremely LOW. There has been plenty of time for all who have wanted the vaccine, to get it.

What I am worried about is the mental and emotional health of all students who have endured for the last year and a half. It has been brutal and it is time for it to end!!! For all who are still fearful and cautious, then feel free to do distance learning. Don't take away our freedom of learning in school without masks!!!

Thank you,

Rebecca Wells

Submitted: 7/26/2021 10:53:20

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Shauna Ditchen

Parent / Padre de familia

Silverton

I am writing to let the Salem-Keizer Public school district board know that I am in full support of students returning to full-time, 5-day a week in person instruction in the fall of 2021. Due to the extremely low COVID transmission rate in children under the age of 18, it is safe for students to be in the classroom full time without wearing masks. Please do not force children to wear masks all day. Masks should be optional as should the COVID vaccine. I do not believe that children should be forced to get a vaccine for a virus that has such a low infection rate for children. I also do not believe that children should be segregated based on whether or not they have been vaccinated. This will undoubtedly cause shame and embarrassment and division amongst the students as well as the staff. Our children need structure, stability and a sense of normalcy. Full-time, in person instruction will provide these things for students and their families. I ask that you please listen to parents as you make decisions regarding our children's education.

Thank you!

Shauna Ditchen

Submitted: 7/26/2021 10:54:41

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Chelsea Harris

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I am in full support of re-opening schools in the fall with no masks. We've seen all over the country that this is possible with little to no spreading. We've recently been to Fargo to the worlds largest wrestling tournament. There were no vaccine mandates or mask requirements. Everyone was fine.

Kids, especially those in our district, have heavily paid in loss of educational, social and sports development. Let them get back to living a full and free childhood.

Submitted: 7/26/2021 11:25:48

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Misty Bingham

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

Please send a parent survey to ask if children should be masked regardless of vaccine status or not. I feel strongly that masks should be optional for all at this point and that vaccine status should not be used to separate children in any way. Children cannot fully heal from the trauma of the past 15 months while speaking through a mask. The disparities exposed this year will only be enhanced by vaccination checking. I speak as a vaccinated pro-vaccinator. If I knew parents in the district overwhelming felt otherwise I would accept that.

Submitted: 7/26/2021 11:58:33

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Linda Farrington

Community Member / Miembro de la comunidad

Salem

I believe we all care about children and want to make sure every child knows that they are important and belong in our community. Local Oregon School Boards have complete authority to determine the curriculum. I am very concerned about the new Comprehensive Sex Ed materials effect on children. I object to teaching that tries to replace the names of mother/father and pronouns he/she.

-- Where can parent AND other community members access the current curriculum?

--Please cite what resources teachers use for developing their lesson plans.

--Have you read the new curriculum materials in their entirety?

--Please provide the minutes of the Board meeting in which the most current K-12 Sex Education curricula was adopted.

--Please cite what scientific studies you base the current Sex Ed curriculum on.

--How much lee-way do teachers have to adapt the materials for their own use?

I feel strongly that the scientific evidence does not support masking or vaccinating children. If you decide to institute masks or mandate vaccines, please cite the scientific evidence to support these decisions.

Thank you for looking out for our children this year and we look forward to collaborating closely with you.

Submitted: 7/26/2021 11:59:04

Public Comment:

Fall Return-to-School Community Engagement Plans/Planes para involucrar a la comunidad en el regreso a las clases durante el otoño.

Megan Lippold

Parent / Padre de familia

Salem

I am a parent and a staff member in the district. We should all be surveyed on ALL reentry for changes. Not only on COVID, but also on the schedule changes, CRT and SRO changes. Decisions are being made that greatly effect our lives, without asking parents, families and staff. In regards to COVID, those who are living in fear and choose to be masked, have the EDGE program. In regards to bell changes, please see basic sleep charts of young children. My 7 year old goes to bed at 8, and it is already hard to get him up for the prior bell schedule. High school students should be prepared for a successful life, which means waking up early for work and college. With regards to SRO, this effects safety of returning to school. Those who do not want SRO's also have EDGE as an option. Curriculum changes that include CRT, also need parent, family and staff engagement surveys. Survey the parents, families and staff please on all of the above changes.

Submitted: 7/26/2021 12:00:49