



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of Superintendent

John O'Brien, Superintendent

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Dear parents, students, staff, and Kenai Peninsula Borough communities:

For the past several weeks, a 20 person planning team is working to design the safe start-up for school in August when we welcome all children and staff into the new 2020-2021 school year. Our sincere hope and planning goal is to open up all 42 schools for onsite and in-person teaching and learning.

The Alaska Departments of Education and Health and Social Services requested that every school district in the state develop alternative plans in the event it becomes necessary to provide for safe social distancing measures, or a more drastic return to remote learning if the COVID-19 virus makes a strong return in our communities. Part of the planning process includes how we will be able to accurately determine community and school risk levels. Information and guidance will come from both the state and public health. The risk levels and the implemented actions in KPBSD may include:

- In a **Green or Low Risk** environment, school will open on a normal schedule, and be as typical as possible with increased health and hygiene measures in place.
- In a **Yellow or Medium Risk** environment, plans may require safe social distancing in schools and during bus transportation, smaller groupings of students, the possibility of wearing cloth face masks in some settings, and options for remote work or learning for higher risk students and staff.
- If we were experiencing community spread and transmission of the COVID-19 virus, this would trigger **Red or High Risk** plans to be implemented which will likely result in the closure of some schools, and the need to provide remote off site instruction in that region of the district.

In July, the KPBSD Board of Education and the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development will receive our draft plans for final approval. I offer a special thanks to the hundreds of staff and thousands of families who participated in the survey that took place in May.

Our critical mission is to provide equitable educational support and opportunities for all students, all school year. For information and the latest updates about the [KPBSD 2020 Smart Start](#) team's work, please frequently visit our [KPBSD 2020 Smart Start web page](#) at <https://bit.ly/3eflLXC>, or access it from the KPBSD.org homepage.

Wishing you success and positive impact,
John O'Brien, Superintendent