



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT JSD SMART START 2020 (July 1, 2020)

Why can't we start school with all students in person if we don't have a lot of cases in Juneau?

We can't start the school year with full classrooms and maintain the health guidelines that the Centers for Disease Control, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services have provided. We are choosing to start at partial capacity to get us back in the safest learning environment possible. Once we are stabilized after having students out of school for five months, we are assured that our mitigation efforts are working, and Juneau is continuing to have few COVID-19 cases, we will look at how to increase capacity.

How can parents work while students have a practical face-to-face school schedule? Many parents are not able to work from home and if elementary and middle/high schools are on different schedules, older siblings can't help with childcare.

We are working with the City and Borough of Juneau to come up with some solutions to the child care issue. We truly do understand the dilemma so many parents are in. This is a challenge for JSD staff and families. We will share any progress with you as solutions are developed. We sincerely hope that face-to-face time for even a portion of four school days to start will help to meet the needs of families when combined with other child care options. We want to introduce more face-to-face time as soon as safely possible.

What's the plan for RALLY?

We will be using RALLY as much as we can. The need is likely to be greater than what we can accommodate, so we are working with the city to come up with additional solutions. RALLY is also limited in operations due to the COVID-19 mitigation requirements.

What about after-school and high school activities?

As we progress, if we are stabilized in low risk level over time, we will consider slowly expanding school-based learning opportunities. This could mean having visitors and volunteers in buildings, field trips, small after school activities, etc.



At high school, ASAA will be providing guidance on ASAA sanctioned activities. District related staff and student travel is restricted at yellow and red risk levels and will require approval in green risk level. JSD will communicate the expectations related to activities as we get closer to the opening of fall seasons. Currently some programs are engaging in summer activities per the ASAA guidelines and districted approved mitigation plans.

Will JSD require students to wear masks?

The plan for students wearing masks will continue to develop. We have many weeks before students will return, so there is time for everyone to get used to and accept the idea of everyone wearing masks in public. As we get closer to the start of school, community conditions can change drastically so that could influence the decision. A mandate to wear masks could come from the State of Alaska or City and Borough of Juneau or the Juneau School District. We will make a final decision on required mask wearing for students as we get closer to the start of the year

Can all staff and students be tested before school starts?

The school district is not planning to require mass testing for students. The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics is not recommending this at this time. However, schools will be using a number of other mitigation factors including physical distancing, face coverings, hygiene, disinfection, and symptom free requirements.

Will travel quarantine be required for families and staff who have been traveling?

Yes, the State of Alaska has issued [travel requirements](#) that all residents and visitors must follow.

Where can I read the plan?

Read the Smart Start 2020 plan [here](#).

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