

Reopening Arlington Schools

Dear Arlington Community,

Thank you for your patience and support during these challenging times where choices are difficult and less than ideal. Arlington Schools have reopened this fall in unique and non-traditional ways in response to the ongoing global health crisis. Your partnership and support during this time continues to be a vital component for success. We will meet all challenges more effectively and wisely, if we do it TOGETHER!

The health and safety of our staff, students and community is at the heart of the decisions and plans for reopening Arlington Schools. Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic impact is an ongoing challenge that requires us to monitor and respond daily.

In June, we implemented the Reopening Arlington Schools 2020 (RAS20) Committee comprised of teachers, parents, community members, teachers, classified staff, students and administrators. This committee met through the summer to finalize a recommendation for a six step reopening plan for the 2020/21 school year. Sincere thanks and appreciation for the RAS20 Committee Members listed to the right.

The six step reopening plan is a progressive continuum where the ultimate goal is five days of in-person instruction when the coronavirus transmission rates in our community and county show sustained improvement. Movement from step to step will be determined by multiple factors including the impacts of the changing health situation both at the county and local levels, available resources and our readiness to comply with the requirements and direction from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Governor and the Health Department(s).

The 2020-21 school year started on step three of the six step plan with most students engaged in enhanced distance learning 2.0, and with some students participating on campus with in-person instruction who have been identified as having the greatest need of additional support. Conversations started in early September to determine the timing for moving into step 4.

A Decision Tree was published by the Health Department to identify the provisions of in-person learning among public and private K-12 schools during COVID-19. To localize this, Arlington Public Schools created a decision flow chart and a data/information collection log to monitor, plan and prepare for moving more students to in-person instruction.

It is our greatest desire to have school return to five days of in-person instruction as soon as possible. We understand that our decisions impact families, students and staff. We will continue to monitor all factors required to move from step to step and make informed decisions that not only focus on increasing student learning but to do so in a safe and caring environment.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to educate, prepare and inspire each Arlington student to learn and achieve at high levels even in a variety of learning modes such as distance learning, hybrid, online, committed distance learning and in-person instruction.

With your help, we've got this and we will meet all challenges better TOGETHER!

Passionate for Student Learning,

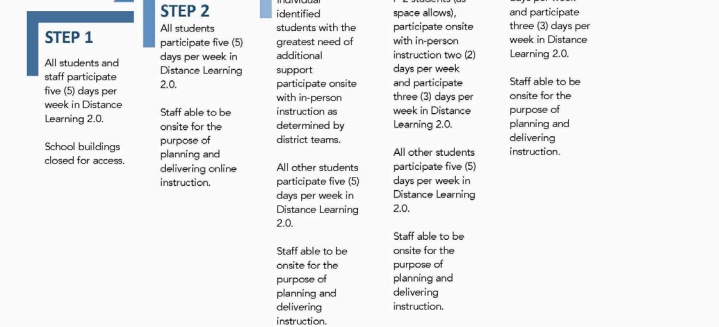


Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent

Reopening Arlington Schools 2020 (RAS20) Committee Roster

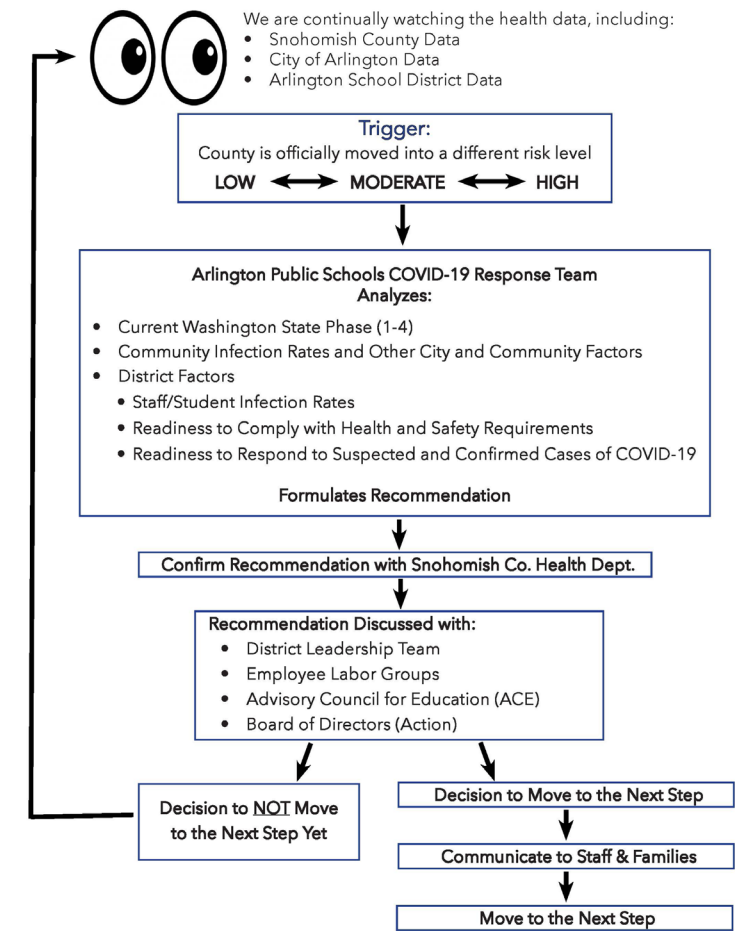
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| <p>Facilitator:
Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Superintendent</p> <p>District Administration:
Eric DeJong (Human Resources)
Kari Henderson-Burke (Teaching & Learning)
Gina Zeutenhorst (Finance)
Brian Lewis (Operations)
Gary Sabol (Communications)</p> <p>Building Administration:
Duane Fish (AHS)
Karl Olson (Kent Prairie)
Trever Summers (Haller)
Leslie Tuomisto (Post)</p> <p>District Support:
Julie Davis (Superintendent's Office)</p> <p>Program Supervisors:
Krissa Cramer (District Nurse)
Ed Aylesworth (Nutrition)
Dave McKellar (Special Education)
Mark Ehrhardt (Technology)
Will Nelson (Equity & Student Success)</p> <p>Certificated Staff:
Kristen Bass (Eagle Creek)
Anne Beckley (Presidents)
Sarah Cofer (Pioneer)
Shanna Crookes (AHS)
Nathan Davis (AHS)
Natalie Hollifield (Haller)
Jason Klein (AHS, AEA President)
Tamatha Moseley (Kent Prairie)
Pam Moser (Music Specialist)
Megan O'Brien (Post)
Terri Stanton (Haller)
Kristen Sutton (Pioneer)</p> | <p>Classified Staff:
Laura Bailey (Office Staff & PSE AP)
Jade Boykin (Sub -Para)
Anne McAlvey (School Nurse, Kent Prairie)
Jennifer White (Office Staff & PSE President)</p> <p>Parents:
Terrie Bertrand (Kent Prairie)
Sarah Blake (Eagle Creek)
Jordan Bluford (Pioneer)
Erika Coghil (Post)
Mileesha Crews (Pioneer)
Angie Donaldson (SVLC/AHS)
Stacy Jacobs (Haller)
Ryan and Joy Johnson (Eagle Creek)
Sheri Kelly (AHS)
Brittany Kleinman (Pioneer)
Kimberly Meno (AHS)
Trent Olson (AHS/Haller)</p> <p>Students:
Ali Amezcua-Toscano (AHS)
Montan Copenhaver (AHS)
Autumn Engels (AHS)
Sophie Willis (AHS)</p> <p>Community Members:
Judy Fay (Board)
Mary Levesque (Board and Parent)
Jordan Grant (Stillaguamish Tribe)
Lauren Hunter (Alumni)
Sam LaBrun (Stillaguamish Tribe)
Anna Soltero (Alumni)
Lyanne Garka (Boys and Girls Club)</p> |
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Reopening Arlington Schools Six Step Plan



The six step reopening plan is a progressive continuum where the ultimate goal is five days of in-person instruction when the COVID-19 transmission rates in our community and county show sustained improvement. Movement from step to step will include consideration of health metrics and other criteria.

Reopening Arlington Schools Moving Step-to-Step Decisions



Learning Settings for Students

Distance Learning 2.0 Students in grades K-12 are scheduled in a class or in classes at their enrolled school receiving instruction from an Arlington Public Schools teacher or teachers. Learning includes a combination of “live” teacher instruction, specialist time, intervention opportunities, independent directed learning, student and family support and social emotional learning check ins.

Depending on health and safety factors and the evolving health crisis, instruction will take place either with 100% at a distance or in a **Hybrid Model** where students are divided into A and B groups to allow for cohorting and physical distancing within the classroom and school spaces. Students attend onsite on assigned days (A group on Monday/Tuesday and B group on Wednesday/Thursday). Students and staff will follow health department guidelines including wearing a mask, practicing physical distancing and hand washing. Additional cleaning protocols will be in place. When students are not onsite, they will participate in daily independent teacher-directed learning at home.

Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center (SVLC) - Distance Learning 2.0 (teacher directed, parent supported) Students in grades Kindergarten and First will work with their classmates and teacher two days per week virtually. Students will complete home learning activities (assigned by their teacher) on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Students in grades 2-8 will connect with their teachers and classmates three days a week for virtual instruction. They will complete home learning activities (assigned by their teacher) on Monday & Friday.

Arlington Online Program via Continuous Remote Learning K-12: Students complete online courses for the entire school year 2020-21 with support from an Arlington Public School teacher. This will not be with the student's current teacher. Learning is self-directed, however, there is a weekly obligation to connect with the support teacher and check in (via Zoom). This is for families who prefer to have their child remain in remote learning the entire school year even if schools reopen for on-site instruction.

Committed Distance Learning K-5 – Students are assigned for the entire school year 2020-21 in a grade level (ex. K) or grade band (ex. K-I) class with an Arlington Public School teacher. This will most likely not be the student's current teacher. Learning will include a daily school schedule with combinations of “live” teacher instruction, specialist time, intervention opportunities, independent directed learning, student and family support and social emotional learning check ins. This is for families who prefer to have their child remain in remote learning the entire school year even if schools reopen for on-site instruction.

Postal Customer ECRWSS

FALL 2020

New board member sworn in to serve on Arlington school board

Sheri Kelly was sworn in as a new board member during the Sept. 14 Arlington Public Schools Board of Directors meeting. Kelly represents district area 2 which is comprised of High Clover Park, Cemetery Road, and parts of old town Arlington. Kelly replaces Jim Weiss, who resigned his position on July 14 due to a job transfer out of state.

Kelly served on the district's Advisory Council for Education (ACE) committee for over six years, joined the Arlington High School Booster Club as Director of Fine Arts for two years, served as the YMCA Youth and Government Advisor for Arlington Public Schools for three years, and was part of the Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center Advisory Team.

"To meet new demands placed on the district and to maintain high quality education, I believe having a collaborative environment where the school board, parent body and district work together to understand, plan for, and address the changing needs of our school community provides the most benefit," said Kelly. "Arlington's students have the most to gain from positive, effective leadership where I hope my participation as a board member will help to continue to move the district in a positive direction and meet the needs of all students."

"I have worked with Sheri for the past four years on the ACE committee and she is very dedicated to the education of all Arlington students," said Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Chrys Sweeting. "We are very pleased to have her join the school board."



Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. Auxiliary aids and services will be provided upon request to individuals with hearing, vision, or speech disabilities.

The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR
 Mr. Eric DeJong
 Executive Director, Human Resources
 315 N French Ave.
 Arlington, WA 98223
 360.618.6212
 edejong@asd.wednet.edu

SECTION 504 COORDINATOR
 Mr. Brian Long
 Director of College and Career Readiness
 315 N French Ave.
 Arlington, WA 98223
 360.618.6229
 blong@asd.wednet.edu

2020-21 school year starts with enhanced distance learning



The Arlington School Board on Sept. 14 approved bringing back kindergartners and first graders within a hybrid model starting on Monday, Oct. 5 as COVID-19 cases continue to decrease in Snohomish County. The Snohomish Health District has stated that a reasonable next step is for schools to begin planning for how to expand in-person learning to elementary school students, as well as to students with high needs in any grade level not already receiving in-person services.

Arlington Public Schools has a six step reopening plan to bring students back on campus. The district is currently in step 3. Step 3 allows for certain students with the greatest need for additional support to be on campus with all other students participating in distance learning.

The district will begin moving into step 4 incrementally with kindergartners and first graders on campus Oct. 5 for two days of instruction and three days of distance learning. Half of the

students would be on campus on Monday and Tuesday and the other half would be on campus on Wednesday and Thursday to better comply with the COVID-19 health and safety measures as set forth in guidance from the Department of Health and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"We will monitor the success of bringing this first group back for at least three weeks, then depending on the results, begin to consider and plan for the next group of students," said Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Chrys Sweeting. "Safety for students and staff is a top priority."

At this time, the Snohomish Health District is not recommending that middle and high school students return to in-person learning. According to the health district, this is due to: teenage students having higher rates of COVID-19 than younger children; are probably more likely to spread COVID-19 if infected; and as a group, appear to face fewer challenges in remote learning.