



## KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Office of Superintendent

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## M E M O R A N D U M

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Date: July 13, 2020

To: Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Board of Education

From: John O'Brien  
Superintendent of Schools

RE: KPBSD Smart Start 2020 Fall School Start Up Plan Approval

The State of Alaska Department of Education has mandated that each school district submit a plan for safely starting school in 2020, by July 31. Furthermore, Commissioner Johnson has requested that each District's plan be approved by their respective local Board of Education. After a two-month process, the 20 members of the KPBSD 2020 Smart Start Work Group have prepared the enclosed plan for the safe and prudent reopening of schools in August 2020. The KPBSD plan addresses what education and activities in our schools will be dependent upon low (green), medium (yellow), or high (red) risk COVID19 community transmission scenarios.

The KPBSD plan will continue to be revised as medical information, science, and the pandemic situation evolves throughout the 2020-2021 school year. As revisions need to be made, administration will bring updates of the KPBSD Smart Start Plan to the Board of Education on a regular basis.

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, schools need to significantly alter normal beginning of the school year preparations for staff. There are a significant amount of new and additional health & safety measures, instructional options for parents, school routines, schedules, and operational procedures being implemented at the start of this new school year. These significant changes will require additional time to inform and train our 1,200+ KPBSD staff. Additionally, our teacher's instructional planning will now require multiple options, methods, and plans in order to respond to the ever-changing risk levels presented by the COVID-19 Virus. As part of the KPBSD Smart Start 2020 Plan, we are asking the Commissioner of Education to waive the first four student contact days so that these four additional in-service/work days can be provided to staff for extensive training, planning and preparation. The start date for students will now be delayed by four days from the original date of Tuesday August 18 to Monday August 24, 2020.

Administration recommends approval of the proposed KPBSD Smart Start 2020 Fall School Start Up Plan. Once approved, the KPBSD plan will be sent to the Department of Education and Early Development. Commissioner Johnson's approval of the new instructional calendar, including the four additional staff in-service days will then be requested.