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KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District **WORK IS UNDERWAY FOR A SMART START NEW SCHOOL YEAR**

Soldotna, June 18, 2020—Superintendent John O'Brien assures parents, students, and communities that although it may be summer break, significant work is underway to plan for the August start of 42 schools, during a global pandemic.

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

A 20 person team has been designing the safe start-up plans for school in August when we will 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 every school district in the state to 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, and our response. 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.

KPBSD: ONE DISTRICT, FORTY-TWO DIVERSE SCHOOLS

The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.
ANCHOR POINT COOPER LANDING HOMER HOPE KACHEMAK SELO KENAI MOOSE PASS NANWALEK NIKISKI NIKOLAEVSK NINILCHIK PORT GRAHAM
RAZDOLNA SELDOVIA SEWARD SOLDOTNA STERLING TUSTUMENA TYONEK VOZNESENKA

FOR RELEASE JUNE 18, 2020

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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/3efILXC>, or access it from the KPBSD.org homepage.

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

Links

- new! [KPBSD Smart Start 2020](#) webpage
- Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) [Smart Start 2020 Framework](#)
- new! [KPBSD Activities, Sports, and COVID-19](#) webpage
- [KPBSD and COVID-19](#) webpage
- [KPBSD Remote Learning Resources](#) webpage
- [State of Alaska COVID-19](#) webpage
- [State of Alaska Health Mandates](#) webpage



The graphic features a blue header with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District logo on the left, which includes a compass rose with the words 'READY', 'RESPONSIVE', and 'RIGOR'. To the right of the logo, the text 'Kenai Peninsula Borough School District' is in white, and 'August 2020 Smart Start' is in large green letters. Below this, on a yellow background, is a quote from Superintendent John O'Brien: "Our planning team is designing the safe start-up for school in August, when children and staff will be welcomed to the new 2020-2021 school year. Our sincere hope & planning goal is to open all 42 KPBSD schools for onsite and in-person teaching and learning. And, we are developing plans for low, medium, and high risk COVID-19 scenarios. Thank you to everyone who participated in the family and staff surveys. Throughout the summer, everyone will find the most recent updates at the KPBSD 2020 Smart Start webpage." The quote is signed '-Superintendent John O'Brien' and 'COVID-19 Planning & Response'. At the bottom, on a blue background, are social media icons for @KPBSD, a website link www.KPBSD.org | 907-714-8888, and a mission statement: 'The mission of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District is to empower all learners to positively shape their futures.' Social media icons for Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook are also present.

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
August 2020 Smart Start

"Our planning team is designing the safe start-up for school in August, when children and staff will be welcomed to the new 2020-2021 school year.

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the family and staff surveys. Throughout the summer, everyone will find the most recent updates at the KPBSD 2020 Smart Start webpage."

-Superintendent John O'Brien
COVID-19 Planning & Response

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