



Orland Joint Unified School District

903 South Street, Orland, CA 95963

530.865.1200

Welcome to the 2021/22 School year!

A new school year is almost upon us, and we are excited to return to a more normal approach to education. The Orland Unified School District is preparing for the start of school in the August. Our first day of school is August 9, 2021. We are planning to return to a normal school schedule on that day. As we prepare for the return of our students, I wanted to share a few items with you about the upcoming year.

First, we planned intensively to use this year addressing learning lost during the pandemic. We will be gathering data about learning loss, and implementing plans for helping students get back on track academically.

Second, our schools are prepared to support students who are struggling emotionally from the stresses related to COVID – 19. We have extra staff on board, programs in place, and resources to help our students recover from those issues.

Our final area of emphasis will focus on communicating more with our parents and the community. We want to re-engage parents in our schools and the education of their students.

You will also receive information from your student's school about start dates, times and other specific information. The information may also be accessed on the school web site. Go to [www.Orlandusd.net](http://www.Orlandusd.net)

Let's make this an awesome year for all our students! More information about the upcoming year is below. Please read this entire message as some rules and laws have changed. Those changes may impact the options and rights of your student.

Sincerely,

*Dwayne Newman*

Superintendent

## COVID considerations for Returning to School\*:

Prevention Action	OUSD Implementation
Face Coverings	Everyone will be encouraged to follow CDPH mandates. No student will be excluded from in-person instruction for refusal to wear a mask.
Healthy Hygiene	Students and staff will receive frequent reminders
Food Service	Normal operations. Grab and Go offerings
Physical Distancing	No longer required, but will be encouraged
Symptom Monitoring / Health Screening / Testing	Everyone will follow CDPH mandates
Quarantine/Isolation	Everyone will follow CDPH mandates
Cleaning/Disinfecting	Staff will follow CDPH mandates
Transportation	Everyone will be encouraged to follow CDPH mandates. No student will be excluded from in-person instruction for refusal to wear a mask.

\* Please remember that the department of health could change the mandates at any time depending on the situation with COVID 19 cases. The latest mandate allows districts to determine how they enforce the rules; this may change as well.

## 2021-22 School Year – Masks

The District’s Position on Current CDPH Covid Mandates is as follows:

*Orland Unified School District will strongly encourage all students and staff to comply with CDC/CDPH guidance, including use of masks.*

*However, district staff will not be placed in the compromising position of taking enforcement actions. The District will direct all of its resources toward ensuring every student gets the best in-person instruction and social/emotional support possible.*

*We are committed to closing learning gaps due to the COVID disruption during the past school year. The District will continue to deploy COVID prevention measures and encourage everyone to continue to take public health precautions and follow CDC and CDPH guidelines. The CDC recommends layers of protection from the virus. At OUSD, those layers will include:*

- *Recently upgraded HVAC systems with hi-tech filters which help remove virus particles from the air.*
- *Encouraging outdoor instruction when possible, and keeping windows and doors open when possible.*
- *Supporting teachers and staff who request additional protective equipment, and encouraging teachers to use plexiglass barriers when possible.*
- *Providing training for students and staff on COVID transmission prevention, and proper hygiene practice.*
- *Custodial practices utilizing compounds which reduce the likelihood of transmission from surfaces.*
- *Encouraging staff and students to remain home whenever they have possible COVID Symptoms.*
- *Following mandates on quarantining when necessary.*

*Additionally, the district remains committed to advocating for local control on issues of this nature.*

## **Assembly Bill 130 - Independent Study**

The State has adopted legislation (AB 130) that requires all public-school districts in California to offer “Independent Study” for any student whose health would be put at risk. OUSD already offers an Independent Study option for students that do not wish to attend in person.

To ensure we are prepared for the start of school, if you wish for your student to enroll in the Independent Study program, please contact your child’s school office. A number of students are already enrolled in this program, and the District has staffed the program accordingly. Parents who are considering enrolling their student should contact the school immediately so appropriate staffing decisions can be made.

Note: Students enrolled in the Independent Study Program are eligible for the following:

- Assistance from a Credentialed Teacher
- Academic Guidance Counseling
- Social Emotional Counseling
- Virtual Learning
- Enrichment Courses
- Career and Technical Education
- Educational Materials Provided
- Work at Your Own Pace
- Choice during the day of what you work on and when
- Daily / weekly synchronous instruction & live interaction ( per recently passed legislation on IS ).
- Meet with Teacher Weekly (or more as needed)
- Credit Recovery

## **Assembly Bill (AB) 104**

The state of California recently enacted a new law – Assembly Bill (AB) 104 – that will expand learning and credit recovery options for students who may have struggled academically during the pandemic-impacted 2020-2021 school year.

For the OUSD these include:

- A process for students who were enrolled for the 2020-2021 year to request to repeat the last grade
- A process for high school students to change eligible grades to Pass/No Pass
- Exemption from district graduation requirements for students in grades 11 or 12 who are not on track to graduate

### *Process for Students to Request to Repeat the 2020-21 Grade*

This law provides a process for parents and guardians to request that their student repeat the grade they were enrolled in during the 2020-2021 school year. Parents and guardians of students who were enrolled during the last school year would be eligible to make this request if their student received a D, F, or No Pass grade for at least one-half of their coursework in the 2020-

2021 school year. This request would trigger a personalized consultation with a representative of the district to review and discuss all learning recovery options and supports that the student could access.

How to apply: Parents/Guardians may submit a written request by emailing the Director of Student Services ( [JCox@orlandusd.net](mailto:JCox@orlandusd.net) ), or calling (530) 865-1200. The district will schedule a consultation within 30 days of receiving the email.

#### *Process for High School Students to Change Grades to Pass/No Pass*

AB 104 also provides a process for high school students to request that a letter grade they received in the 2020-2021 school year be changed to a Pass/No Pass grade.

How to apply: Parents/Guardians must complete the California Department of Education (CDE) [Application](#). A list of postsecondary educational institutions that will accept a Pass/No Pass grade, instead of a letter grade has been posted on CDE's website. Families will have until August 13, 2021, to make the request. After this time, requests will no longer be considered. If you have any questions, please email the Director of Student Services ( [JCox@orlandusd.net](mailto:JCox@orlandusd.net) ) or call (530) 865-1200. The form may be emailed to the Director of Student Services or dropped off at the District Office on or before August 13, 2021.

#### *Exemption for the 2020-21 Juniors and Seniors of District Graduation Requirements*

Finally, the law requires that high school students who were in their third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-2021 school year, and who were not on track to graduate in four years, may be exempt from our district's graduation requirements that exceed statewide requirements. It also requires high schools to provide credit recovery support for these students, including the option to retake courses, or to enroll in a fifth year of high school, to complete state graduation requirements.

How to apply: OUSD will contact students eligible for this exemption. You do not need to contact the district or the school sites.