



## Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District

333 Schoenbar Rd. • Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Ph. (907) 247-2109 Fax: (907) 247-3820

Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent • Katie Jo Parrott, Business Manager

Catherine Alilin, Human Resources Manager • Alonso Escalante, Curriculum Director

Derek Meister, Special Services Director • Linnaea Troina, COVID Communications and Public Relations Director

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# Memo

**To: KGBSD School Board Members**

**From:** Melissa Johnson, Interim Superintendent

**CC:** Kerry Watson, Board Clerk

**Date:** August 13, 2021

**RE: Superintendent Report for August 18th meeting**

We are continuing with the **Free Breakfast and Lunch and School Supplies** for the 2021-22 school year.

We are also going to continue wearing Masks on our school buses this year. Buses are under the federal mandate because they are commercial vehicles.

The **Start Strong Committee** held a work session on August 12th with our local health professionals to create an initial COVID risk level threshold in the Start Strong Draft plan. We also held a Community Forum on August 12th where we listened to community feedback and answered some questions. On August 13th we had another work session with health professionals and the Start Strong Committee members to adjust the overall plan for our future board meeting that will be held on August 18th. Thank you for your support, participation and contributions to those meetings.

If you have any recommendations please share them with [Linnaea.Troina@k21schools.org](mailto:Linnaea.Troina@k21schools.org)

[KGBSD Start Strong 21-22 Timeline and Risk Levels Draft](#)

*\*This is a working, changing document; the PDF's attached may be outdated, so please check the link to the documents often.*

Derek Meister, Special Services Director, met with **WISH/KIC** on August 10th, to discuss the Counseling program at Schoenbar and Kayhi. We had some robust discussion on what worked well and opportunities for improvement for this upcoming school year.

Derek Meister, Special Services Director, and I met with **Community Connections** on August 11th to build a process of communication. The meeting was a fantastic first meeting of the year and we plan to meet quarterly. It is important to build relationships with stakeholders in the community of Ketchikan.

We had our Administrative meeting on August 12; principals and administrative assistants are back in their buildings.



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August 13th was the last day of the Summer Food Service program. Thank you to all our kitchen staff, cooks, aides, delivery drivers, and scheduler for another successful summer serving Ketchikan's kids and families!

Upcoming is the annual on-site Financial Audit taking place the week of August 30th. We will need Board member representation at the wrap-up meeting toward the end of that week.

Preliminary year-end financial reports suggest the District maximized relief funding and other resources to free up local funding and protect the district's fund balance. This puts the District in a strong position heading into 2021-2022 even as we face more uncertainty due to the pandemic. More detailed financial information will be provided at the next Board meeting.

# KGBSD Start Strong Timeline

DATES	PLAN	DETAILS
August 23 - 25	Staff Training/ Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● District &amp; Building-Level Professional Development (PD) &amp;</li> <li>● Staff work day</li> </ul>
August 26 & 27	First Two Days with Students (no early release on 8/27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students attend their first day of school on either August 26 or August 27 (no early release on 8/27)</li> <li>● 50% groupings determined at building level</li> <li>● Kindergarten Rolling Start</li> <li>● Preschool Screening</li> <li>● Full hours on both days (no early release on Friday, 8/27)</li> </ul>
August 30 - September 3	Full Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kindergarten-12th grades full week</li> <li>● Preschool Screening</li> </ul>
September 6: Labor Day Buildings closed, no online activity  September 7 - Onward	Schools Operate per KGBSD Start Strong Mitigation Plan	Low/Moderate/Substantial/High Risk mitigation plans implemented following risk level determination protocol

*Please remember: Fridays = early release days in full, normal weeks.  
Each building has a different release time.*



## KGBSD Start Strong Risk Level Determination

The KGBSD will have a district-wide operating risk level. All schools will follow the mitigation plans for that level.

**How is it determined:** The number of active COVID cases in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (as reported and published by Ketchikan Public Health on its [SmartSheet](#)):

**Low: 5 or fewer active cases**

**Moderate: 6-25 active cases**

**Substantial: 26-49 active cases**

**High: 50 or more active cases**

**Who sets the levels:** KGBSD Superintendent

**When levels are set/changed:** Weekly (set on Friday afternoon for the following week)

### Individual School Risk Level Increases and/or Closures Determination

**Who:** Superintendent in consultation with district/building administration, district nurses, public health nurses, and healthcare professionals.

**When level increases and/or closures are made:** As needed



# KGBSD Start Strong Risk Level Mitigation Plans

## LOW RISK

**5 or fewer active cases in community**

**Learning Mode:** In-person 100%

**Masking:** Personal choice of staff/student/parent at all schools

**Screening:** Within the classroom

**Visitors:** Welcome

**Activities:** Operating with no restrictions

**Facility Use by Outside Groups:** No restrictions

## MODERATE RISK

**6-25 active cases in community**

**Learning Mode:** In-person 100%

**Masking:**

Middle schools & high schools: Required in all areas for all schools

Elementary schools: Strongly recommended for students in cohorted classrooms; required for all in common areas; required for staff in all areas

**Screening:** Within the classroom

**Visitors:** Invited, pre-approved, must be masked

**Activities:** Limited indoor spectator capacity; indoor spectators must be masked; participant masking protocols

**Facility Use by Outside Groups:** Limited spectator capacity; spectators must be masked; user groups must submit mitigation plan



# KGBSD Start Strong Risk Level Mitigation Plans

<b>SUBSTANTIAL RISK</b> <b>26-49 active cases in community</b>	<b>HIGH RISK</b> <b>50 or more active cases in community</b>
<p><b>Learning Mode:</b> In-person 100%</p> <p><b>Masking:</b> Required in all areas at all schools</p> <p><b>Screening:</b> Within the classroom</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> Invited, pre-approved, educationally-based visitors only, screened upon entering building, must be masked</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> Limited indoor spectator capacity; indoor spectators must be masked; participant masking protocols</p> <p><b>Facility Use by Outside Groups:</b> No spectators; Masks mandatory for participants; user groups must submit mitigation plan</p>	<p><b>Learning Mode:</b> In-person 100%</p> <p><b>Masking:</b> Required in all areas at all schools</p> <p><b>Screening:</b> Prior to entering classrooms</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> No visitors allowed</p> <p><b>Activities:</b> No spectators; participant masking protocols</p> <p><b>Facility Use by Outside Groups:</b> None</p>



# KGBSD Start Strong Plan: Educational Options

## Options for Students:

- enroll at a school site and attend in-person classes following the risk level mitigation plans being implemented;
- enroll in one of the distance learning options (noted to the right).



**(907) 247-2127**  
Single Point of Contact  
Fast Track Office



**Teacher: Parent**



**Teacher: KGBSD Teacher**



# **KGBSD Start Strong Plan: Travel**

## **Vaccinated Individuals:**

- Do NOT need to quarantine;
- Do NOT need to test as long as they remain asymptomatic.

## **Unvaccinated Individuals:**

- Test for COVID upon returning to Ketchikan;
- Return to school after receiving a negative test result;
- Taking a second COVID test 5-7 days after travel is strongly recommended.

## **Individuals Who Have Tested Positive for COVID-19 within the Last 90 Days:**

The positive test result exempts them from testing or quarantine related to travel or being a close contact.

