Key Messages for School and District Leaders - About the 2023-24 School Year

*Use these key messages to initiate conversation and communication with staff, students, families and your community about the upcoming school year. These messages are customizable, and intended to serve as a starting point for school leaders to modify as needed to communicate with their community.*

# Our transition back to school will focus on care and connection.

* We want you to know it is a priority to create spaces where your students feel safe, cared for, and connected to the learning environment.
* Working together, we will continue to spark joy and learning in our classrooms, auditoriums, and playgrounds.
* The transition back to school may prompt a range of emotions for you and/or your students - from stress and uncertainty to excitement and opportunity.
* [Insert local details]

# Our teachers and school staff are the heart and soul of our schools.

* Our teachers and school staff have pivoted and learned new ways to work together and with students in the past few years.
* We know that similar to students and families, teachers and staff may be experiencing mixed emotions about the return to school ranging from stressful and worried to eager and excited.
* We are committed to supporting our teachers and staff, honoring their lived experiences, and making it a priority to focus on health and well-being.
* [Insert local details]

# As schools plan for the 2023-24 school year, it is important to remember:

* **Our communities will continue to experience outbreaks of communicable diseases.**
* The combined burden of communicable diseases co-occurring in our communities means that schools will need to continue to be vigilant about health and safety in order to protect in-person instruction and students and staff at risk for severe disease.

# There are a few requirements in federal law and from the state that each school district is required to follow.

* These are requirements that exist in federal or state law or rule.
* Districts must develop, implement, and maintain a written prevention-oriented health services plan for all students, following OAR 581-022-2220.
* Other requirements include maintaining a school-level communicable disease management plan in alignment with ESSER III requirements and OAR 581-022-2220, excluding students and staff with certain symptoms or illnesses, and maintaining an isolation space in schools.
* In \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District [Insert local details]

# We know how to respond to communicable disease outbreaks and implement health and safety protocols.

* We all share in the responsibility to keep our communities safe and healthy.
* In order to maintain full-time, in-person instruction, this responsibility requires each person to take actions to protect their own health and the health of those they come in contact with.
* We will provide our staff and families with training, support and clear guidelines. [Insert local details]

# Face coverings are optional and welcomed in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ School District for all students and staff.

* **Some students and staff will choose to continue to wear face coverings at school for a variety of reasons.**
* Every individual has the right to make the decision about wearing face coverings; schools need to support individuals and create an environment where their decisions to wear a face covering are honored.
* **It is our responsibility to ensure the school environment is safe and welcoming** to every student and staff member.