

# READY SCHOOLS, SAFE LEARNERS

## GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2020–21

### Private Schools

#### What is Required of Private Schools?

On August 17, 2020 or prior to the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, whichever is earlier, every school must complete an Operational Blueprint for Reentry. Private schools are only required to comply with Sections 1, 2, and 3 of the guidance:

- Section 1 - Public Health Protocols
- Section 2 - Facilities and School Operations
- Section 3 - Response to Outbreak

Each section above contains requirements that are further explained in the guidance. An Operational Blueprint for Reentry must be completed by August 17, 2020 or prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year, whichever is first. Private schools are required to share their Operational Blueprint with the families they serve and submit it to the local public health authority, to their governance structure, and [to ODE using the link provided](#).

#### How will I know if my school is ready to reopen to students?

Each private school will work to develop an Operational Blueprint for Reentry and that blueprint will be posted on the school's website. [A Reentry Decision Tool](#) is also available to assist schools in making decisions.

#### Are there examples of Operational Blueprints?

Yes. [Sample plans](#) and templates can be found on ODE's Ready Schools, Safe Learners website. All private schools' Operational Blueprints will need to be posted on the school's website and submitted to ODE.

**According to the guidance, each school’s Operational Blueprint for Reentry must be submitted to the local school board. Our private school does not have a traditional school board. How can we meet this requirement?**

Private schools should submit their plan to their governance structure (board, director, owner/operator, religious leader, etc.) and should follow the process for making their Operational Blueprint available on their website and submitting through the link to ODE in order to make the plan available to the general public.

**Is there a final “approval” process?**

All private schools are required to complete the Operational Blueprint for Reentry; submit it to their governing structure, the local public health authority, and ODE; and make the plan available to the public. The operational blueprint does not require approval. Your [Local Public Health Authority](#) will attest to receiving the blueprint.

- Private schools that are part of a system of schools (E.g. Catholic schools) should compile all the school blueprints at the system level. The system operator should then submit the blueprints to the appropriate LPHA for each school site. Private school system boundaries sometimes overlap LPHA (typically county) boundaries. Private school systems may be submitting plans to more than one LPHA based on the location of each school in their district.
- Private schools that operate as a single school entity should submit directly to the LPHA.

As schools will be partnering with LPHAs on an ongoing basis, once they receive the letter from the LPHA confirming receipt and have ensured posting of the Operational Blueprint to their website and submission to their local board and ODE, they can operate within the plan they’ve set forth.

**What technical assistance is available for private schools at ODE?**

The Oregon Department of Education stands ready to assist private schools in this effort. Please contact Oregon’s Private School Ombudsman [Joni Gilles](#) or Jen Engberg for assistance.

**Additional Online Resources**

[Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance](#)  
[Instructional Models & Recommendations](#)



