Tentative Agreement
Safety Conditions for the Start and Continuation of Limited In-Person Instruction under
Comprehensive Distance Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic
January 6, 2021

Portland Public Schools, School District No. 1J, Multnomah County, Oregon (District) and the Portland Association of Teachers (Association), together, “the parties,” recognize that the safety of staff, students and families is a primary concern for professional educators. In addition, the Parties agree that the working conditions of professional educators under a Comprehensive Distance Learning (CDL) are significantly altered when professional educators are also engaged in Limited In-Person Instruction (LIPI).

In order to protect professional educators engaged in LIPI, the Parties agree to the following:

1. Prior to beginning LIPI instruction, the District will provide specific Professional Development to educators scheduled to provide LIPI so that those educators can learn safety protocols and processes. After the Professional Development is offered, educators will have five days prior to their LIPI sections beginning.

2. Only professional educators who volunteer will provide LIPI.

3. Educators who provide both LIPI and CDL, and who provide LIPI during teacher-directed time, can do an equivalent amount of teacher-directed time plus one hour per week to plan LIPI instruction outside of the work day. The additional time shall be compensated at their hourly rate.

4. The District will follow the ODE Guidelines for cohort size. For the first two weeks of LIPI, cohort size shall be limited to half of the allowable number by ODE. Professional educators may divide the LIPI time into sub-cohorts in coordination with their administrators so long as all students receive their designated amount of LIPI time per week.
   a. Specific student cohorts will be suspended if the professional educator providing the cohort LIPI or a student in the cohort tests positive for COVID-19. The cohort and individual students will resume LIPI in accordance with the exclusion time frame provided by Multnomah Education Services District (MESD) in collaboration with the Multnomah County Health Department (MCHD). If the District becomes aware that a family member living with a student participating in LIPI has tested positive, the District will require that the student not participate in LIPI during the exclusion time frame provided by MESD in collaboration with the MCHD.

5. The District will provide Limited In-Person Instruction in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Governor, ODE, and local health authorities. Specifically, the District shall adhere to ODE’s Ready Schools, Safe Learners, Section 0 - Community Health Metrics; Section 1 - Public Health Protocols; Section 2 - Facilities and School Operations; and Section 3 - Response to Outbreak. The District will provide PPE in accordance with guidelines set forth by the Governor, ODE, and local health authorities except as provided by number 7 below.

6. Each educational space will be evaluated and capacity posted for safe distancing in rooms, including space for educator and student movement, in accordance with ODE
guidelines. Professional educators may change the arrangement of the room, including removing or adding equipment and/or desks, so long as distancing requirements continue to be met.

7. No professional educator will be required to work in a room that cannot accommodate the number of students with distance protocols, and no educator will be required to work in a room where students are not wearing masks, except as allowed under ODE guidelines. In situations where students are allowed to not wear masks, professional educators who request shall be provided masks that meet standards equivalent to masks designated as KN95, face shields, protective garments, and gloves.

8. No classroom used by educators for CDL will be designated for LIPI without the CDL instructor’s approval unless suitable alternative space is not available at the school that accommodates the cohort requirements.

9. Prior to the start of LIPI, the educator shall be provided with the details of the proposed LIPI assignment and will be allowed to visit and inspect the workspace before making a final decision to volunteer. Once an educator begins a LIPI assignment, if there is a substantial change in safety conditions, or an educator’s sense of the safety conditions, that are not resolved after notice to the District, the educator may withdraw from LIPI by providing five (5) workdays notice to the District.

10. The District shall adhere to established health-check protocols for students arriving at school each day. Further, the District shall ensure that symptom space exists in each building for students who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms after arriving for LIPI.

11. By mutual agreement, the LIPI agreement may be reopened to address potential needs after two months from the date of signature.