



Multnomah Early Childhood Program

David Douglas School District

5208 NE 122nd Ave. | Portland, Oregon 97230 | 503-261-5535

January 26, 2022

Dear MECP Parents and Caregivers,

Thank you for your understanding and patience. It is always a difficult decision to pause in-person services and return temporarily to virtual services. This decision was based on the high rates of the Omicron virus, staffing shortages, combined with the unvaccinated status of young children, many of whom are unable to consistently wear masks. As the Omicron virus is expected to peak in February, we are estimating fewer isolation and close contact cases for staff and children. Therefore, MECP is preparing to come back to in-person instruction on January 31, 2022. However, we will continue to monitor the rates, number of staff and children absent, and the ability to fill staffing shortages with substitute teachers.

Our goal is to provide in-person services while continuing to prioritize the safety of children, families and staff. Due to the unpredictability of the virus we may need to temporarily close MECP classrooms on a case by case basis and move to virtual services. There is always the possibility that we will have to move back temporarily to virtual services for the entire program if it means keeping children, families and staff safe. We will continue to follow all safety protocols and guidance from the Oregon Health Authority, David Douglas School District and the Oregon Department of Education.

MECP will resume in-person services on January 31, 2022 for the following:

- MECP Classrooms
- Any Head Starts that are serving children in-person
- Any Community Preschools that are serving children in-person
- Any Pre-K in schools districts serving children in-person
- Evaluation teams will resume in-person evaluations unless a parent requests virtual evaluations
- In-person services in an MECP building will resume
- Home Visits will remain virtual at this time

If your child attends a preschool that is temporarily closed and providing virtual preschool, MECP staff will collaborate with the site and support virtually as well. If the site is closed and not providing virtual services, your provider will contact you to provide virtual home visits.

Sincerely,

Lisa Grotting
Director of EI/ECSE