



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Colt Gill

Director of the Oregon Department of Education

For Information: Wild Fire Impacts September 21, 2020

Number of impacted districts:

- ODE has been in contact with 14 school districts and 1 education service district with impacts due to wildfire.
- ODE believes there are another 10-20 school districts also experiencing impacts.

School building and facility loss and impact:

- No school district has reported a loss of school buildings.
- Southern OR ESD reported the loss of one building.
- McKenzie SD lost bleachers.
- Multiple districts reporting the loss of WIFI, fiber optic cables, computers and smoke damage.
- Some district buildings being used as evacuation sites.

Staff and student impact:

- Multiple school district have reported that significant numbers of staff and students have lost homes or have been evacuated.
- Staff and students remain “scattered” geographically at evacuation sites and friends and family homes.
- All evacuated students qualify as “homeless” under federal McKinney Vento law. This means that both originating and receiving districts are required to offer services such as food, toiletries and education. Students choose which district to attend moving forward. In some districts 100% of students are now experiencing homelessness.
- Social emotional needs of students are significant. Districts are reaching out and attempting to locate to assess needs. Multiple districts have reported difficulties in locating students.
- Loss of instructional time: Multiple districts delayed the start of school year due to fire, evacuations, air quality and power issues.

ODE efforts:

Offering technical assistance to impacted districts.

- Child nutrition staff providing TA to support the provision of food in communities.

- District homeless student liaison training and TA.
 - ODE has been talking to district superintendents, COSA, OSBA to determine needs.
 - Offering jointly with COSA social emotional support training.
- Working with USDOE Disaster Recovery Unit and Oregon Congressional delegation to identify potential federal aid sources.
- Waiver of grant deadlines
 - CDL application deadlines waivers.
- Consulting OHA regarding in person learning in two impacted districts.
- Making districts aware of potential for instructional time, other standards waivers and ability to waive grant and reporting timelines.

Emerging issues:

- Funding stabilization for districts that expect significant loss of students
- Costs of resuming school – smoke and other damage, replacing equipment