



E A S T L I N N C H R I S T I A N S C H O O L S

December 17, 2020

Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I am aware of an amendment being drafted to LC 21 to include private schools in liability protection and am asking you to pass this amendment. I would also ask you to include us in any financial relief being offered to schools to offset the costs of meeting OHA and ODE guidelines as set forth in the RSSL requirements.

Since June, East Linn Christian has been working diligently to implement the guidelines put forth by OHA and ODE. We have spent money out of our budgets to meet the safety regulations and significantly limited our enrollment to follow the space requirements. While our costs have risen our income has decreased, because enrollment has been capped by physical space requirements for each classroom.

In the language for the special session on Monday there are two glaring absences.

1. Private schools are not listed as being protected under the limited liability proposal.
2. No additional funding is being allocated to private schools to cover additional costs caused by meeting state requirements related to cleaning and PPE.

If we are being held to the same standards and being forced to pay the costs associated with those regulations, why would we not also receive funding to help offset these costs?

We believe that this has created an inconsistent and discriminatory situation. Private schools are being treated differently than public schools.

If we are going to be required to meet the standards of the RSSL to open our schools, we should be funded and protected in a similar manner to public schools. If we are not going to be provided additional funds or not included in the limited liability, then we should not have to follow ODE guidelines regarding the pandemic.

Your consideration of these issues during your special session is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Janelle Detweiler  
Superintendent

East Linn Christian Schools

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