

Good Morning-

I am a mother of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader in PPS.

He is normally a great student who loves school.

He is struggling. He is completely disengaged and suffering from a mental health perspective.

He is staring at screens for hours and dragging himself through the lessons.

He is absolutely miserable and I am worried of the long term effects on his mental health and his relationship with the school experience, the teachers and the school work.

As essential workers, my husband and I are doing everything we can do to support him but we continue to fall short and the state is failing our children. If we could move to another state we would. Washington kids are going back. If we could afford private we would. Private schools are starting to bring kids back.

Please look to the evidence and the data. Please stand up to the teacher unions and get our children back to schools. Healthy communities need open schools. I am the daughter of a teacher and I am a unionized health care worker. I believe in organized labor and I believe in science and the wellbeing of our children. We all need to do the right thing and open the schools for in person learning. It can be done safely. It needs to be done now.

Oregon education ranks at the bottom nationally and our children are falling further and further behind. The long term affects of the lack of in person school is unknown and can and should be treated as seriously as COVID. Please listen to the CDC, WHO and the science. Schools should be the last to close. We are approaching a year of closed schools. What other states have closed schools for this long? What does this mean for Oregon's future?

I would be happy to provide in person comments.

Sincerely,

Anne Carlin Zymkowitz

Mother of PPS student Leo Zymkowitz