

Good afternoon,

My child is in elementary school in Estacada School District. We have been in a CDL model with some LIPI off and on again.

While in CDL my child has been able to make typical or above-average learning gains as evidenced by her report cards and teacher's comments at conferences.

She had 25 students in her online classroom and although it was challenging at times to participate with that many students online, the teacher worked it out and the kids were all able to feel like they were part of the classroom. My daughter made friends with some of the kids via CDL and has enjoyed school just as much as any other typical year.

This week we started the hybrid model. I understand the parents who want their children in the building think it's important for their mental health, but I would argue that it's harmful for their education and their physical health. It's potentially harmful for their physical health for obvious reasons which I will not recite to you. It's harmful for their education because instead of 25 students in my daughters class, she now has 48.

Forty eight first graders in one online class with one teacher.

They get far less work done, it's frustrating for the children to wait so long for their turn to speak with that many students and she is not able to make friends like before since there is an unacceptable number of children in her class.

A 48:1 student-teacher ratio is absolutely unacceptable.

I understand schools have budget constraints and would need to hire more educators to make hybrid learning work properly and equitably for all students but if they cannot afford that, they need to stick with CDL where all the students have the same access to the teachers. The online-only cohort is being penalized for staying safe at home by being taught in a classroom with a 48:1 student-teacher ratio. The students who go to class two days a week are missing out on important educational time by being in a classroom with 48 students for half of their school time.

If the government and school boards don't think the threat of contracting Covid-19 is enough to keep schools in a CDL/LIPI model, then please consider the effect on the children's education.

Thank you for your time,
Nicole McMerrick