

I respectfully submit my letter of opposition to re-opening schools.

Dear Leaders,

I am writing to you as a 20-year employee of Portland Public Schools, a teacher, a leader, and someone who recently lost her mother to COVID-19. She died because there was very limited information at the time about how the virus spreads and how to treat those who contract it. It's been extremely hard.

First I wanted to thank PPS for continuing to resist the mounting political pressure by a small group of parents.

Comprehensive distance learning is working although it's not ideal for all students and many are falling behind, we need to keep families and our communities safe. As a Humanities TOSA, I write curriculum for teachers to use and we are all getting better at CDL as we wait until our communities are safe to return to school.

As you know, the buildings are not ready to provide safe learning and teaching environments for everyone. The HVAC systems are old and unfortunately, bathrooms lack hot water and cleanly conditions that keep everyone safe. **Our own district policy for cleanliness is "Moderately Dingy"**.

I'm also concerned that the most vulnerable populations of students and families, that is students of color, are more at risk of contracting and suffering from this disease. There are still so many unanswered questions.

1. How are we reaching out to families of color to get their input?
2. What is the testing protocol?
3. What are the contact tracing and exposure protocol?
4. What is the plan for vaccinations for staff and families?

We are only safe when all our communities are safe. CDL is working as best it can, a vaccine is on the horizon and so are numerous variants of the virus.

I urge you to please, stay the course, and don't put families and staff at risk of contracting or even dying from this disease.

Thank you for your leadership.
Sincerely,
Rebecca Levison