

Hello,

I am a parent of two school-aged children and a 3rd generation Oregonian. I have always been proud to be an Oregonian. Proud of our initiative and unique spirit. However, after seeing how little our Oregon politicians and leaders value Oregon students and their education I'm no longer proud. For the first time ever our family is discussing having to leave our home state because it is no longer a place for children and families. Comprehensive Distance Learning is failing a majority of Oregon students. However, the leadership in Oregon is failing to do the right thing and open our schools now. How will Oregon send kids to our universities or to work in our industries if we don't prioritize them now? Oregon children have shouldered an inequitable portion of this pandemic. This summer, they lost camps, playgrounds, sports and swimming pools. And now a majority of students are locked out of their classrooms. We have seen now that our Governor has allowed districts to open on their own, that many are still refusing to do so. Unless you compel them, we will see the equity gaps widen as private school children and rural school children grow in their classrooms while urban students lag behind screens. As we sit and watch private schools and schools all across the US open and thriving, we can't help but conclude that our Oregon leaders have done irreparable harm to our students but not acting in their best interest. You need to take action. School can be done safely. Oregon children deserve a quality and equitable education.

Please do all you can to open our schools.

Thank you,
Amy Patton
Forest Grove, OR