

Hi

I am writing to you as a parent from Skyline Elementary. I am not an advocate of reopening for the following reasons;

- 1.) Many of the studies stating it is safe do not include discussion of the extent of contact tracing. In Oregon kids are NOT being tested at a high rate, multiple parents I know said they could not get a test, and OHA has not asked any questions about school, "because they can not prove it." I am not sure how you prove it was the grocery store or anything else but not school unless actual sequencing takes place. (which it is not)
- 2.) I watch parents lie all the time and have volunteered at school. Parents send sick kids to school. I do not want to rely on them, to be honest, and I can not rely on a district that still does not have adequate water faucets in all their schools.
- 3.) Massive studies have shown schools contribute to community spread (Princeton and Science Journals). Even recently the CDC has shown this in a college study. How different is a 17-21 years old from 14-17 years old in their ability to transmit? None. Why risk more death during a slow vaccine rollout?
- 4.) Kids transmit (I know of one personally) and therefore multi-generational families and families with vulnerable populations are at risk, including mine.
- 5.) Mental health is an issue but has been for many years. This is why there was a funding push last year. When my school got counselors other places got less school psychologist time. The schools are not the answer. Counselor visits are still virtual. These small group settings should be asked to go back first before massive groups. Schools should also allow for mental health groups to be able to access the gyms and covered areas with limited capacity. Volleyball, art, dance, shooting hoops, socio-emotional groups are all ways clubs could begin separate from LIPI. Please develop a plan for these vulnerable family members to be taken into account with vaccine distribution.
- 6.) The new variant is unknown but we do know it is more transmittable. What is being done to understand these new variants and how it relates to school. The UK has reported concerns in-person schooling has contributed to this new variant. Why are we not learning from others?

Thanks,
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Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.~James Baldwin