

To Dr. Don Grotting and Mr. Eric Simpson via the Oregon State Legislature:

Your current plan to delay the return to any amount of in-person instruction for elementary-aged students by April 5th is not good enough. Vaccines have already begun for educators in group 1. According to the science we have on vaccine research and schedules this puts a majority of teachers in a fully vaccinated group by the end of WW06'2021 and at the latest WW10'2021. What is stopping the return to in-person instruction? Your [video](#) was vague and intentionally misleading stating that vaccines would not be available to teachers. Shame on you.

There is no evidence of any COVID-19 outbreaks that have been traced back to schools. I do not want my child to continue to suffer at home as this school year drags on online. The amount of screen time you have in place for these young brains is developmentally inappropriate and damaging. Students need the educational, social, and emotional benefits and support of in-person instruction now. We as a parent community were willing to make the exception for a short period of time because we had been convinced this was the best that could be done. This is not your best.

These students are suffering and I took personal offense to your line in the video about students being resilient. Yes, they are. How dare you use that as the reasoning behind dragging your feet while admin staff work out a "monumental task" of reallocating resources. Our students have been resilient enough through this past year. Do the work and let our students back in school.

You are being called to do better. This current plan is not good enough.

I know you have heard an outpouring of dissent from your community and to just ignore us is not only unprofessional, but also quite offensive to everyone who has taken the time to contact you.

This is quite literally a public health emergency and instead of acting like things are on fire you decide to double down on your snail's pace plan. Meanwhile, 19 students have committed suicide in Las Vegas and I just read many, many news articles that said that those suicides have been what has "picked up the pace" of the return to school plan there. I cannot imagine being a parent of a dead child and reading that my own dead child was what finally made school district officials realize they should have actually done everything in their power to bring children back sooner. It is unreal to read these headlines. The same thing has happened in the Bend/LaPine school district, and I have a friend who knows a police officer who responded to a suicide call for a nine year old in Portland recently. Children should not have to take their own lives en masse for public officials to realize that "oops, maybe we should have done everything in our power and used every single resource we had to get these kids back to school as soon as is humanly possible."

A concerned, disappointed, angry Ridgewood parent,  
Rebecca Humphreys