

# PINEHURST SCHOOL DISTRICT #94

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Thursday, February 7, 2019

Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Oregon Broadband Funds

Dear Chairman of the Committee,


I am the district administrator for Pinehurst School District 94. We are the smallest school district in Jackson County. We are located twenty-two miles east of Ashland, on the "Greensprings," within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument. Pinehurst School District has been serving the Greensprings community for 110 years.

Pinehurst School has always struggled to keep up with technology, largely due to insufficient internet capacity. Two years ago, we were able to upgrade our internet broadband connection from two T1 lines (internet phone lines) to fixed wireless. Currently, we do not have high-speed fiber optic cables in our area.

Although the fixed wireless connection is superior to the previous T1 lines, we are still unable to offer 1:1 iPads or Chromebooks to our students due to bandwidth limitations. Last year our elementary teacher tried implementing an online social studies curriculum with her students, using our desktop computer lab, but it was such a headache when not every child could engage online at the same time that she opted not to continue with the program this year. On many occasions, our teachers are having to decline choosing exciting and engaging online, multi-media curriculum due to the lack of bandwidth power at our rural school.

We are asking you to support the Oregon broadband initiatives that are promoting the funding for high-speed internet to ALL schools in Oregon. Funding a broadband office would help to accelerate this process. We see that another rural school in our area, Prospect Charter School, was recently granted high-speed fiber optics. In order for Pinehurst School to remain relevant in the age of technological advancement, we must have the options and opportunities being offered in other Oregon schools.

High-speed internet has been at the top of our wish-list every year! We hope that you will support funding high-speed broadband for all schools in Oregon.

Sincerely,  
  
Holly Amann  
District Administrator  
Pinehurst SD 94