

It is unacceptable that Oregon has failed its children by keeping schools closed to in person full-time for more than a year. I have had to homeschool my three children due to issues with the curriculum issues, their deep frustration and lack of interaction. There has been ZERO accommodations for IEP's. The problem is not Internet access so much as it is not being able to be in school in person like many states have been since the fall. The US and Oregon knew the evidence on schools that never closed around the world but chose to ignore it. As a school board member I am well aware of the countless hours spent on safety plans. We could have done much better. My best friend is a teacher in Australia and not only would they not think of closing the schools down permanently like we did, they wouldn't put masks on kids or force them to socially distance. What kindergartners can regularly do so without punitive measures at the behest of politicians and teachers who have a higher perception of risk than reality? Many of us offered great ideas for what to do with High risk older teachers. They could teach remotely while having a younger teacher in person in class but Oregon buckled to pressure of unions instead and made this entire issue political. That needs to stop now! Thankfully Republican Representative Mark Owens sees the importance of our kids being in school full time and I hope his Democrat colleagues will see the importance as well. Never let this happen again..