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OPENING PDX SCHOOLS CALLS FOR PPS TO REJECT PROPOSAL FOR A REDUCTION IN INSTRUCTIONAL TIME

PORTLAND, Ore. –

The Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) proposed that Portland Public Schools (PPS) substantially reduce the number of instructional days for teachers and students this school year. PAT has proposed that high school instruction be reduced by 20% over the remainder of the school year after the holiday break, and K-8 instruction be reduced by approximately 10%. Specifically, PAT is proposing:

- 1) One asynchronous (no instruction) day per week for high schoolers to start after the holiday break plus 3 more professional development / planning days;
- 2) One 2 hour late start or early release per week for K-8 plus 6 more professional development planning days;
- 3) A suspension of most teacher evaluation and non-essential meeting duties.

Opening PDX Schools, a member of ED 300, strongly opposes this proposal. “All available data demonstrates that students have suffered significant learning loss as a result of school closures during the pandemic, with the losses most extreme among our most vulnerable students,” said Eric Happel, the parent of three PPS students. “While we recognize that there are increased burdens this year due to learning loss and behavioral struggles caused by extensive school closures, the solution to the problems of remote school is not more remote school,” added Kim McGair, the parent of a PPS high school student. “Particularly for K-8 students, these reductions in in-person school are a hardship for working parents, including those from our most vulnerable families,” McGair added.

Oregon was 49th out of 50 states for the least in-school days in 2020-21, and PPS has lost more than 4% of enrolled students since 2018-2019. 14% of PPS 9th graders are not on track to graduate, a number that has increased significantly since schools were closed in 2020-2021.

Opening PDX Schools is urging PPS to reject PAT’s calls for less instructional time. It believes that there are a number of other supports, including using federal relief funds to hire more educational assistants and allowing fully-vaccinated parents back into the classroom to support teachers, that can help both teachers and students. In addition implementing the state-approved "test to stay" protocol will keep more healthy kids in school creating less disruptions and allowing kids and teachers to unmask outside will decrease stress levels which will bring kids and teacher back to the classroom in a better mindset.

About ED300. ED300 is a bipartisan advocacy group representing a coalition of groups statewide consisting of parents, medical professionals, educators, and sports associations, that has advocated for the full reopening of Oregon schools and sports. ED300 consists of 40,000 members, representing well over 100,000 Oregonians. ###