



**Culver School District #4**  
 PO Box 259 \* 412 West E Street  
 Culver OR 97734

**Stefanie Garber, Superintendent**

Dear Culver Families,

August 2, 2020

On Tuesday, July 26, 2020, Governor Kate Brown raised the requirements for school districts to open in response to COVID-19. Using these new metrics, Culver wouldn't be able to have students on campus until the number of daily cases in Jefferson county is under 3 cases, for 21 days. You are hearing about some of our neighboring districts starting the school year with Distance Learning and no students on campus. We do not believe this is best for our students, our families, and our community.

I am currently working on a committee that includes State Leaders, State Representatives, Commissioners, Health Authorities, and District Superintendents to try to change the requirements for smaller school districts to open and it is my goal to have students on campus come September 8, 2020. We surveyed our families and 89.7% want their children to have onsite learning. We are able to accommodate the other 11.3% with a hybrid model.

As of Friday, July 30, 2020, the current COVID data on children in Oregon according to Oregon Health Authority, is as follows:

| AGE           | Total # of kids in Oregon | # who tested COVID positive | # of Deaths | % affected Statewide |
|---------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 0 – 9 years   | 457,479                   | 777                         | 0           | .0016 (less than 1%) |
| 10 – 19 years | 486,525                   | 1808                        | 0           | .0037 (less than 1%) |

The American Academy of Pediatrics states, “Schools are fundamental to child development and well-being and provide our children with academic instruction, social and emotional skills, safety, reliable nutrition, physical/speech and mental health therapy, and opportunities for physical activity, among other benefits.” The District is not willing to abolish all of those critical benefits for a risk of less than 1%. The soul damage of closing schools and requiring “Distance Learning” is feared more than this virus.

I appreciate the time and effort that State leadership is putting into plans and mandates, it is undoubtedly a very challenging time to know what is the best path.

We have purchased all the necessary equipment, as well as hired more custodial staff, to make sure we have an extra-sanitized and safe school environment. We will be ready to open our doors on September 8, 2020.

I will be sure to provide you with an update and next steps as soon as I can. Culver School District is committed to serving our students and families.

Sincerely,  
 Stefanie Garber  
 Elementary Principal & District Superintendent

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