April 1, 2020

Dear OEA Member:

Like many of you, I am still processing the new distance learning guidance that the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) released earlier this week. I have heard from many of you about the questions and the frustrations you have over ODE’s plan, and I want you to know that I share your concerns.

ODEA is organizing a convening of our community partners to create a coordinated response to ODE’s distance learning guidance, bringing together and elevating the voices of those who will be the most impacted by this deeply inequitable plan. We will continue to insist that our elected officials and our school districts not only acknowledge the deeply rooted inequities that are inherent in a distance learning model, but that they actively provide solutions to address it.

I know that these are trying times, and that educators are being asked to undertake a task that is daunting both in its scope and its emotional toll. But we will be there to support you and to advocate for you. And OEA will continue to fight for our students, our educators, and our communities during this pandemic, and after life begins to return to normal.

Thank you again for all of the work that you do. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you during this trying time.

Thank you.
John Larson