OEA Calls on Districts to Make Accommodations to Protect Educators and Students

PORTLAND, OR – Today, leaders of the Oregon Education Association (OEA) urged state leaders to ensure accommodations for educators and students aimed at keeping our communities healthy and safe. Those accommodations include:

- **Protecting Vulnerable Students and Educators from Exposure**: Districts should ensure that any educator or student who is considered to be of high risk of infection, or who lives with or cares for an individual who is at high risk, be allowed to remain home in order to protect their own health and the health of their families.

- **Maintaining Student Access to Nutritional Meals**: As districts make contingency plans that include potential long-term closures, they should also work with local and state government agencies to ensure that students who rely on their public schools for nutritional services will continue to receive meals.

- **Ensuring Educators Are Kept Whole During The Crisis**: Educators who are not able to report to schools during the COVID-19 epidemic, either due to self-quarantine or because of district-mandated school closures, should be placed on paid administrative leave and kept financially whole.

“Protecting the health and wellness of students, educators, and families remains the top priority of our organization,” said OEA President John Larson. “As the number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus continues to climb, we are committed to working with local, state and federal officials to ensure that our students and educators are protected during this outbreak.”

As of today, there are 21 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in Oregon, and that number is expected to climb. There are tens-of-thousands of educators working in 127 school districts, educating over 580,000 students in the state of Oregon, and as the COVID-19 outbreak progresses OEA will continue to work with elected officials to ensure the health and wellness of those students and educators is protected.

###