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ED 300 RESPONSES TO GOVERNOR'S REMOVAL OF METRICS FOR REOPENING OREGON SCHOOLS *Work to Reopen Shifts to Local Districts and Leaders*

PORTLAND, Ore. - Parents and students applauded the governor's announcement today that puts schools on the path to reopening shortly after the 2020 holiday break by lifting metric-bound mandates that shuttered K-12 school buildings in March.

"The youth in our state have been patient, resilient, and adaptive to new learning models, and today they were given the gift that many of them have been asking for: the return to in-person learning with their peers and their teachers, their mentors who provide them valuable guidance every day," said Jennifer Dale, a co-organizer of the parent coalition ED300 and Clack to School, which has worked since mid-September to bring in-person options back to Oregon schools.

Organizer Rene Gonzalez shared:

"Closure of schools has placed unparalleled challenges on Oregon families. Today was a win for Oregon families, but until every child in Oregon is offered in-person options for school, we will continue to push our educational institutions to reopen the doors."

Through a series of rallies, town halls, and letter writing campaigns, the organizers behind ED300 have worked to bring relevant data and experiences from other parts of the country and the world to Oregon leaders to help inform local decision-making. But while celebrating this win, organizers emphasized there is still more work to be done. The key next steps involve working with local district leaders and collaborating on a local level to reopen each and every building to opportunity for Oregon's students.

"This is a win and clearly demonstrates that when families come together and advocate for what they know is right, and advocate for the very best outcomes for their children, they can make change," Dale said.

About ED 300. ED 300 is a bipartisan advocacy group representing a coalition of groups statewide consisting of parents, medical professionals, educators, and sports associations, increasingly concerned about the long-term effects of school closures. ED 300 is advocating for an evidence-based approach to reopening schools and co-curricular activities and now has nearly 40,000 members, representing well over 100,000 Oregonians. ###